

# City of Watertown



Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan — Program Year 2025

Prepared by the City of Watertown

Planning and Community Development Department

# City of Watertown

## 2025 CDBG Annual Action Plan

### Draft – June 4, 2025

#### **AP-05 Executive Summary - 91.200(c), 91.220(b)**

##### **1. Introduction**

This document represents the City of Watertown's Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2025 for the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The City became an Entitlement Community under the CDBG Program for the first time in 2014 and developed a two-year Consolidated Plan to start the program. The City wrote its first five-year Consolidated Plan in 2016 and in 2021 wrote its second five-year Consolidated Plan that covers Program Years 2021-2025. This plan is the fifth and final Annual Action Plan that has been developed using our current five-year Consolidated Plan.

The City's 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan goals include neighborhood stabilization and revitalization, affordable housing rehabilitation, homeownership assistance, environment and quality of life enrichment, fair housing education, homeless assistance, support of public services and economic development. The Consolidated Plan was developed through extensive public outreach and citizen participation that included numerous public meetings which were conducted as the City developed its first ever Comprehensive Plan as well as a set of Strategic Goals and Objectives to help guide operations. A public hearing was also held in addition to outreach to numerous partner agencies identified in our Citizen Participation Plan. A City Council work session dedicated to the development of the Consolidated Plan was also held.

The City's 2024 Annual Action Plan emphasized two of the City's three primary goals including neighborhood stabilization and revitalization and homeownership assistance. The projects identified to meet these goals included a water main replacement project, an ADA accessible sidewalk ramp replacement project, a demolition project and a homebuyer program. The 2024 Annual Action Plan also addressed several of the City's lower priority/secondary goals including environment and quality of life enrichment, fair housing education, homeless assistance, support of public services and planning and administration. Projects included to implement these goals included tree planting, fair housing education, homeless assistance, and support of public services.

Additionally, the City has placed a strong emphasis on infrastructure projects as part of our Annual Action Plans during the past several years. We have included several sidewalk projects along with street

reconstruction projects such as the Grant St./Seward St./Henry St. project and the reconstruction of Burlington St.

For 2025, the City will continue to work on many of the goals stated in the Consolidated Plan, including neighborhood stabilization and revitalization, homeownership assistance, environment and quality of life enrichment, fair housing education, homeless assistance, and support of public services.

The main project that has been identified to accomplish our neighborhood stabilization and revitalization goal will include a sidewalk construction project on Division Street East. This project will connect a large housing complex located in one of the City's target areas with a City owned recreational complex that includes a pool and several playing fields. It will also provide an improved connection to a local elementary school. Past sidewalk projects have made significant improvements in our target area neighborhoods and our proposed Division Street East Sidewalk Project will do the same by constructing sidewalks that currently do not exist, providing a safe connection for pedestrians.

The City will once again implement a homebuyer program that will enable us to meet our homeownership assistance goal. The purchase of homes by first time homebuyers throughout the City have made a tremendous impact by helping to eliminate blight and providing stability in our neighborhoods.

The City will address its environment and quality of life enrichment goal with the proposed Black River Trail Western Extension Project. The project, which is located primarily in the Northeast Target Area, includes the construction of an extension of a popular off-road recreational trail from the City's east side to downtown. CDBG funding will be used to match a Transportation Alternative Program grant that the City received from the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) for the project. The project begins in the City's East Target Area, which has one of the highest LMI percentages of any our target areas. The trail will follow the Black River along our Hydroelectric plant property and along an abandoned rail line, ultimately crossing the Black River at Sewall's Island and connecting to downtown at Factory Square Park. The project will provide increased recreational access to an area of the City that is currently lacking those amenities.

The City will also address its lower priority goals such as fair housing and support of public services through several projects including a Fair Housing education program, assistance to the Watertown City School District Food for Families Program and assistance to the Watertown Urban Mission for their food pantry.

Our Planning and Administration goal will also be included in the 2025 Annual Action Plan with funding being allocated for the overall administration of the CDBG Program.

## **2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan**

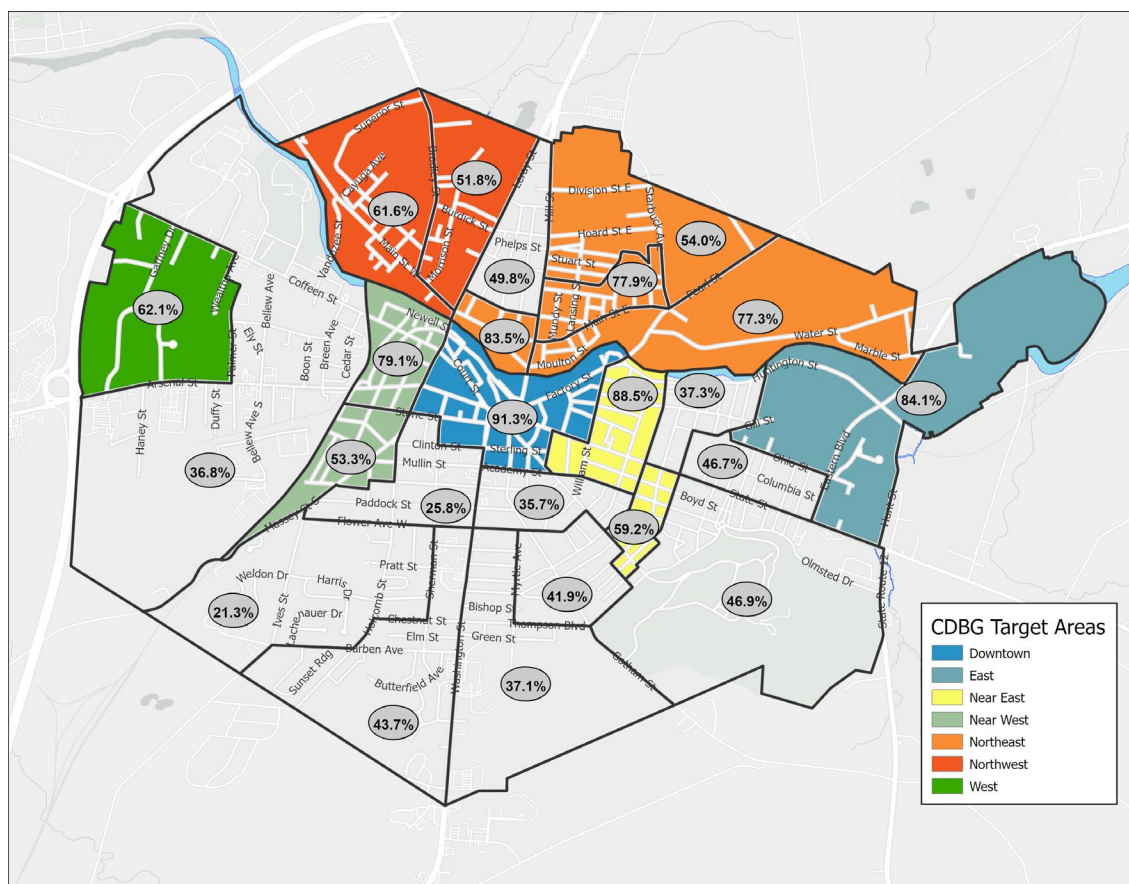
The City will concentrate its CDBG Program this year on three high priority needs: affordable housing, improving public infrastructure and addressing a lack of recreational opportunities in LMI areas. These needs address two important goals from our Consolidated Plan: neighborhood stabilization and



revitalization and environment and quality of life enrichment. The City will also address several of our lower priority needs and goals including fair housing education and support of public services.

