

Homeless Needs

CAPER Homeless Needs response:

1. Identify actions taken to prevent homelessness.

The City has contracted with local non-profits community providers that have provided the following services;

- Develop/enhance new and existing social and educational programs, based on community need;
- Provide information/referral, crisis intervention/prevention counseling and other support services to local residents;
- Provide screening diabetes and supplies;
- Provide a "home away from home" for families of serious ill children who receive medical care away from home;
- Operate emergency food pantries;
- Operate a 24-hour, 365 days a year emergency shelter;
- Deliver food to homebound elderly individuals;
- Provide emergency shelter for individuals involved in family violence and sexual assault;
- Provide essential services as well as job creation for the elderly;
- Provide assistance with free income tax returns;
- Hospice services;
- Provide advocacy services for children victims of abuse and/or neglect;
- Provide educational and direct assistance with management of personal finances and indebtedness;
- Provide rehabilitative services to children with special needs;
- Identify and support individuals ready to transition into a more stable environment, such as transitional and/or permanent housing;
- Provide individual counseling, case management, housing search advocacy; and referrals to other supportive community services;
- Provide short-term to medium-term rental assistance, rental and utility deposits, utility assistance, moving costs, and case management complimented with credit counseling and budgeting classes;
- Provide Housing counseling;
- Provide mobile literacy services to promote literacy;
- Provide opportunities for low-income families with Down-Payment Assistance, First-Time Homebuyer Program, and Multi-Family Housing programs.
- Provide for the operation of a multi-service Center that provides three hot meals a day (Monday to Friday), shower facilities, and change of clothing for the homeless, limited medical attention, and after school tutoring.

2. Identify actions to help homeless persons make the transition to permanent housing and independent living.

3. During the FY 2011/2012, the City continued to use HUD funds to address the needs of homeless individuals and their families by supporting the operations of homeless service providers.

- Supporting a rehabilitation program throughout the City to provide safe, decent, and affordable housing for low-income individuals, at risk of becoming homeless (usually the elderly and disabled);
 - Funding social service organizations that provide referral services for local residents; and
 - Continue work on the transitional housing project at the Ozanam Center to provide safe, decent, and affordable housing for low-income individuals, families and victims of domestic violence.
4. Identify new Federal resources obtained from Homeless SuperNOFA.

Throughout fiscal year 2011-12 the City didn't received any new Federal Super NOFA resources aside from HOME, CDBG & ESG.

Specific Homeless Prevention Elements

1. Identify actions taken to prevent homelessness.

Specifically, the City contracted with Catholic Charities of the RGV, Good Neighbor Settlement House, and the Ozanam Center under the ESG:

- Catholic Charities of the RGV- provides short-term rental assistance, rental and utilities deposits, utility assistance, moving cost, and case management. The agency assisted 73 persons throughout the year.
- Good Neighbor Settlement House (GNSH) to pay partial operations costs for delivery of essential services to the unemployed, underemployed, and homeless men, women, and children in the community. GNSH provides three hot meals on week days, daily shower facilities, and clothes for the homeless and emergency pantry assistance. GNSH also provides after school tutoring and summer programs. This project served 711 persons throughout the year and 40,105 services (meals, showers, clothes, case management, telephone services, etc...)
- Ozanam Center, Inc. is the only a homeless shelter the City. Their services included shelter, emergency food pantry, English classes, clothing, limited medical attention and a soup kitchen for the agency served 1386 persons throughout the year which included 31,000 services (meals, shelter, showers, clothes, food pantry, etc...)

2. Identify actions taken to prevent homelessness.

The Texas Homeless Network continues to provide guidance for the regional Continuum of Care to Cameron County Homeless Partnership and the installation of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) which has been an essential tool for the Agencies and the City to collaborate in the prevention homeless. Homeless partners provide an array of prevention services, including:

- Case management (limited and short-term assessments and education, and home visits);
- Child abuse assistance (crisis intervention and immediate safety);

- Emergency assistance (utilities assistance, security and utility deposits, food and clothing distribution, meals, use of shower and restroom facilities, health-related transportation, and referrals);
- Family violence assistance (crisis intervention and immediate safety);
- Information and referral (Info Line);
- Tenant counseling, fair housing, discrimination, and housing assistance.

Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG)

1. Identify actions to address emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless individuals and families (including significant subpopulations such as those living on the streets)

The City has been focusing on several important factors to meet the needs of the homeless and underserved to help them in the transition to permanent housing and independent living by:

1. Restructure/revamp entire service delivery system for serving the homeless
 2. Complete implementation of the HMIS
 3. Increase the supply of permanent supportive housing
 4. Secure a reliable funding stream for supportive services
 5. Increase services to people with drug and alcohol addictions & co-occurring disorders
 6. Expand opportunities for training and employment
 7. Ensure quality & accountability in services/improve outcomes
2. Assessment of Relationship of ESG Funds to Goals and Objectives
 - a. Evaluate progress made in using ESG funds to address homeless and homeless prevention needs, goals, and specific objectives established in the Consolidated Plan.
 - b. Detail how ESG projects are related to implementation of comprehensive homeless planning strategy, including the number and types of individuals and persons in households served with ESG funds.
 - Catholic Charities of the RGV- provided short-term rental assistance, rental and utilities deposits, utility assistance, moving cost, and case management. Agency projection was to serve 432 persons; however it only served 73 persons throughout the year. Agency was awarded \$36,388 in ESG and it only expended 53% of the funds.
 - Good Neighbor Settlement House (GNSH) was awarded \$39,900 in ESG funds and all were expended in serving the unemployed, underemployed, and homeless men, women, and children in the community. It services include three hot meals on week days, daily shower facilities, and clothes for the homeless and emergency pantry assistance, after school tutoring and summer programs. The Agency had projected to served 462 however there was a bigger need in the community and the Agency served 711 persons throughout the year and log 40,105 services (meals, showers, clothes, case management, telephone services, etc...)

- Ozanam Center, Inc. was awarded \$66,732.32 in ESG and it expended 98% of the funds. Agency projected that it was going to serve 1340, however they went over by serving 1386 persons, their services included shelter, emergency food pantry, English classes, clothing, limited medical attention and a soup kitchen throughout the year which included 31,000 services (meals, shelter, showers, clothes, food pantry, etc...)

3. Matching Resources

Provide specific sources and amounts of new funding used to meet match as required by 42 USC 11375(a)(1), including cash resources, grants, and staff salaries, as well as in-kind contributions such as the value of a building or lease, donated materials, or volunteer time.

Recipients that received the ESG are required to provide dollar-for-dollar match.

- Ozanam Center provided \$35,000 in donations, \$10,000 in volunteer hours and \$15,482 in in-kind.
- Good Neighbor Settlement House (GNSH) provided \$25,200 in donations and \$14,700 in volunteers hours.
- Catholic Charities of the RGV provided \$36,388 on cash donations.

4. State Method of Distribution

City of Brownsville did not received ESGP

States must describe their method of distribution and how it rated and selected its local government agencies and private nonprofit organizations acting as subrecipients.

5. Activity and Beneficiary Data

- a. Completion of attached Emergency Shelter Grant Program Performance Chart or other reports showing ESGP expenditures by type of activity. Also describe any problems in collecting, reporting, and evaluating the reliability of this information.

- b. Homeless Discharge Coordination

As part of the government developing and implementing a homeless discharge coordination policy, ESG homeless prevention funds may be used to assist very-low income individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless after being released from publicly funded institutions such as health care facilities, foster care or other youth facilities, or corrections institutions or programs.

- c. Explain how your government is instituting a homeless discharge coordination policy, and how ESG homeless prevention funds are being used in this effort.

The Cameron County Homeless Partnership has been implementing the HMIS as a required tool for the agencies that are serving the homeless community and are receiving ESG, except where there may be a conflict with the privacy of abuse women or children. The HMIS has become an essential tool to track the well being of the clients that are being assisted. Our agencies have been collaborating among themselves to better serve the community.

