

## **CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes**

### **Progress the jurisdiction has made in carrying out its strategic plan and its action plan. 91.520(a)**

This could be an overview that includes major initiatives and highlights that were proposed and executed throughout the program year.

The City of Bessemer, as an entitlement community under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program made progress towards achieving objectives that were identified in its FY2025-29 Strategic Plan and its FY24 Annual Action Plan. This CAPER represents the completed activities of PY24.

The City used CDBG in PY24 to invest in the following activities:

- Public Improvements/ Facilities
- Housing Rehabilitation Grants for the elderly
- Housing delivery
- Public Services
- Administration

In 2024, the City expended \$1,070,147.62 in CDBG funds for infrastructure, public services, housing assistance, and compliance activities. Public service funds supported childcare subsidies for three working families, food distribution for at least 500 residents, legal services for low-income households, and youth mentoring programs. Through a partnership with Navigate Affordable Housing Partners, \$422,641.33 was used to complete home repairs for 41 senior households, with additional seniors to be assisted through mid-2025.

### **Comparison of the proposed versus actual outcomes for each outcome measure submitted with the consolidated plan and explain, if applicable, why progress was not made toward meeting goals and objectives. 91.520(g)**

Categories, priority levels, funding sources and amounts, outcomes/objectives, goal outcome indicators, units of measure, targets, actual outcomes/outputs, and percentage completed for each of the grantee's program year goals.

Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected – Strategic Plan	Actual – Strategic Plan	Percent Complete	Expected – Program Year	Actual – Program Year	Percent Complete
Delivery Costs	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	0	0				
Delivery Costs	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation	Business	10	0	0.00%			
Delivery Costs	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	5	0	0.00%			
Delivery Costs	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	30	46	153.33%	20	41	205.00%
Delivery Costs	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Jobs created/retained	Jobs	8	0	0.00%			

Delivery Costs	Affordable Housing Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Businesses assisted	Businesses Assisted	8	0	0.00%			
Emergency Repair Grants (EN)	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	30	50	166.67%	20	4	20.00%
Emergency Repair Grants (EN)	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers	Households Assisted	0	0				
Emergency Repair Grants (EN)	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Homelessness Prevention	Persons Assisted	0	0				
Historic Facade Grants (EN)	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation	Business	10	0	0.00%	2	0	0.00%
Historic Facade Grants (EN)	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Businesses assisted	Businesses Assisted	10	0	0.00%			
Program Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	26530	19455	73.33%	3360	0	0.00%

Program Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	0	17		150	0	0.00%
Program Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	0	0				
Program Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$	Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation	Business	10	0	0.00%	2	0	0.00%
Program Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	5	0	0.00%			
Program Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	30	46	153.33%			
Program Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$	Homelessness Prevention	Persons Assisted	0	0		5	0	0.00%
Program Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$	Jobs created/retained	Jobs	2	0	0.00%			
Program Administration	Administration	CDBG: \$	Businesses assisted	Businesses Assisted	2	10	500.00%	2	0	0.00%

Public Facilities (EN)	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	26530	19455	73.33%	3360	0	0.00%
Public Improvement	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	0	5440		0	5440	
Public Improvement	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	0	0				
Public Improvement (EN)	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	26530	19455	73.33%			
Public Services	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$60000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	0	0		150	0	0.00%

Revolving Loan (Economic Development)	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Businesses assisted	Businesses Assisted	0	0		2	0	0.00%
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Table 1 - Accomplishments – Program Year & Strategic Plan to Date

**Assess how the jurisdiction’s use of funds, particularly CDBG, addresses the priorities and specific objectives identified in the plan, giving special attention to the highest priority activities identified.**

CDBG funds totaling \$1,070,147.62 were expended in several areas in 2024, including:

- Completion of a resurfacing and parking lot improvement project at the Bessemer Police Department’s Emergency Operations Center and the Bessemer Storm Shelter. The Storm Shelter improvements will improve access for the public at the facility during weather-related events.
- Funded **public service** programs through partnerships with several different agencies. Partnerships included:
  1. **Childcare Resources.** Childcare subsidies were provided to three working families in Bessemer. The subsidies allowed the female head of households to continue working while their children were provided childcare. All the supported daycares were in Bessemer. Lack of childcare has been identified as a barrier to female participation in the workforce.
  2. **Community Food Bank of Central Alabama.** The City provided \$15,000 to Community Food Bank to provide food distribution to low income Bessemer residents. At least 500 persons have been assisted through this partnership.
  3. **Legal Services of Alabama.** The city provided \$15,000 in CDBG funds to Legal Services of Alabama to provide legal services, including homelessness/foreclosure prevention, to low-income Bessemer residents.
  4. **Big Brothers and Big Sisters.** Funds were awarded to the agency to institute a mentoring program in coordination with Bessemer schools.
  5. **AG Gaston Boys and Girls Club.** The City provided CDBG funding to the AG Gaston Boys and Girls Club for an after-school and summer camp program, however the program did not launch. The department will continue working with the agency to serve youth in the area into 2025.
- **Emergency Housing Grant program.** Partnered with Navigate Affordable Housing Partners to provide home repairs to 21 eligible seniors

in Bessemer at a cost of \$268,000 in 2024. Repairs included roof repairs, installation of ADA bathrooms, wheelchair ramps and other minor repairs. Currently, the department has accepted applications to assist an additional 20 to 25 seniors with roof repairs and ADA modifications through mid-2025 in coordination with NAHP.

- Completed the successful resolution of 2018 Monitoring Findings for the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program in consultation with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- Successfully met reporting deadlines for the City's 2024 CDBG Action Plan and the City's 2023 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER). Both documents have been approved by HUD ensuring continued grant funding.
- Completed the HUD Climate Communities program in August 2024. The City of Bessemer was the only CDBG grantee in Alabama to take part in the program. The program aims to better prepare CDBG grantees to address climate-related issues into the future.

## CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted

Describe the families assisted (including the racial and ethnic status of families assisted).

91.520(a)

	CDBG
White	555
Black or African American	810
Asian	0
American Indian or American Native	20
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,386</b>
Hispanic	4
Not Hispanic	1,382

Table 2 – Table of assistance to racial and ethnic populations by source of funds

### Narrative

During the reporting period, a total of 1,386 families were assisted through the CDBG program. The racial composition of families served reflects a diverse population. The majority of households assisted identified as Black or African American (810 families), representing the largest racial group served. White households accounted for 555 families assisted. Additionally, 20 families identified as American Indian or Alaska Native, and 1 family identified as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. No families identified as Asian were assisted during this reporting period.

With respect to ethnicity, 4 families assisted identified as Hispanic, while the remaining 1,382 families identified as Not Hispanic.

Overall, in the PY24 reporting period, the City of Bessemer served more Black or African American households, with smaller numbers of households from other racial and ethnic backgrounds.

## CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

### Identify the resources made available

Source of Funds	Source	Resources Made Available	Amount Expended During Program Year
CDBG	public - federal	1,428,817	1,070,148

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

### Narrative

In 2024, the City expended \$1,070,147.62 in CDBG funds for infrastructure, public services, housing assistance, and compliance activities. Improvements were completed at the Emergency Operations Center and Storm Shelter to enhance public access during emergencies.

Public service funds supported childcare subsidies for three working families, food distribution for at least 500 residents, legal services for low-income households, and youth mentoring programs. Funding awarded to the AG Gaston Boys and Girls Club for an after-school and summer program did not launch but will continue into 2025.

Through a partnership with Navigate Affordable Housing Partners, \$422,641.33 was used to complete home repairs for 41 senior and/ or disabled households, with additional seniors to be assisted through mid-2025. The City also resolved prior HUD monitoring findings, met all required reporting deadlines, and completed the HUD Climate Communities Program.

### Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
Bessemer, Alabama	100	100	Bessemer

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

### Narrative

The majority of the activities authorized by the City in PY24 were available city-wide. Costs for program administration, emergency repair grants, housing delivery, and public services were available across the city, as long as activities qualified as benefitting low-to-moderate income households and individuals. As in previous years, the majority of housing grants were awarded to households within the city core, where large LMI populations reside.

