



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

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October 25, 2022

Mr. Ralph Blessing
Land Use Bureau Chief
Stamford Government Center
888 Washington Blvd, 7th floor
Stamford, CT 06901

Dear Mr. Blessing:

**SUBJECT: Consolidated End-of-Year Review
Program Year 2021**

The City of Stamford received \$984,710 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, \$439,578 in HOME (HOME Investment Partnerships Program) funds and \$79,583.15 in HOME-ARP (HOME Investment Partnerships Program - American Rescue Plan) funds in Program Year 2021, the year covered by this report. This is the Department's assessment of the use of those funds.

The Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, require that grant recipients submit annual performance reports for the programs covered under these Acts. The Acts also require the Secretary of HUD to determine annually that the grant recipient is in compliance with these statutes and has the continuing capacity to carry out the programs for which it received funds.

HUD's review includes an analysis of each grantee's planning process, its management of funds, progress in carrying out the strategies and goals expressed in the Consolidated Plan, compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements, accuracy of required performance reports, and evaluation of its accomplishments in meeting key departmental objectives. This annual assessment is directed not only toward meeting the mandates of the statutes, but to provide the basis for working together collaboratively to achieve the revitalization goals of Stamford. HUD congratulates New London on the community's many accomplishments during this past year regarding the achievement of departmental objectives.

Noteworthy Accomplishments

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

During the Program Year 2021, the City of Stamford provided \$24,000.00 of CDBG funds to E to the 4th Power Program for their Employment Training program. This Women's Mentoring Network provided supportive services for job training, education and job placement to 87 women. An Emergency Assistant/Food Bank received \$20,306 in CDBG funds to assist 5809 low income and food insecure individuals and families with financial assistance, food and clothing, door to door delivery of food support in Stamford. The funds also supported the salary for caseworker.

The Women's Housing Coach Program was awarded \$10,306 in CDBG funds to provide supportive counseling to homeless women during their transitional period from homelessness to employment and permanent housing to 54 women. Inspirica provided emergency housing & shelter, support services, counseling, case management, vocational training, workforce education, job placement and housing retention for low income and moderate-income individuals. Project New Hope received \$20,306 in CDBG funds to provide an outreach program and counseling services for high-risk youth ages 14-27 who are on the path or engaged in gang crime and or drugs. Project New Hope disengaged and disconnected the individuals from crime related activities and reconnects the individual with school, social and community activities, job skills and employment opportunities and any family related issues. The program, which is operated year-round, helped 40 at-risk youth during the FY2021 year.

Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County provided and distributed nutritious food to non-profit organizations that are less fortunate and hungry. The food bank distributed 1,279,977 pounds of food to the community and served over 5 million meals. The CDBG grant funds in the amount of \$21,000 was used to provide salary support for the warehouse manager. Approximately 110,763 individuals and families were served. The Day Drop-In Program provided Case Management & Coaching Services for Pacific House Emergency Shelter Supportive Housing. The Drop-In Program provided housing and resources to individuals to sustain housing and reduce recidivism. The Emergency Shelter had a maximum capacity of 82 individuals and is open 24/7 and winter months can accommodate 100 individuals. The program provided assistance with employment and referral services for substance abuse and mental health treatment, legal assistance, transportation and personal services. This program benefitted 236 low to moderate income individuals

Pacific House Supportive Housing Initiative Project CDBG funds in the amount of \$10,306 were used to purchase new household appliances and repairs for Fairfield Commons Transitional Facility. The CDBG funds assisted 48 homeless individuals with transitional housing and support.

CARES ACT (CDBG-CV) Program

CDBG-CV (Community Development Block Grant CARES) funds were not expended for 2021 program year.

HOME and HOME-ARP Program

HUD reviewed Stamford's report of activities assisted with HOME funds in its Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). As a result, during Grant Year 2021, HUD waived the City match and recorded match from prior Federal fiscal years over

the required match contribution. In addition, the Commitment and CHDO Commitment Deadlines were waived for all 2021 HOME grants. The Expenditure Deadline Date for Grant Year 2021 is September 30, 2030.

In reviewing the Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS) PR23 Report, the report shows there were no HOME or HOME-ARP funds disbursed in Grant Year 2021. The City's cumulative HOME balance of \$2,415,294.51 ranges from Grant Years 2015 through 2021, of which \$79,583.15 derives from the 2021 HOME-American Rescue Plan (ARP). Based upon information available in our IDIS systems, the 2015 HOME funds of \$35,239.30 are earmarked to expire on September 30, 2023.

The CAPER also included a report on affirmative marketing actions conducted by Stamford and an assessment of the extent to which the City contracted with minority-owned and women-owned businesses. The affirmative marketing actions appear to be adequate based on the demographic data reported by the City for beneficiaries of the HOME down payment assistance program and the rental development program. In addition, HOME outreach efforts to minority/women developers, investors, and companies were consistent with the Minority Outreach Statement presented in the City's Action Plan Institutional Structure. In PY 2021, however, Stamford did not contract with women-owned businesses through the HOME program. There were no HOME or HOME-ARP funds expended during program year 2021.

General and Financial

On May 2, 2022, Stamford did not meet their timeliness standard in exceeding 1.50 times its current year grant. The Department adheres to the regulation 24 CFR 570.902, to determine if communities are delivering program activities to residents in a timely manner. By regulation, the grant recipient must have no more than 1.50 years of unexpended grant funds in its line of credit 60 days before the end of the program year. The City's expenditure ratio was 2.39 as of the May 2, 2022, test date. The City's current ratio is 2.39% (adjusted ratio for program income). The City is strongly encouraged to monitor its expenditure rate by running an IDIS PR56 report.

In Grant Year 2021, Stamford expended 100.00% of its CDBG funds on projects or activities that benefited low- and moderate-income individuals, exceeding the 70% requirement. Expenditures for planning and administration activities were below the 20% expenditure cap (16.79%). Additionally, expenditures for public services were below the 15% cap (13.99%).

The City's federal single audit for the period ending June 30, 2022, was submitted in a timely manner to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse (FAC) and contained no audit findings.

Public Access

If the City wishes to submit comments regarding the substance of this communication, please do so within 30 days of the date of this letter. HUD will consider any comments submitted and may revise the content of HUD's letter or attach comments received from the City. If the Department does not hear from the City, HUD will assume that the City concurs and has no objections to HUD's letter. After 30 days have expired, this letter must be readily available to the public. There are several ways to make it available to the public. The City can assist HUD in this regard by sharing the Department's letter with the media, with a mailing list of interested persons,

with members of your advisory committee, or with those who attended hearings or meetings. HUD will make this information available to the public upon request.

Conclusion

The Department rates our Connecticut grantees' overall performance in carrying out their programs as either satisfactory or unsatisfactory. This determination is based upon information available to this office and does not reflect a comprehensive evaluation of specific activities. The City of Stamford's performance has been determined to be satisfactory. HUD further deems that Stamford has the continuing capacity to administer its programs.

If the City has questions or would like to discuss any of the issue reviewed in this letter, please do not hesitate to call me or Millicent Meadows, Community Planning and Development Representative, at (860) 240-4825.

Sincerely,

Alanna Cavanagh Kabel

Alanna Cavanagh Kabel
Director
Community Planning & Development

cc: The Honorable Caroline Simmons, Stamford Mayor
Ms. Emily Gordon, Acting Community Development Director/Planning Analyst