The City has identified seven neighborhoods where a majority of the residents have low and moderate incomes (LMI) and have designated these areas as local target areas. Most of the neighborhoods are residential in nature although some have small commercial pockets. Our efforts this year will have a primary focus on the Northeast Target Area. Both the Division Street East Sidewalk Project and the Black River Trail Western Extension Project will take place in the Northeast Target Area. Other efforts such as the homebuyer program will be widespread this year and will occur throughout the City. It is important to note that our target areas still make up a relatively compact geographic area, which is centered around downtown and extends to the northeast and northwest sides of the City.

The map shown below depicts the City's CDBG Target Areas.



### 3. Evaluation of past performance

The City of Watertown is beginning its twelfth year as a CDBG Entitlement Community. During the first eleven years as a CDBG Entitlement Community, the City has had success with implementing a number of neighborhood stabilization and revitalization initiatives and affordable housing rehabilitation projects. The City has completed several infrastructure improvements including street and sidewalk

construction projects and the replacement of ADA ramps. Our owner-occupied housing rehabilitation program has been very successful in helping local property owners rehabilitate their homes and we have assisted with the rehabilitation of two large multi-family housing developments as well. In addition, the City has worked to stop the spread of blight by demolishing a number of blighted structures and has implemented several public service programs and projects.

#### **4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process**

The citizen participation process for the City's CDBG Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2025 included outreach to several different organizations and individuals throughout the community. The City began by providing an overview of the CDBG program and discussing the proposed Annual Action Plan with our Citizens Advisory Board, Advantage Watertown, on January 9, 2025.

An overview of the CDBG program and discussion of funding and project priorities with the City Council was then held during a Council work session held on February 10, 2025.

Staff also contacted numerous public and private agencies that provide assisted housing, health and social services, homeless services, child welfare services and other agencies that serve the low to moderate income population in the City. The City also reached out to adjacent units of local government and local economic development agencies to obtain input on non-housing community development needs and priorities.

The City Council held a public hearing on March 3, 2025, to obtain input from citizens, involved agencies and interested persons on activities to be included in the Annual Action Plan.

The citizen participation process also involved Staff participating in meetings and phone calls to continue to seek input and discuss the needs of the community related to housing, infrastructure improvements, public services, homelessness, and planning.

After seeking this input, the City's Draft Annual Action plan was published on June 4, 2025, and a 30-Day public comment period was scheduled in order to gather additional input from citizens. The 30-Day public comment period was held between June 4, 2025, and July 4, 2025.

The citizen participation process was extremely beneficial as it identified several community needs that were previously unknown and allowed the City to develop its Annual Action Plan accordingly.

#### **5. Summary of public comments**

During the development of the Annual Action Plan, City Planning Staff received many valuable suggestions through our consultations with individuals and organizations and through our meetings with the City Council. The suggestions ranged from broad project ideas to specific ideas for particular neighborhoods or geographic areas. General goals and objectives suggested for inclusion into the City's Annual Action Plan included improving housing conditions, addressing homelessness, improving public facilities and neighborhoods, and cleaning up blight. Specific project ideas included increasing opportunities for homeownership by providing funding for a homebuyer program. Neighborhood

improvement suggestions included sidewalk and other infrastructure improvements. Specific project ideas and requests included providing funding for the Watertown City School District's Food 4 Families Program, funding for the Watertown Urban Mission's food pantry and funding for the Thompson Park Conservancy, Inc. (Zoo New York) Membership Initiative.

A public hearing was held on March 3, 2025. At the public hearing, a citizen spoke in support of using CDBG funding for the proposed Black River Trail Western Extension Project.

The City's 2025 Annual Action Plan was available for public comments during a 30-day public comment period that was held from June 4, 2025, to July 4, 2025. A notice of the comment period was published in the *Watertown Daily Times* on June 4, 2025.

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

All comments that were received during the citizen participation process were considered in the preparation of the draft plan. The suggestions were reviewed for common and recurring themes to help establish priorities and goals. Many of the comments and project idea suggestions were incorporated into the City's Annual Action plan, but there was one suggestion that was not accepted.

The request was from the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Thompson Park Conservancy, Inc., (Zoo New York) who requested that the City use CDBG funds to pay for memberships for LMI individuals to Zoo New York. During budget deliberations for the City's fiscal year 2025-2026 operating budget, the City Council decided to provide operating assistance to the zoo through the City's general fund. Therefore, CDBG funding has not been included for Zoo New York in the draft Annual Action Plan.

As mentioned above, all the comments and suggestions that were received were considered by the City and two of the three specific project ideas were incorporated into our Annual Action Plan.

## **7. Summary**

The City of Watertown's plan for our twelfth year as an entitlement community in the Community Development Block Grant Program is to focus on three high priority needs: affordable housing, improving public infrastructure and addressing a lack of recreational opportunities in LMI areas. These needs address two important goals from our Consolidated Plan: neighborhood stabilization and revitalization and environment and quality of life enrichment. The City will also address several of our lower priority needs and goals including fair housing education and support of public services.

The projects that have been identified to fulfill the primary goals include a first-time homebuyer program, a sidewalk construction project and a trail construction project. To accomplish our lower priority goals, the City plans to assist by providing education regarding fair housing and supporting public services. This will be accomplished by funding three initiatives including a Fair Housing Education Project and supporting two local food pantries, the Watertown City School District's Food for Families Program and the Watertown Urban Mission's food pantry.

Planning and Administration will also be included in the plan to provide funding for the overall administration of the program.

The City will designate the Northeast Target Area as its focus area for Program Year 2025 with the inclusion of the Division Street East Sidewalk Project and the Black River Trail Western Extension Project.