## **Leveraging**

**Explain how federal funds leveraged additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements were satisfied, as well as how any publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that were used to address the needs identified in the plan.**

All projects and activities were fully funded through the CDBG Program. There was no leveraging of private, state or local funds and no publicly-owned land or property was used for activities.

**CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)**

Evaluation of the jurisdiction's progress in providing affordable housing, including the number and types of families served, the number of extremely low-income, low-income, moderate-income, and middle-income persons served.

	<b>One-Year Goal</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Number of Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	5	0
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	15	0
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>

**Table 5 – Number of Households**

	<b>One-Year Goal</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	0	0
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	0	0
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	20	41
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>41</b>

**Table 6 – Number of Households Supported**

**Discuss the difference between goals and outcomes and problems encountered in meeting these goals.**

**Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.**

The outcomes from this program year will directly inform the development of future Annual Action Plans, particularly in the areas of goal-setting, activity selection, income targeting, and performance tracking.

**Include the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income persons served by each activity where information on income by family size is required to determine the eligibility of the activity.**

<b>Number of Households Served</b>	<b>CDBG Actual</b>	<b>HOME Actual</b>
Extremely Low-income	51	0
Low-income	23	0
Moderate-income	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>0</b>

**Table 7 – Number of Households Served**

### **Narrative Information**

The majority of households assisted (51 of 76, or approximately 67%) were extremely low-income, demonstrating a strong emphasis on serving the most vulnerable residents. An additional 23 households (30%) were low-income, further reflecting the program’s focus on meeting the needs of households with the greatest financial barriers to safe and affordable housing.

Only 2 households (3%) were moderate-income, indicating that CDBG resources were primarily targeted toward lower-income populations, consistent with federal requirements that benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

All assisted households met income eligibility requirements based on verified household income and family size at the time of assistance. Income documentation was collected and maintained in project files to ensure compliance with HUD regulations.

These outcomes demonstrate that CDBG-funded activities were effectively targeted to households with the greatest need, particularly extremely low-income families, and support the jurisdiction’s continued commitment to prioritizing vulnerable populations in future program years.

## **CR-25 - Homeless and Other Special Needs 91.220(d, e); 91.320(d, e); 91.520(c)**

**Evaluate the jurisdiction's progress in meeting its specific objectives for reducing and ending homelessness through:**

### **Reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs**

It was difficult to assess needs as the homeless population in Bessemer appears migratory and homeless persons are often passing through the jurisdiction. The City of Bessemer works with the Continuum of Care to provide assistance to homeless or unsheltered persons in the Bessemer area should such persons be identified and require assistance. The City did initiate funding for legal services in PY23 to prevent families from becoming homeless due to evictions. In addition, the City monitors data provided by the Bessemer School System to determine the needs of at-risk families.

### **Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons**

Currently, there are no emergency shelters or transitional housing units available in Bessemer to meet the needs of homeless persons. The only emergency shelters and transitional housing units are available through agencies based in neighboring Birmingham. Bessemer residents in need of transitional housing or emergency shelter are often taken to those locations by private individuals. The City has sought to work with agencies to better serve residents of Bessemer in need of such services. The City was a signator on the Continuum of Care's funding application to HUD in previous reporting periods for an *Unsheltered Planning Project* which has and will continue to serve residents of Bessemer in addition to other members of the CoC.

### **Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: likely to become homeless after being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections programs and institutions); and, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs**

The City assisted at families who had roof conditions that may have led to homelessness. The City provided public service funds to the Legal Services of Alabama to help with evictions and foreclosures in an effort to prevent homelessness.

The City continued its working relationship with Medical West Hospital and Cahaba Medical Care, which are two agencies that assist with identifying persons who become homeless after being discharged from systems of care. However, neither agency reported or referred such persons for assistance in PY24. This collaboration will continue.

Legal services as part of the City's Public Service provided assistance to individuals in PY24 to help them avoid becoming homeless.

**Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again**

The City of Bessemer has been limited in this area due to staffing capacity. In previous program years, staff as a result of a collaboration with One Roof, made some contacts with homeless persons. However, those contacted often refused assistance or were unable to be assisted by the close of the program year.

Some data existed on families with children who were homeless based on reports submitted to the state Board of Education by the Bessemer City Schools system under the McKinley-Vento Act. The city reviewed this data and uses it to outline programs and pursue partnerships for Public Service activities. The City also worked with the Continuum of Care and the Bessemer Housing Authority to identify potential funding to assist chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children and veterans and their families. The results of this communication was participation in the Continuum's federal applications.

The city continued acquiring data on the true homeless population in Bessemer to accurately identify programs and activities to help families which fall into these categories make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again.

## **CR-30 - Public Housing 91.220(h); 91.320(j)**

### **Actions taken to address the needs of public housing**

The city worked cooperatively with the Bessemer Housing Authority (BESHA) to address the needs of residents and management. The City of Bessemer, through the Office of the Mayor, appoints members to the Bessemer Housing Authority's Board of Directors. In addition, the city worked cooperatively with the BESHA when developing plans to address the needs of extremely low-income and low-income persons. The city and BESHA continued working on the development of new housing at Southside Homes and the City used federal EPA Brownfield funds to assist with the identification of any potential environmental hazards for a proposed redevelopment at Kate Waller Homes. The City and BESHA continued discussion in the final quarter of PY23 on the possibility of CDBG funds being used for the creation of a Dream Center by the BESHA for its residents. The BESHA announced plans to construct a Dream Center in Q4 of PY23 and held discussions with the City about the possibility of CDBG funds being used for the project. Those discussions continued into PY24. The BESHA is the recipient of a YouthBuild grant. The City assisted this program by informing contractors and business interest of the availability of YouthBuild workers. Finally, the City provided \$15,000 in CDBG for a public service afterschool program through the subrecipient agency AG Gaston at Southside Homes for public housing children in PY23 and PY24. The program was endorsed by BESHA management but had not started as the close of the program year.

### **Actions taken to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership**

The Bessemer Housing Authority has an active Resident Advisory Board which meets monthly. The Board provides input to BESHA officials on matters of concern to residents and provided comments on BESHA's annual and five-year plans.

The BESHA continued its Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program aimed at assisting housing residents in transitioning from public housing to self-sustainability, including homeownership.

The city of Bessemer worked with the BESHA to identify properties for which the BESHA can build new housing units or acquire units for rehabilitation for residents who successfully complete the program. No properties were acquired in PY23.

### **Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs**

The Bessemer Housing Authority is not a troubled agency.

## **CR-35 - Other Actions 91.220(j)-(k); 91.320(i)-(j)**

**Actions taken to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment. 91.220 (j); 91.320 (i)**

The City of Bessemer's 2020 Analysis of Impediments did not identify any land use controls, tax policies, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investments which were barriers to affordable housing. The Analysis identified other areas of concern which could be deemed as barriers to affordable housing. These were primarily related to affordable housing stock, knowledge of credit, transportation challenges, and the ability to work with financial institutions. The City has worked to expand the supply of affordable housing through partnerships in recent years.

On-going rehabilitation of senior-owned housing in PY24 was aimed at not only allowing seniors to age in place, but to provide repairs which will allow the home to be more sustainable. Habitat for Humanity of Greater Birmingham continued the development of a new subdivision in the southern part of the City, increasing the availability of affordable housing in the City. The City assisted in this effort through expedited zoning and building permit requests.

The Bessemer City Council passed a local Land Bank resolution in PY23 in an effort to bank vacant properties for reuse and redevelopment.

In addition, the City's Planning and Zoning Commission undertook a Comprehensive Plan for the City, with assistance from the Economic and Community Development Department and the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham. The Comprehensive Plan update will include an update to the City's zoning regulations which will allow for the further expansion of affordable housing units in the City, including the possibility of zoning allowing for more diverse housing options. The Plan is slated for completion in Q2 of PY24 and zoning updates will follow.