DRAFT

**Community Development Block Grant
 FY 2011-2012 Entitlement = \$2,965,854
 B-11-MC-48-0501**

For Program Year 2011-2012, the City of Brownsville has received a total of \$2,965,854 in U.S. Department of Housing and Community Development entitlement funds and \$512,531.14 in program income funds to provide monies to fund projects that will address needs to the community.

Referencing the Rio Grande Valley Entitlement Communities – Consolidated Plan and Strategy for 2011-2013, priorities for community development were established using community wide consultation and citizen participation. Results from this process indicated the following priorities; Public Facilities and Improvements, Public Services, Economic Development, Planning and Administration and Other Real Property Activities.

Public Facilities and Improvements

For the second program year of the Consolidated Plan and Strategy, the City of Brownsville provided funding for several projects that improved infrastructure throughout the City of Brownsville.

– **Street Improvements**

The City of Brownsville has allocated \$1.018 million dollars for street improvements. Due to a work backlog, the City has completed improvements to streets that were allocated from Program Year 2010-2011. The following streets were streets completed in 2011-2012:

Nasa Drive	\$20,735
Young Drive	\$27,335
Apollo Avenue	\$119,412
Druscilla Circle	\$12,222
Willow Creek	\$9,500
Aldrin Court	\$40,969
Glenn Court	\$12,652
Palo Blanco	\$15,777
E. 24 th Street	\$41,399
Cleveland Street	\$33,952
El Paso Road	\$709,345
Armstrong Court	\$35,005
Cernan Court	\$30,453
Lovell Court	\$20,617
Sheppard Court	\$15,162
North and South Drives	\$117,808
Jaime Circle	\$28,843
Bates Circle	\$62,987
E. Harrison Street	\$10,713
Sybil and Bueno Drives	\$41,419
Camino Bronce, Nikel, Cobre	\$20,204

Currently, CDBG funds have not been allocated to programs for providing affordable housing. The City of Brownsville is allocating funds for this purpose from the HOME Program funds.

The City of Brownsville did allocate funds for the City's Rehabilitation Program in 2007 and has expended its remaining funds in 2011-2012 by providing rehabilitation to a housing unit located at 24 W. Jackson Street. The project cost was \$24,466.

All of the allocated funds were used for our program geared to assisting extremely low, low and moderate income individuals as well as the elderly and disabled.

There were no changes to the program, although, it has been discussed the probability of again allocating CDBG funds for programs that provide affordable housing.

Public Services

For Program Year 2011-2012, the City of Brownsville has allocated its regulatory 15% (\$444,878.00) of its entitlement funds to public services. Although allocated, not all funds were expended by each public service organization funded. The following are the organizations funded for this program year:

Tip of Texas Family Outreach	\$53,928.36
Sunshine Haven	\$35,000.00
Ronald McDonald House	\$40,000.00
Girl Scouts of Greater South Texas (In-school program)	\$10,000.00
Children's Domestic Violence Intervention Program	\$10,000.00
Mobile Dental Unit (Dentists Who Care Organization)	\$10,000.00
CASA Child Advocates	\$54,200.00
Rehabilitation Services for Children (Moody Clinic)	\$70,573.52
Mobile Learning Lab (Brownsville Adult Literacy Center)	\$15,000.00
Senior Home Delivered Meals (Amigos del Valle)	\$11,368.00

Economic Development

The Façade Improvement Program is geared to assist business owners with a grant of no more than \$10,000 for their project. The projects have not been completed therefore no numbers for job creation or retention are available at this time.

The City of Brownsville has created a Section 3 Plan that has put into place policies and procedures that will ensure first consideration to low- and moderate income persons.

Planning and Administration

For Program Year 2011-2012, the City of Brownsville has allocated its regulatory 20% of entitlement funds (\$593,170) which also include funds from the program income received during this year.

All funds have been expended in the operation of providing administration of the entitlement grant which includes the monitoring of projects.

The City is in the process of repaying HUD for a Section 108 Loan for the construction of Linear Park. This year's payment totaled \$226,900.00.