Several of the proposed projects for 2025 will be Citywide including the Fair Housing Education Project, the food pantry projects and the Homebuyer Program which will all have citywide benefits.

## **PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies - 91.200(b)**

The following are the agencies/entities responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source.

<b>Agency Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Department/Agency</b>
CDBG Administrator	WATERTOWN	Planning Department

**Table 1 – Responsible Agencies**

### **Narrative**

The lead agency for the preparation of the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans was the City of Watertown through its Planning and Community Development Department.

### **Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information**

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

### **1. Introduction**

The City of Watertown's consultation efforts included outreach to organizations and individuals throughout the community, including citizens, municipal officials, the public housing authority, governmental agencies, non-profit agencies, economic development officials and the Continuum of Care. The City made initial contact via email with over twenty-five organizations and solicited feedback with newspaper advertisements and through a public hearing prior to developing the plan. Following the initial email outreach, City Staff participated in several follow-up meetings, emails, and phone calls with interested agencies and individuals to continue to seek input and discuss the needs of the community related to housing, homelessness, public facilities, infrastructure improvements, public services, economic development, and planning.

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

The Watertown Housing Authority (WHA) is the only public housing authority in the City of Watertown. The WHA was consulted in the development of the Consolidated Plan and provided data on tenant characteristics, waiting lists, notable deficiencies, and unmet needs, which the City incorporated into the plan. Lewis County Opportunities administers the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program in the City and was also consulted during the development of the Consolidated Plan and provided important information regarding the HCV program, number of households assisted, waiting lists and shortfalls in capacity. Much of this information was integrated into the City's Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing. Both agencies were also contacted and were asked to provide input in the development of the 2025 Annual Action Plan.

The City also sought input from private and governmental health, mental health, and human service agencies. In addition, the City sought input from the Points North Housing Coalition (PNHC), which serves as the Continuum of Care for the City and Jefferson County. PNHC is comprised of a broad range of members including representatives from housing and health providers and mental health and service agencies. Staff attends quarterly meetings and has participated in committee meetings of the PNHC.

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

In the City of Watertown, the Continuum of Care is known as the Points North Housing Coalition (PNHC). PNHC serves the City and Jefferson County, along with Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties. PNHC is comprised of a wide range of members from many varying backgrounds such as businesses, faith-based organizations, hospitals and medical service providers, veteran services, other non-profits, social

agencies, and previously homeless individuals. The City of Watertown participates in PNHC quarterly meetings, conference calls and committee meetings. During the last year, Jefferson County has developed several initiatives to address homelessness within the County. They have proposed providing assistance to several local churches for the operation of warming centers during the winter and have partnered with the Northern Regional Center for Independent Living to conduct street outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness to help them obtain service and shelter.

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

This section is not applicable as the City of Watertown does not receive ESG funds and is not responsible for the administration of HMIS.

**2. Agencies, groups, organizations and others who participated in the process and consultations**

See Table 2 below for a list of Agencies, groups, organizations, and others who participated in the process and consultations.

**Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated**

1	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	ACR Health
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Health
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	HOPWA Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Contact was made via email on February 21, 2025
2	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Advantage Watertown (Citizens Advisory Board)
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Business Leaders Civic Leaders Business and Civic Leaders
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Economic Development
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Advantage Watertown is a group of business and community leaders that serves in an advisory role to the City on a number of different issues and topics including community development, housing, and economic development. Planning Staff gave a presentation to the members of the committee on January 9, 2025, asking for input on the 2025 program. Members were asked to consider what they felt the City needed to improve in the areas of housing, public facilities, public services, and economic development. Members agreed with the preliminary list of projects proposed by staff and suggested looking into a job training program for high school graduates who would be interested in working with the Department of Public Works. Block parties and similar outdoor activities were also suggested as a way to market the downtown area.

3	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Catholic Charities - Diocese of Ogdensburg
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Non-Homeless Special Needs
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Contact was made via email on February 21, 2025.
4	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing Services-Health Services-Education Services-Employment
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Contact was made via email on February 21, 2025.
5	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Development Authority of the North Country (DANC)
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing

	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Economic Development
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The City regularly meets with representatives of DANC to coordinate efforts of the CDBG and North Country HOME Consortium programs. An additional email was sent on February 21, 2025, asking for additional input on the upcoming program.
6	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Jefferson County (WorkPlace)
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing Services - Housing Other government - County
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Economic Development
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Contact was made via email on February 21, 2025.
7	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Jefferson County Public Health
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Health Other government - County
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Contact was made via email on February 21, 2025.

8	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Jefferson County DSS
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Education Other government - County
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Contact was made via email on February 21, 2025.
9	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Jefferson County Office for the Aging
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Elderly Persons
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Contact was made via email on February 21, 2025.
10	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Lewis County Opportunities, Inc.
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing Services - Housing Services-homeless Service-Fair Housing
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis



	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Contact was made via email on February 21, 2025.
11	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Jefferson County Planning Department
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Other government - County Planning organization
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Community Development
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The City regularly coordinates with representatives of the Planning Department as part of the North Country HOME Consortium program and CDBG programs. Contact was made via email on February 21, 2025.
12	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Neighbors of Watertown
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing Services - Housing
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Economic Development
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Neighbors of Watertown is the subrecipient for the City's CDBG housing programs. Regular contact is made with them on the status of those projects as well as future needs. An email was sent on February 21, 2025, and a phone call was made on February 19, 2025, to discuss funding priorities for the year.
13	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Northern New York Community Foundation
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Business Leaders Civic Leaders Business and Civic Leaders Foundation
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Economic Development

	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Contact was made via email on February 21, 2025.
14	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Northern Regional Center for Independent Living
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Persons with Disabilities Service-Fair Housing
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Economic Development
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Contact was made via email on February 21, 2025.
15	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Town of Pamela
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Other government - Local
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Economic Development
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Contact was made via email on February 21, 2025.
16	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Transitional Living Services of Northern NY
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing Services - Housing
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Contact was made via email on February 21, 2025.

17	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Watertown Housing Authority
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing PHA
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Staff met with WHA representatives to discuss a proposed housing project on February 14, 2025. Contact was also made via email on February 21, 2025.
18	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Watertown Local Development Corporation
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Business and Civic Leaders
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Economic Development
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Contact was made via email on February 21, 2025.
19	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Watertown Urban Mission
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-homeless
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The City has been meeting and emailing regularly with the Watertown Urban Mission (WUM) to coordinate efforts of our CDBG-CV programs. Contact was also made via email on February 21, 2025, asking for additional input on the upcoming Annual Action Plan. Mayor Sarah Pierce also met with representatives of the WUM in mid-March to discuss the agency's needs. The meeting led to further discussions about potential funding assistance for the 2025 program year.