**Actions taken to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)**

The City of Bessemer has several Census tracts which would qualify as areas of the underserved. The City has focused on directing funding into these areas to provide lift to residents, as most fall around the City's core. The majority of the housing grants are awarded to homeowners within the historic core, where incomes are lowest. The city has not identified any obstacles to meeting underserved needs but is constantly reviewing policies, procedures, operations, and partnerships which could improve its ability to communicate and meet the needs of the underserved.

**Actions taken to reduce lead-based paint hazards. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)**

The City of Bessemer follows federal guidelines on lead-paint hazards as part of its housing grant program. The city notifies all program participants of the dangers of lead-based paint by disclosure of the possible presence of lead-based paint in the home and the impacts it will have on young children. Contractors working under the city's CDBG program are required to have all required certifications for the proper abatement of lead-based paint hazards. In addition, the City has committed to testing the homes of seniors, prior to rehabilitation work, when children under the age of 6 reside at the property.

### **Actions taken to reduce the number of poverty-level families. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)**

The City of Bessemer has experienced tremendous job growth in recent years and has sought economic development and job creation as a means of reducing the number of poverty-level families. The job market in the City is flourishing. However, the poverty rate remains stubbornly high. Some of these challenges can be tied to educational attainment in the city. Census data shows the total percentage of persons over age 25 in Bessemer with a high school diploma/equivalent or higher is just 83.1 percent, compared to a state average of 86.1 percent and a national average of 88 percent for this same age group. The percentage of persons in the city with a bachelor's degree or higher is just 14.4 percent, compared to 25.5 percent for the state of Alabama and 32.1 percent for the United States. These figures will continue to put Bessemer at a disadvantage and make progress difficult. The Bessemer Housing Authority was awarded a Youthbuild grant and worked with the City to identify participants and market the program to potential businesses.

### **Actions taken to develop institutional structure. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)**

The City of Bessemer's departments actively engaged to identify needs and gaps in services which can be filled by CDBG funds. Integration with the city's Finance Department continues to improve, resulting in better collaboration on the financial management of the city's CDBG grant. In addition, policies and procedures were reviewed to identify weaknesses and areas for improvement. The City improved staffing to 3 FTE in PY23, but ended the fiscal year with 2 FTE due to departures.

Bessemer continued its participation in the HUD Climate Communities Initiative in PY23. Bessemer is one of 42 communities across the country, and the only one in the State of Alabama, to participate in the program aimed at building local capacity to survive, adapt, and thrive in the face of climate hazards and acute climate events.

The City continued to build coalitions and partnerships, including continued support of the Continuum of Care, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Birmingham, the non-profit Bessemer Redevelopment Corporation, and public institutions such as the Bessemer Housing Authority. The provision of public service funds to five subrecipient agencies was initiated in PY23 to address factors already outlined in this report. These collaborations remained in effect in PY24.

Finally, the City continued its partnership with UAB Minority Health to address issues such as crime reduction and improving health outcomes in the greater Bessemer community. The partnership includes

identifying other resources to address health outcomes among lower income residents.

**Actions taken to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)**

The City of Bessemer's non-profit sector is limited in terms of agencies able to work within the city to address private housing and social services. The city has maintained a policy of working with agencies based in the City and those who operate regionally to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies.

The City continued collaboration with the non-profit Bessemer Redevelopment Corporation on planned improvements, including new housing, in the Northside community. The agency secured a \$250,000 Industrial Buffer grant from the Jefferson County Department of Health to plant trees and shrubs as a buffer between an industrial park and the adjoining neighborhood in the Northside in Q2 of PY23. It also constructed three new homes in the neighborhood in PY23 and has worked with the City to procure and demolish blighted structures in the same community. These efforts remained effective in PY24.

The City worked with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Birmingham on the development of a new subdivision that will include affordable housing, as well as homes within LMI neighborhoods.