Other Real Property Activities

The City of Brownsville allocated \$48,348.00 for Clearance and Demolition projects for this year. The funding assisted in the demolition of dilapidated housing structures within the City of Brownsville.

Antipoverty Strategy

The Rio Grande Valley Entitlement Communities' Anti-Poverty Plan focuses on the most vulnerable groups in the region- primarily low- and moderate- income households between 0-80 percent of the median family income, individuals and families in public or assisted housing, and homeless individuals and families. The lowest-income households are generally those at risk of homelessness, including individuals and families in public or assisted housing who are dependent upon public subsidies to maintain their own residences. This segment of the population has the highest incidence of poverty. At the same time, these low- and moderate-income households will see the most immediate benefit from efforts to increase housing and community development opportunities within the region.

The RGVEC's CDBG programs are instrumental to the Anti-Poverty Plan. CDBG funds are used for a variety of activities, including improving public infrastructure such as streets, drainage, parks and sidewalks, and rehabilitating affordable housing for low- and moderate-income households. Additionally, these funds may be used for economic development activities that create jobs for low- and moderate- income persons, creates community-based businesses, and assists businesses that provide much needed services to low- and moderate-income persons.

HOME Program Narrative

FY 2011-2012 Entitlement=\$1,143,079.00

M-11-MC-48-0501

The City's performance in meeting the housing needs of low and very low income households has been drastically inadequate. The changes made to IDIS on April 30, 2012, hampered the opening of new activities and as such reflect the city's inability to meet objectives of the FY 2010-2013 Consolidated Strategy and Plan. The issues associated with this report are largely the result of the HOME funds available to the community. *Currently, the HOME funds are frozen.*

Analysis of Distribution of Funds:

The FY 2011-2012 Action Plan identified the use of HOME funds for new construction, reconstruction, rental units, homeownership, and housing counseling. The City provided downpayment assistance to first time homebuyers. And, the City partnered with a for profit developer utilizing tax credits to build rental units. During this period, the City partnered with two Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs), the Brownsville Affordable Housing Corporation (BAHC) and Architecture for Charity of Texas (ACT), in projects to develop new housing for low income persons. The City also partnered with the Cameron County Juvenile Justice Department to build homes for the elderly.

IDIS 2148

\$571,500.00 from FY 2011

City wide

The City's downpayment assistance program provided direct assistance to four (4) households in acquiring first time homeownership. The funds were drawn down from the FY 2007 and Program Income FY 2011 for a total of \$43,000.00.

IDIS 2019

\$400,867.00 from FY 2009

Saint Tropez Subdivision (Census Tract 126.07)

Architecture for Charity, Inc. of Texas purchased a 25-Lot subdivision in the city of Brownsville to build 25 Energy Efficient and affordable single family housing units for eligible homebuyers that have an annual income at or below 80% of the MFI, as determined by HUD. To this date, seven (7) homes are under construction with the estimated closings projected to be by the end of December 2012. The remainder of the lots are being recaptured by the city because the 24 month timeframe for having homes built has expired.

IDIS 2018

\$375,000.00 from FY 2009

City wide

The Brownsville Affordable Homeownership Corporation purchased 23 Single-Family lots to build 23 Energy Efficient & Affordable housing units for eligible First-time Homebuyers that have an annual

income at or below 80% of the MFI. The homes were not built within the 24 month timeframe and so the City is recapturing the lots and making payment back to HUD.

IDIS

Committed \$100,000.00 from FY 2011

Minnesota Road (Census Tract 132.04)

Chicory Court Multi-family Rentals (Gap Financing)

The Chicory Court project was not setup in IDIS due to the frozen activities and therefore has no IDIS number. However, the project was completed and twelve (12) rental units were added to the stock of affordable rental units within Brownsville. The city paid the \$100,000.00 from general funds.

\$10,000.00

Housing Counseling

These funds were reprogrammed into the HOME funds.

Contracts:

No contracts were awarded to minority/women owned businesses.