20	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	North Country Family Health Center
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Health
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Contact was made via email on February 21, 2025.
21	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Regional organization Planning organization
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Contact was made via email on February 21, 2025.
22	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Town of LeRay
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Other government – Local
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Community Development
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Contact was made via email on February 21, 2025.
23	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Credo Community Center for the Treatment of Addiction
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Health
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Non-Homeless Special Needs

	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Contact was made via email on February 21, 2025.
24	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Disabled Persons Action Organization
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Persons with Disabilities
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Contact was made via email on February 21, 2025.
25	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Points North Housing Coalition
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services - Housing Services-homeless
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Contact was made via email on February 21, 2025.
26	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Business and Civic Leaders
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Economic Development

	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Contact was made via email on February 21, 2025.
27	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Town of Watertown
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Other government – Local
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Economic Development
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Contact was made via email on February 21, 2025.
28	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Tug Hill Commission
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Other government – State
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Natural Resource Management Land Use Planning Economic Development
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Contact was made via email on February 21, 2025.
29	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Victims Assistance Center
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Other government – Local
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Services - Victims of Domestic Violence Services - Victims of Sexual Assault Services – Victims of Child Abuse Services – Education Homeless Needs - Females with Children
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Contact was made via email on February 21, 2025.



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

The City compiled an extensive outreach list and contacted each of the agencies on the list via email. A public hearing was also advertised and held providing the opportunity for the agencies, citizens, and other interested parties to comment on the plan. All parties were invited to submit information directly to the City for inclusion in the plan. No organizations or individuals were deliberately omitted from the consultation process.

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

<b>Name of Plan</b>	<b>Lead Organization</b>	<b>How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?</b>
Continuum of Care	Points North Housing Coalition	The City's Strategic Plan includes a priority that would assist with increasing services to homeless persons, which is certainly a goal of the Points North Housing Coalition.
Comprehensive Plan	City of Watertown	<p>The purpose of the City's Comprehensive Plan was to create a vision for the City and capitalize on community assets and recreation opportunities, guide redevelopment and help attract new investments and businesses, as well as identify transformational projects.</p> <p>Watertown's Comprehensive Plan is also a guide for development and redevelopment within the community. The Comprehensive Plan will assist in decision-making regarding the natural and built environment that is used by the City Council, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and others. It is also a guide for City Staff and the public to use in the planning process.</p>

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Sewall's Island – Factory Square Revitalization Plan	City of Watertown	The City's Strategic Plan includes a priority objective that overlaps with the Sewall's Island – Factory Square Revitalization Plan to assist in the redevelopment of Sewall's Island and Factory Square in order to create a vision and capitalize on community assets and recreation opportunities, guide redevelopment and help attract new investments and businesses, and identify transformational projects for this area.
Tree Management Plan	City of Watertown	The City's Tree Management Plan overlaps with the goals of our Strategic Plan and Comprehensive Plan through recommendations for the planting and proactive maintenance of city-owned tree assets. A diverse and resilient urban forest through continued planting and maintenance of trees enhances public safety, quality of life, and overall livability of our neighborhoods. Proactive tree planting and maintenance improves the character and quality of recreational opportunities through increased shade and aesthetic beauty, increasing livability for residents, and provides a backdrop to assist in economic development by creating public spaces that are attractive to investors and redevelopment opportunities.

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
ADA Transition Plan	City of Watertown	<p>The City's Strategic Plan priority objectives overlap with the ADA Transition Plans vision and goals. The City of Watertown has completed data collection for ADA curb ramps and City facilities. Data collection for sidewalks is incomplete, but a future task. Once all data is collected, an ADA transition plan will go into the works with improvements being prioritized as urgent, moderate, or low. The purpose of making the City of Watertown more ADA compliant is to improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities.</p>
Complete Streets Policy	City of Watertown	<p>The City's Strategic Plan priority objectives overlap with the Complete Streets Policy's vision and goals. The Complete Streets Policy's vision is to design, provide and maintain a safe accessible, and well-connected multimodal surface transportation network that meets the needs of all users, regardless of age or ability level, including drivers of automobiles, emergency and freight vehicles, bicyclists, pedestrians, transit users and those with disabilities. The City's inclusive transportation network will play a crucial role in ensuring the health, safety, economic vitality, and quality of life in the City of Watertown.</p>

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (Draft)	City of Watertown	<p>The City's Strategic Plan priority objectives overlap with the LWRP visions and goals. The LWRP will guide coordinated efforts by the City, State, and private interests to manage this important resource in a manner that protects its environmental integrity and maximizes its contribution to the City's quality of life and economic vitality. The program will help maintain and protect water quality, the environment, enhance access to the river, provide new recreational opportunities, restore and revitalize formerly industrial land on the water, and stimulate economic development for the City. The LWRP will serve as a voluntary, community-based guide for future land and water use.</p>

**Table 3 - Other local / regional / federal planning efforts**

## **AP-12 Participation - 91.401, 91.105, 91.200(c)**

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

The citizen participation process for the City of Watertown's Community Development Block Grant Program included extensive outreach to several different organizations and individuals throughout the community. Through an email sent on February 21, 2025, the City contacted numerous public and private agencies that provide assisted housing, health and social services, homeless services, child welfare services and other agencies that serve the low to moderate income population in the City. The City also contacted adjacent units of local government and local economic development agencies to obtain input on non-housing community development needs and priorities.

On the evening of February 10, 2025, the City Planning Department presented to the City Council during a council work session. The presentation updated the Council members on CDBG accomplishments over the last year and encouraged participation in the planning process for the City's Community Development Block Grant program 2025 Annual Action Plan. Planning Staff gave an overview of the CDBG program, discussed what activities were eligible and ineligible for CDBG funding, explained the role of locating projects in target areas to meet a national objective, and encouraged the Council members to share their ideas and help identify priorities and areas of concern. The City Council expressed a desire to focus on sidewalk, infrastructure projects and housing rehabilitation programs.

The City Council held a public hearing on March 3, 2025, to obtain input from citizens, involved agencies and interested persons on activities to be included in the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan. One individual spoke at the public hearing in support of the Black River Trail Western Extension Project.

Along with the initial outreach and the public hearing, the City participated in meetings, conference calls, and email threads to continue to seek input and discuss the needs of the community related to housing, homelessness, public facilities, infrastructure improvements, public services, economic development, and planning. After seeking this input, a draft Annual Action Plan was published, and a 30-Day public comment period was held.