In addition, the City's Economic and Community Development Director serves on the board of the Community Action Agency of Northeast Alabama, providing representation and input for the Bessemer community. The agency's mission is service to low-income and impoverished families through programs such as weatherization. This partnership allowed the agency to locate an office in Bessemer to better assist local residents.

The City partnered with Navigate Affordable Housing Partners, a non-profit devoted to enhancing the housing industry and ensuring access to quality, livable housing choices for all people. The agency served as the City's subrecipient on the emergency housing grants program and ensured quality delivery of rehabilitation to seniors in the program.

Finally, City staff serve on numerous boards and advisory committees to enhance coordination with social service agencies. The City Council also appropriates \$100,000 annually to local non-profits and service agencies to provide services in the Bessemer area, including the American Red Cross and the Clay House Children's Center among others.

The Economic and Community Development Department developed a Community Resource Guide in PY23 which is available on-line. The guide provides contact information for various social service agencies residents can contact for assistance.

The City anticipates continuing and strengthening such partnerships in PY24.

**Identify actions taken to overcome the effects of any impediments identified in the jurisdictions analysis of impediments to fair housing choice. 91.520(a)**

The city has made some progress in addressing issues identified in its analysis of impediments to fair housing choice. The City will join the efforts to affirmatively further fair housing.

- Renew efforts to address housing affordability and reduce housing costs among lower-income residents.

The city has continued working with agencies both private and public to expand the supply of affordable housing in Bessemer. This includes work with social service programs aimed at weatherization. CDBG funding has not been allocated as of this date to these efforts.

- Pursue efforts to improve the supply of affordable, quality housing in Bessemer.

Several projects have either started or proposed to increase the supply of affordable housing in Bessemer. The emergency housing grant program now include an effort to stabilize houses owned by older seniors through repair in order to allow those homes to be maintained longer and contribute to the affordable housing supply.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Birmingham continued working in the City on development of a new subdivision with affordable housing.

The City of Bessemer sold its former City Hall Building to a development partnership of Milwaukee-based Scott Crawford Inc. and Cardinal Capital is in the final quarter of 2020 and the developer continued working in PY23 towards the construction of 40 new market-rate units within the city's downtown.

The Bessemer Redevelopment Corporation continued to either build new homes in the City or renovate older homes for housing.

The city continued to collaborate with the Bessemer Housing Authority on the creation of the agency's Homeownership Concept, which will provide opportunities for housing residents to lease-purchase homes.

- Pursue programs aimed at providing Bessemer residents with education relative to Fair Housing, financial management, and creditworthiness, as a means to expand opportunity and impact housing stability.

The City did not make any progress in this area during PY24. Aggressive action will be implemented to assuer that impediments are addressed.

- Seek to connect public transportation, housing, and employment opportunities being produced in the city.

The city continued working with the Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority on improving transit options. The City began work on a Comprehensive Plan in PY23 which will help with the development of connections between public transportation, housing and employment opportunities.

## **CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230**

**Describe the standards and procedures used to monitor activities carried out in furtherance of the plan and used to ensure long-term compliance with requirements of the programs involved, including minority business outreach and the comprehensive planning requirements**

The City of Bessemer's Department of Economic and Community Development has committed to reviews of annual plan goals and projects quarterly, with additional reviews as required. The Department provides periodic updates to the Mayor and City Council on progress toward goals and objectives. The Department uses an eligibility sheet to ensure compliance with programs, with the Director signing off on the eligibility of projects. A review of the Language Access Plan was conducted in PY20 to ensure access to programs for those not native-born and was reviewed based on 2020 Census information.

The city reviews its expenditure rate quarterly and proposes amendments to help it reach its statutory timeliness requirements, as HUD requires no more than 1.5 years of grant funds available in the city's Treasury letter of credit on the annual test date in April.

The Finance Department assists the Community Development Department with reporting on financial matters, such as the quarterly Cash-on-Hand report and documents monthly bank statements related to the City's revolving loan repayment program.

Finally, the City maintains a list of eligible minority engineering firms it uses in the delivery of Public Improvement activities.