The citizen participation process was extremely beneficial to Staff as it reinforced findings from previous years' public meetings and allowed the City to develop its Annual Action Plan accordingly. It also allowed City Council members and citizens to learn more about the CDBG program.

## Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	City Council Work Session	Members of City Council and meeting attendees	On the evening of February 10, 2025, Planning Staff gave a presentation to the City Council about the CDBG program and encouraged input for the 2025 Annual Action Plan. Attendance included City Council members, the City Manager, Deputy City Clerk, and various City staff.	The City Council generally supported the preliminary list of projects proposed for the 2025 Annual Action Plan. Council members reaffirmed their commitment to continue allocating CDBG funding for infrastructure projects in our target areas such as house rehabilitation, street reconstruction, utility replacement and sidewalk projects. The Council also asked questions about reallocating trail funding and expressed their desire for a sidewalk policy. Their questions and ideas helped identify priorities and areas of concern.	All comments were considered in the preparation of the draft plan and were reviewed by the City to determine common and recurring themes to help establish priorities and projects for the plan.	<a href="https://rumble.com/v6j82tm-wcc021025.html?e9s=src_v1_ucp">https://rumble.com/v6j82tm-wcc021025.html?e9s=src_v1_ucp</a>



Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
2	Advisory Board Meeting	Citizens, Community Leaders	On January 9, 2025, Planning Staff gave a presentation on the CDBG program to members of Advantage Watertown, a group of private and public sector community leaders that serve as a Citizens Advisory Board to the City Council. Staff requested input from members on the program. Approximately 10 Advantage Watertown members attended this meeting.	The Advantage Watertown members in attendance generally supported the preliminary list of projects proposed for the 2025 Annual Action Plan. An individual from the Committee suggested a job training program for high school graduates who are not interested in pursuing a college education. Block parties and similar outdoor activities were also suggested as a way to market the downtown area.	All comments were considered in the preparation of the draft plan and were reviewed by the City to determine common and recurring themes to help establish priorities and projects for the plan.	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
3	Internet Outreach	Local Public Agencies	On February 21, 2025, the City sent an email to several local agencies, previously identified in our Citizen Participation Plan, notifying them that the City was beginning the process of preparing our Annual Action Plan. The email requested input, either by email, by phone, in writing or in person, on the City's needs and the community's desires relative to housing, homelessness, public facilities, infrastructure, public services, economic development and planning. The email also notified the recipients that a public hearing had been scheduled for March 3, 2025. Over 25 agencies were contacted as part of this outreach effort.	The City of Watertown received several emails in response to this outreach. The Watertown Urban Mission contacted the City's Mayor, Sarah V.C. Pierce, about potential projects, including providing funding for their food pantry. In addition, the City received feedback from the Watertown City school district regarding funding for their Food for Families (backpack) Program.	All comments were considered in the preparation of the draft plan and were reviewed by the City to determine common and recurring themes to help establish priorities and projects for the plan.	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
4	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/ broad community	On the evening of March 3, 2025, City Council held a public hearing in Council Chambers at City Hall to obtain input from citizens, involved agencies and interested persons on activities to be included in the Annual Action Plan.	At the public hearing, a citizen voiced his support of the funding for the Black River Trail Expansion project, stating he supports it as a member of the public and as a former Council Member. He stated that it is to be fully funded through grant money.	All comments were considered in the preparation of the draft plan and were reviewed by the City to determine common and recurring themes to help establish priorities and projects for the plan.	<a href="https://rumble.com/v6puixi-wcc030325.html?e9s=src_v1_ucp">https://rumble.com/v6puixi-wcc030325.html?e9s=src_v1_ucp</a>

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
5	Public Meeting	Members of City Council and meeting attendees	For the June 2, 2025, City Council meeting, Planning Staff provided a Staff Report for the City Council that summarized the Annual Action Plan process that had taken place to date. The report provided a list of project ideas and funding requests that the City had received since starting the development of the plan. Attendance included City Council members, the City Manager, the City Clerk, various City staff and members of the public.	The Council generally supported the finalized draft project list proposed for the 2025 Annual Action Plan. Council members did not have any questions or comments on the priorities for the draft Annual Action Plan.	All comments were considered in the preparation of the draft plan and were reviewed by the City to determine common and recurring themes to help establish priorities and projects for the plan.	<a href="https://rumble.com/v6tykeb-wcc060225.html?e9s=src_v1_ucp">https://rumble.com/v6tykeb-wcc060225.html?e9s=src_v1_ucp</a>

**Table 4 Citizen Participation Outreach**

## Expected Resources

### AP-15 Expected Resources – 91.420(b), 91.220(c) (1, 2)

#### Introduction

The City of Watertown is receiving funds from the CDBG program as an Entitlement Community for the twelfth year. Program Year 2025 will be the fifth and final year of funding under our 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan. The City was informed on May 14, 2025, that the funding allocation for Program Year 2025 will be \$860,088.

#### Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Reminder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Admin Housing Public Improve ments Public Services	\$860,088	\$0	0	\$860,088	\$0	This is the City's annual allocation from HUD for the CDBG program.

**Table 4 - 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.**

These funds will leverage private equity and financing when used for one of the housing rehabilitation or homebuyer programs. In addition, New York State funding from various housing programs, such as the Targeted Housing Improvement Program, will also be leveraged. When used for larger multi-family housing projects, state and other federal funds will also be leveraged. For the Black River Trail Western Extension Project, the CDBG funds will leverage a \$1,663,764 Transportation Alternatives Program grant from the New York State Department of Transportation.

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

City-owned property will undergo evaluation for potential improvement and use as neighborhood public facilities or housing for low- and moderate-income persons. Occasionally, the City obtains property through the tax foreclosure process. These properties will also be evaluated. For example, a salvageable house may be put into one of the rehabilitation programs or a dilapidated building may be demolished as part of blight elimination. In the past the City has also included funding in some of our previous annual action plans specifically for tax-foreclosed properties. The funding was allocated to help stabilize properties until a full redevelopment plan was developed and to assist with needed environmental remediation in certain locations.

## **Discussion**

The City of Watertown will be starting its twelfth year as an Entitlement Community under the CDBG Program. The city still has unspent funds from previous years but expects to continue to draw down that funding and complete several projects by the end of Program Year 2025.



## Annual Goals and Objectives - GU

### AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives - 91.420, 91.220(c)(3)&(e)

#### Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Neighborhood Stabilization and Revitalization	2021	2025	Non-Housing Community Development	Downtown Northeast	Public Infrastructure Improvements  Homeownership	CDBG: \$125,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: Approximately 400 families assisted
2	Affordable Housing Rehabilitation	2021	2025	Affordable Housing	Downtown East Near East Near West Northeast Northwest	Decent Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$0	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 0 Household Housing Unit
3	Homeownership Assistance	2021	2025	Affordable Housing	Downtown East Near East Near West Northeast Northwest	Homeownership	CDBG: \$215,000	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers: 5 Households Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
4	Environment and Quality of Life Enrichment	2021	2025	Non-Housing Community Development	Northeast	Public Infrastructure Improvements	CDBG: \$450,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: Approximately 559 Families Assisted
5	Fair Housing Education	2021	2025	Fair Housing	Downtown East Near East Near West Northeast Northwest	Fair Housing Education	CDBG: \$5,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 25 Persons Assisted
6	Homeless Assistance	2021	2025	Homeless	Downtown East Near East Near West Northeast Northwest	Homeless Prevention	CDBG: \$0	Homelessness Prevention: 0 Persons Assisted
7	Public Services Support	2021	2025	Non-Homeless Special Needs	Downtown East Near East Near West Northeast Northwest	Support of Public Services	CDBG: \$16,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: Approximately 150 Families Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
8	Planning and Administration	2021	2025	Planning and Administration	Downtown East Near East Near West Northeast Northwest	Decent Affordable Housing Homeownership Public Infrastructure Improvements Blight Elimination Economic Development Fair Housing Education Support of Public Services Homeless Prevention	CDBG: \$49,088	Other: 1 Other

**Table 5 - Goals Summary**

## Goal Descriptions

1	<b>Goal Name</b>	Neighborhood Stabilization and Revitalization
	<b>Goal Description</b>	Low- and moderate-income neighborhoods will be improved through the construction of public infrastructure improvements and the elimination of blighting influences in target areas. Public infrastructure projects include, but are not limited to, sidewalk and street reconstruction, complete streets improvements, utilities, lighting, technology, tree planting, neighborhood facilities, historic preservation, facilities for persons with special needs and handicapped accessibility projects. Blight elimination includes the demolition of buildings in target areas or other areas in order to stop the spread of blighting influences throughout the City.
2	<b>Goal Name</b>	Affordable Housing Rehabilitation
	<b>Goal Description</b>	Rehabilitate owner-occupied and rental properties for low- and moderate-income persons, with an emphasis on those properties that will contribute to neighborhood stabilization and revitalization.
3	<b>Goal Name</b>	Homeownership Assistance
	<b>Goal Description</b>	Provide homeownership assistance to low- and moderate-income families to increase the number of owner-occupied households and to help stabilize and revitalize neighborhoods throughout the City.
4	<b>Goal Name</b>	Environment and Quality of Life Enrichment
	<b>Goal Description</b>	Improve environmental conditions by addressing environmental equity and environmental justice issues in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods by constructing physical improvements such as parks, playgrounds, trails, rain gardens and other green infrastructure, implementing renewable energy initiatives, eliminating combined sewer overflows, narrowing streets to provide increased greenspace, tree planting, tree pit expansion and enhancements, and other urban forestry initiatives such as hazardous tree removal and invasive species management.
5	<b>Goal Name</b>	Fair Housing Education
	<b>Goal Description</b>	Reduce barriers to fair housing by increasing knowledge in the community of fair housing rights through education, marketing, outreach, training, and technical assistance.

6	<b>Goal Name</b>	Homeless Assistance
	<b>Goal Description</b>	Support the Points North Housing Coalition, the local Continuum of Care, and other local agencies that are working to prevent homelessness through attendance at quarterly meetings, discussing services for homeless persons, and long-term planning to address homelessness in the community. Support local efforts to address homelessness in the City by providing funds to assist with the operation of a transitional single-room occupancy facility.
7	<b>Goal Name</b>	Public Services Support
	<b>Goal Description</b>	Support agencies that are working to address social issues and concerns within the community including, but not limited to, crime prevention and public safety, health services, substance abuse services, education programs, services for senior citizens and recreational services.
8	<b>Goal Name</b>	Planning and Administration
	<b>Goal Description</b>	Conduct planning studies as needed to develop neighborhood revitalization strategies and to inform the development of consolidated plans and annual action plans and administer the City's CDBG Program including project management and the development of annual plans and reports.

**Table 6 – Goal Descriptions**

**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 91.215(b)**

The City expects to provide 5 families with affordable housing through our Homeownership Assistance Program.

## **AP-35 Projects - 91.420, 91.220(d)**

### **Introduction**

For Program Year 2025, the City plans to address three high priority needs: affordable housing, improving public infrastructure and addressing a lack of recreational opportunities in LMI areas. These needs address two important goals from our Consolidated Plan: neighborhood stabilization and revitalization and environment and quality of life enrichment. The City will also address several of our lower priority needs and goals including fair housing education and support of public services at a much smaller funding level than the higher priority needs.

The City has identified the following projects to address the highest priority needs and goals: a trail extension project, a sidewalk construction project and a homebuyer program. To accomplish our lower priority goals, the City plans to conduct Fair Housing education and provide support for two food pantries.

Planning and Administration will also be included in the plan and will provide funding for the overall administration of the CDBG Program.

#	Project Name
1	Black River Trail Western Extension Project
2	Division Street East Sidewalk Project
3	Project Homebuyer Program 2025
4	Fair Housing Education 2025
5	Watertown Urban Mission Food Pantry
6	WCSD Food for Families (Backpack) Program
7	Program Administration

**Table 7 – Project Information**

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

In developing the projects for our Annual Action Plan, the City put the most emphasis on the highest priority needs that were identified during our citizen participation and outreach initiatives, which were homeownership, environment and quality of life enrichment and neighborhood stabilization and revitalization. Approximately 92 percent of our available funding for this program year has been allocated to address these top priorities. The City will use the remaining funding for planning and administration and addressing our lower priority needs.

### AP-38 Project Summary – ALL

1	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Black River Trail Western Extension Project</b>
	<b>Target Area</b>	Northeast
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Neighborhood Stabilization and Revitalization Environment and Quality of Life Enrichment
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Public Infrastructure Improvements
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$450,000
	<b>Description</b>	The Black River Trail Western Extension Project consists of constructing an extension to an existing bicycle and pedestrian trail that connects the City of Watertown to the Village of Black River. The proposed extension would lengthen the trail by 1.4 miles within the City’s Northeast Target Area and create a new western terminus at the periphery of downtown Watertown.
	<b>Target Date</b>	10/31/2026
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	The City estimates that 559 low to moderate-income (LMI) families will benefit from the proposed project based on the estimated number of families in the Census Tract that the project will occur in and the LMI percentages for Block Groups within that Census Tract. Since 2023 ACS data on total families in a geography is only available at the Census Tract level, the City averaged the LMI percentages for the purposes of this calculation.
	<b>Location Description</b>	The project roughly parallels Water Street and Marble Street in the City’s Northeast Target Area.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Planned activities include paving approximately 1.4 miles of asphalt trail.