## **Citizen Participation Plan 91.105(d); 91.115(d)**

**Describe the efforts to provide citizens with reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on performance reports.**

The Citizens Participation Plan and the Language Access Plan were both updated in the first quarter of PY20 to ensure better delivery of notice for all residents. The updated Citizen Participation Plan was formally adopted by the Bessemer City Council on October 20, 2020. The Citizen Participation Plan outlines a 15-day comment period, which was advertised, starting on March 4, 2026, and ending on March 18, 2026.

Notice of the comment period was posted to the City's website on March 4, posted at City buildings frequented by the public on March 4 and shared with local newspapers The Western Star for publication for two weeks.

A Public comment opportunities are afforded to residents on Monday, March 16, 2026, at Bessemer City Hall, which is centrally located and accessible by bus.

The city has adopted three ways of reaching residents and notifying them of public hearings and opportunities to comment on performance reports:

- Notice in a newspaper of general circulation within the city of Bessemer.
- Notice on the city's Community Development webpage.
- Posting at Bessemer City Hall and/ or the Bessemer Public Library.

The City's Economic and Community Development Department has been tasked with monitoring the progress related to engaging residents in the planning and evaluation process and will suggest edits and modifications as needed to ensure the residents of Bessemer across all classes and interests have access to comment and guide decision-making relative to programs goals and activities.

### **CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)**

**Specify the nature of, and reasons for, any changes in the jurisdiction's program objectives and indications of how the jurisdiction would change its programs as a result of its experiences.**

There were no changes in the jurisdiction's program objections for PY23.

**Does this Jurisdiction have any open Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) grants?**

No

**[BEDI grantees] Describe accomplishments and program outcomes during the last year.**

**CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)**

**Specify the nature of, and reasons for, any changes in the jurisdiction's program objectives and indications of how the jurisdiction would change its programs as a result of its experiences.**

There were no changes in the jurisdiction's program objections for PY23.

**Does this Jurisdiction have any open Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) grants?**

No

**[BEDI grantees] Describe accomplishments and program outcomes during the last year.**

## CR-58 – Section 3

Identify the number of individuals assisted and the types of assistance provided

<b>Total Labor Hours</b>	<b>CDBG</b>	<b>HOME</b>	<b>ESG</b>	<b>HOPWA</b>	<b>HTF</b>
Total Number of Activities	1	0	0	0	0
Total Labor Hours	0				
Total Section 3 Worker Hours	0				
Total Targeted Section 3 Worker Hours	0				

**Table 8 – Total Labor Hours**

<b>Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program</b>	<b>CDBG</b>	<b>HOME</b>	<b>ESG</b>	<b>HOPWA</b>	<b>HTF</b>
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Public Housing Targeted Workers					
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Other Funding Targeted Workers.					
Direct, on-the job training (including apprenticeships).					
Indirect training such as arranging for, contracting for, or paying tuition for, off-site training.					
Technical assistance to help Section 3 workers compete for jobs (e.g., resume assistance, coaching).					
Outreach efforts to identify and secure bids from Section 3 business concerns.					
Technical assistance to help Section 3 business concerns understand and bid on contracts.					
Division of contracts into smaller jobs to facilitate participation by Section 3 business concerns.					
Provided or connected residents with assistance in seeking employment including: drafting resumes, preparing for interviews, finding job opportunities, connecting residents to job placement services.					
Held one or more job fairs.					
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that can provide direct services or referrals.					
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that provide one or more of the following: work readiness health screenings, interview clothing, uniforms, test fees, transportation.					
Assisted residents with finding child care.					
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend community college or a four year educational institution.					
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend vocational/technical training.					
Assisted residents to obtain financial literacy training and/or coaching.					
Bonding assistance, guaranties, or other efforts to support viable bids from Section 3 business concerns.					
Provided or connected residents with training on computer use or online technologies.					
Promoting the use of a business registry designed to create opportunities for disadvantaged and small businesses.					
Outreach, engagement, or referrals with the state one-stop system, as designed in Section 121(e)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.					

Other.					
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**Table 9 – Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program**

**Narrative**