2	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Division Street East Sidewalk Construction Project</b>
	<b>Target Area</b>	Northeast
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Neighborhood Stabilization and Revitalization  Environment and Quality of Life Enrichment
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Public Infrastructure Improvements
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$125,000
	<b>Description</b>	The Division Street East Sidewalk Construction Project consists of installing new sidewalks to fill in a prominent gap in the City's sidewalk network within the Northeast Target Area. The existing gap is approximately 925 feet and spans the frontage of Adams Recreational Park, which has five baseball/softball diamonds, two basketball courts, two tennis courts, a playground area and a popular public swimming pool. The park is also in the vicinity of two elementary schools.
	<b>Target Date</b>	10/31/2026
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	The City estimates that 400 low to moderate-income (LMI) families will benefit from the proposed project based on the estimated number of families in the Block Group and the LMI percentage for the Block Group that the project covers. Since 2023 ACS data on total families in a geography is only available at the Census Tract level, the City divided the number of families evenly across the Block Groups when estimating the number of families.
	<b>Location Description</b>	The project will take place within the Division Street East Right-of-Way (ROW) on the south side of the street. It is located in the Northeast Target Area.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Planned activities include installing approximately 925 feet of new five-foot-wide sidewalk.



3	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Homebuyer Program 2025</b>
	<b>Target Area</b>	Downtown, East, Near East, Near West, Northeast, Northwest, West
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Neighborhood Stabilization and Revitalization Homeownership Assistance
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Homeownership
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$215,000
	<b>Description</b>	This project will provide grants to assist qualified low-to-moderate income individuals with down payment assistance toward the purchase of a new home. The project is designed to increase the opportunity for homeownership throughout the City, with an emphasis on our CDBG target areas.
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2026
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	This program will assist approximately five low-to-moderate families.
	<b>Location Description</b>	The project will take place throughout the City of Watertown.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	The Homebuyer Program will provide grants to assist qualified low-to-moderate income individuals with down payment assistance toward the purchase of a new home.

4	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Fair Housing Education 2025</b>
	<b>Target Area</b>	Downtown, East, Near East, Near West, Northeast, Northwest, West
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Fair Housing Education
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Fair Housing Education
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$5,000
	<b>Description</b>	The City of Watertown proposes to undertake a Fair Housing Education Project aimed at informing citizens of their Fair Housing rights and educating staff. This informational campaign will include, but not necessarily be limited to advertising and outreach, as well as in-person and/or online information activities. Lack of knowledge of Fair Housing rights on the part of both tenants and housing providers was identified as an impediment in the City's Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing. This education and outreach program will help to increase awareness and understanding of Fair Housing rights in the community.
	<b>Target Date</b>	12/31/2026
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	The City estimates that 25 families will benefit from the proposed project.
	<b>Location Description</b>	The project will take place throughout the City of Watertown.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	The project will consist of an informational campaign to include advertising and outreach, as well as other educational/information activities aimed at informing people of their Fair Housing rights.

5	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Watertown Urban Mission Food Pantry</b>
	<b>Target Area</b>	Downtown, East, Near East, Near West, Northeast, Northwest, West
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Public Services Support
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Support of Public Services
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$8,000
	<b>Description</b>	This project will provide funding for the Watertown Urban Mission's (WUM) Food Pantry. The grant would help cover the costs for an increased demand for food and supplies that the WUM has been seeing in recent months. The increased demand has put unexpected strain on funding resources for providing food packages to those in need. Due to the increased demand, the agency anticipates a shortage of funds in the food pantry in the coming months.
	<b>Target Date</b>	6/30/2026
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	This program will assist approximately 100 low to moderate income families.
	<b>Location Description</b>	The project will serve residents located throughout the City of Watertown.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	The Watertown Urban Mission Food Pantry Project will provide food and needed supplies for approximately 100 families throughout the City of Watertown.

6	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>WCSD Food for Families (Backpack) Program</b>
	<b>Target Area</b>	Downtown, East, Near East, Near West, Northeast, Northwest, West
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Public Services Support
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Support of Public Services
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$8,000
	<b>Description</b>	This project will provide funding for the Watertown City School District (WCSD) backpack program, Food 4 Families. The Program provides impoverished children and their families with a backpack full of food each Friday, so they have food to eat over the weekend. This enables them to be better prepared to learn when the new school week starts. The long-term goals of the program include improving scores, attendance, graduation rates, etc. The program is carried out at all school buildings within the District, with the numbers of backpacks per school allocated based on school population and need. The program is currently run entirely on donations made to a backpack fund set up at the United Way, which allows for the purchase of food through the CNY Foodbank. Volunteers from the community raise funds for the purchase of food, which is packed into bags each Wednesday by students and volunteers. The program provides approximately 120 backpacks each week during the school year, but there is greater need in the District than the program can provide.
	<b>Target Date</b>	6/30/2026
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	This program will assist approximately 50 low to moderate income families, over the course of 40 weeks.
	<b>Location Description</b>	The program will service all schools in the Watertown City School District.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	The Watertown City School District Food 4 Families Program will provide food for approximately 50 students and their families throughout the Watertown City School District each week for 40 weeks during the school year.

7	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Program Administration 2025</b>
	<b>Target Area</b>	Downtown, East, Near East, Near West, Northeast, Northwest, West
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Planning and Administration
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Decent Affordable Housing Homeownership Public Infrastructure Improvements Environment and Quality of Life Enrichment Blight Elimination Fair Housing Education Support of Public Services Homeless Prevention
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$49,088
	<b>Description</b>	This project is for the administration of the CDBG Program.
	<b>Target Date</b>	6/30/2026
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	Not applicable
	<b>Location Description</b>	This covers wherever the CDBG funds will be spent.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	The City will administer the CDBG Program.

## **AP-50 Geographic Distribution - 91.420, 91.220(f)**

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

The City of Watertown is designating the Northeast Target Area as its focus area for Program Year 2025. The Black River Trail Western Extension and the Division Street East Sidewalk Project will both occur in the Northeast Target area and make significant pedestrian connections. These two projects together will account for approximately 67 percent of the spending in the City's Program Year 2025 Annual Action Plan. With its anticipated share of Citywide projects, the Northeast Target area will receive approximately 73 percent of the City's CDBG spending in PY 2025.

The Black River Trail Western Extension will occur in Census Tract 613, Block Group 1, which has an estimated LMI percentage of 77.3 percent, according to HUD's LMI Area Data Map Application. This project will extend the Black River Trail from its existing terminus at the eastern periphery of the City to the edge of downtown Watertown. This project will expand trail access to the City's north side, where six of the seven block groups are majority LMI. Additionally, as the existing trail passes through the East Target area, where there are multiple trail access points, including from two large multifamily apartment complexes, this extension will provide Eastbrook residents of those complexes with a dedicated bike/ped route to travel to downtown Watertown.

The Division Street East Sidewalk project will occur in Census Tract 613, Block Group 3, which has an estimated LMI percentage of 51.4 percent, according to HUD's LMI Area Data Map Application. This project will fill in a prominent sidewalk gap in the Right-of-Way (ROW) in front of Adams Recreational Park, which has five baseball/softball diamonds, two basketball courts, two tennis courts, a playground area and a popular public swimming pool. Filling in this sidewalk gap will provide a direct pedestrian connection to this park where one previously did not exist. This park is also in the vicinity of two elementary schools.

Many proposed projects for Program Year 2025 will be citywide. The Homebuyer Program, WCSO Food for Families (Backpack) Program, Urban Mission Food Pantry, Fair Housing Education Project Calendar Year 2025 will all have citywide benefits, including locations outside of Target Areas.

For the purpose of calculating the percentage of funds spent in each Target Area, the City took different approaches to each project. For the single-location projects within Target Areas, the City assigned those funds to the appropriate Target Areas. For the Backpack Program, Urban Mission Food Pantry and Fair Housing Education, the City divided the total amount programmed by eight (the seven Target Areas plus Non-Target Area spending). For CDBG Program Administration and the Homebuyer Program, the City divided the amount programmed by seven (the six Target Areas excluding Downtown plus Non-Target Area locations). The City excluded downtown because the number of homes available for purchase downtown is not statistically significant.

Since some spending will occur outside of Target Areas, the values in the "Percentage of Funds" table immediately below do not add up to 100 percent, as it only tabulates spending within Target Areas and

does not account for the spending anticipated to occur outside of Target Areas, which is likely to be at least 2 percent.

### **Geographic Distribution**

<b>Target Area</b>	<b>Percentage of Funds</b>
Downtown	1
Near East	5
East	5
Northeast	72
Northwest	5
Near West	5
West	5

**Table 8 - Geographic Distribution**

### **Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically.**

The City has selected projects based upon the most urgent needs and maximum impacts; and will continue that strategy in PY 2025. Over the three of the last four preceding program years, that prioritization strategy led to an unofficial focus on the Northeast Target Area, as that is where the City had identified the most impactful projects. This year, the two major infrastructure projects in the Northeast Target Area make it a natural focus area.

### **Discussion**

As discussed earlier, six of the seven block groups on the City's north side are majority LMI, with four of those six comprising the Northeast Target Area and the other two falling in the Northwest Target Area. Additionally, according to 2019-2023 Five-Year ACS Estimates, the two Census Tracts on the north side also have poverty rates of 33.7 percent and 21.0 percent, which respectively are the highest and third highest of the seven Census Tracts in the City. Finally, in Census Tract 613, all of which is within the Northeast Target Area, 27.8 percent of the population is under 18 years of age, the second highest of the City's seven Census tracts, underscoring the importance of pedestrian access to recreational amenities in this Target Area.

## **AP-85 Other Actions - 91.420, 91.220(k)**

### **Introduction**

CDBG funded activities for this program year will address improvements to public infrastructure and environmental and quality of life improvements, homebuyer assistance, fair housing education initiatives, and projects that support the social needs identified by the community through our public outreach process.

### **Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs.**

The City's first-time homebuyer program will help to improve the quality of the housing stock in the City by providing first-time homebuyer assistance along with assistance for moderate rehabilitation to those who otherwise could not afford it. Additionally, the Food 4 Families program will provide weekend meals for low-income families that struggle with being able to afford food. The Watertown Urban Mission Food Pantry Project will also provide meals for low-income families that are food insecure.

### **Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing.**

The homebuyer program will allow families to purchase a home that otherwise would not be able to afford to own a home of their own. The funds will also allow the families to perform minor rehabilitation on their home to make it safer and more affordable to live in. The homebuyer program will help five families purchase a home.

### **Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards.**

The homebuyer program mentioned above will also serve to mitigate and remove lead-based paint hazards.

### **Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families**

The Food 4 Families Program and Watertown Urban Mission Food Pantry Project will provide food and nutrition for families, which will help ease their food cost burden.

### **Actions planned to develop institutional structure.**

The City of Watertown Planning and Community Development Department remains responsible for the administration of the CDBG Program. Effective delivery of the program requires constant communication and coordination with numerous City departments and agencies. Within the Planning and Community Development Department, CDBG duties and program areas (housing, public improvements, and public services) have been divided among all staff members. This provides staff the ability to provide assistance in all program areas as the workload dictates. Additionally, an effort has been made to involve multiple staff members in each program area so that the department is not left in a difficult position in the event of staff changes.



Planning Staff has also involved members of the City's GIS Department in spatial analyses related to planning efforts for the CDBG program. Planning Staff works closely with GIS Staff to educate them about the CDBG program so that the GIS Department can continue to contribute to the City's administration of the CDBG program.

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

As part of our 2025 Annual Action Plan, the City will collaborate with CNY Fair Housing to provide Fair Housing services. The City will also be working with the Watertown City School District, by providing assistance to fund the Food 4 Families program and the Watertown Urban Mission to provide funding for their food pantry. The City has a sub-recipient agreement with Neighbors of Watertown, a not-for-profit housing agency, to administer the housing programs funded with CDBG funds.

The City will continue to strive to find ways to help improve cooperation between the public and private entities that comprise its partner organizations.

### **Discussion**

In addition to the actions listed above, the City will direct funding toward infrastructure replacement and new infrastructure construction, including new sidewalks and the Black River Trail Western Extension.

## Program Specific Requirements

### AP-90 Program Specific Requirements - 91.420, 91.220(I) (1,2,4)

#### Introduction

The City's previous rental rehabilitation program is the only source of program income for our entitlement community. The payments received to date are typically spent with our next program administration drawdown and we do not anticipate having any program income on hand at the end of this program year that has not been reprogrammed.

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

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

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	\$0
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan.	\$0
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	\$0
4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan	\$0
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	\$0
<b>Total Program Income:</b>	<b>\$0</b>

#### Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	\$0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	94.29%

**Discussion:** We expect that approximately 94 percent of the available funds for the program year will benefit low- and moderate-income persons. We will use a 1-year period to determine the overall benefit for Program Year 2025.