

City of Texarkana, Texas Consolidated Action Plan

October 1

2009

The Community Development Block Grant Program is designed to primarily benefit low-income persons. Consequently, the goals of the program are oriented toward that objective. Every three to five years the City of Texarkana, Texas prepares a CDBG Consolidated Plan that takes a comprehensive approach to identifying housing and community development needs in the community and outlining strategies to address these needs. Each year the City of Texarkana, Texas develops CDBG Annual Action Plan detailing annual implementation strategies to meet the needs identified in the CDBG Comprehensive Plan. The City of Texarkana, Texas Annual Action Plan is contained herein.



City of Texarkana, Texas
2009 Consolidated Action Plan

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Accessibility to the Action Plan/Housing and Community Development Plan

Citizens requiring auxiliary aids to receive this Action Plan may request those aids at the City Department of Community Redevelopment and Grants at the address or telephone numbers listed below.

P.O. Box 1967

220 Texas Boulevard

Texarkana, Texas 75501

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Background

The National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 requires communities to develop a strategic plan to identify the need for affordable housing and supportive housing within the community. Communities that received funding from various housing programs of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) were required to prepare the strategic housing plan. Other HUD programs required their own planning documents. In 1995 HUD published new rules, which replaced the requirement for the housing strategy with a rule that consolidates into a single submission the planning and application for four HUD programs. These programs are the Community Development and Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership, Emergency Shelter Grants, and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS. The plans are to be developed to assure linkage between the planning process for the HUD programs, local on-going planning efforts, and other planning for related Federal or State programs.

The City of Texarkana, Texas receives funds annually from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The CDBG program provides funds to eligible communities to carry out a wide range of community development activities. These activities are required to be directed toward neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and improved community facilities and services, primarily for low-income households. A low-income household is a household whose income does not exceed 80% of the median income for the community where they live. For Texarkana, Texas in 2009, a family of four with an annual income of less than \$41,350 is considered low income. CDBG funds are required to be spent on activities, which benefit a low-income family or person directly, benefit a low-income neighborhood, or eliminate slum or blighting conditions.

The Community Development Block Grant Program is designed to primarily benefit low-income persons. Consequently, the goals of the program are oriented toward that objective. Every three to five years the City of Texarkana, Texas prepares a CDBG Consolidated Plan that takes a comprehensive approach to identifying housing and community development needs in the community and outlining strategies to address these needs. Each year the City of Texarkana, Texas develops an Action Plan detailing annual strategies to meet the needs identified in the CDBG Comprehensive Plan. The City of Texarkana, Texas annual Action Plan is contained herein.

Executive Summary (91.220(b))

The City of Texarkana, Texas' continues its belief that the future availability of affordable, safe and sanitary housing for low income residents will depend on implementing a thorough revitalization strategy that includes reconstruction, preservation and maintaining the City's older housing stock.

Other revitalization strategies are in place that will impact residents of low income neighborhoods and create measurable impacts at the neighborhood level. Activities will include the provision of affordable housing, improvements in infrastructure, code enforcement, improvements to public services and economic development activities.

This Action Plan proposes activities that either directly or indirectly address poverty, housing, homelessness, community development, and non-homeless special needs. Individuals, community groups, business leaders, and elected officials were consulted during the development of the 2009 Action Plan. After reviewing relevant data and reports, it was determined that a continued concentrated focus of resources is needed in the Rosehill Neighborhood.

Past Performance

The City continues to progress in accomplishment of the goals and objectives detailed in the 2009 Action Plan.

The City was successful in meeting the timeliness test for the 2009 program year in August 2009. Grant expenditures are on schedule. Program accomplishments are being met in accordance with established timelines.

The City continues to improve the grant management and reporting efforts. Improvements in the areas including activity documentation, citizen participation, needs- analysis and activity implementation timeliness are examples of such improvements.

As of June, 2009, the City of Texarkana expended \$274,185.39 in the PY08 reporting period in Community Development Block Grant funds. This funding was utilized in the pursuit of the City's and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's mutual goals of providing decent housing, creating a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunity for individuals and families earning at or below 80% of the area median income.

The spending categories were as follows:

Demolition – 88.3%
Housing – 3%
Public Services - 0%
Program Administration – 8.7%

Housing

The City of Texarkana expended \$250,543.07 in housing related activities with CDBG funding. The City reported the following housing accomplishments for PY08:

- Demolished 22 vacant and/or substandard properties. 20 units were demolished as LMA and 2 units were demolished as SBS;

- 112 households received homebuyer training and counseling, putting them on the path to homeownership;
- Facilitated rehabilitation/reconstruction of owner-occupied single-family properties by providing referrals to United Way of Texarkana and Habitat for Humanity for 28 individuals;
- Provided grants to low income home owners for sewer connections. Project started during the 2006 PY, and was completed in 2008PY;
- Assisted the PHA with the development of second application for HOPE VI grant funding and implementation of HOPE VI grant award;
- Continued to assist the PHA as they partnered with Texarkana College, Texarkana independent School District, private community organizations, neighborhood associations and developers on the Rosehill Revitalization project – a dynamic reformation of a low- and moderate-income neighborhood – the gateway to Texarkana’s downtown district.

Homeless / Non-Homeless Special Needs

The City of Texarkana expended \$15,000 in homeless-related activities with CDBG funding. Activities included:

- Provided staff and consultant time, meeting space, food, and promotional materials to assist in the re-formation of the Texarkana Homeless Coalition;
- Attended regular Texarkana Homeless Coalition meetings, and actively solicited additional members to join the Coalition from the school system, police department, mental health services, and from legal service providers;
- Collaborated with additional homeless service providers, including those who provide services to women on parole leaving prison, medical services for the homeless, and homeless persons with AIDS to help widen the network of services available for the homeless in the Texarkana area;
- Promoted nonprofit organizations that address basic survival needs for homeless and low-income individuals;
- Provided technical and consultant assistance to the Texarkana Homeless Coalition as they prepare to write their Continuum of Care and apply for funding through the Texas Balance of State program;
- Provided funding to the Retired Senior Volunteer Program to enable them to provide services to homeless and special needs individuals.

Community / Development / Infrastructure

The City obtained required environmental releases for infrastructure improvements and plans to begin \$2,000,000 in infrastructure improvements in the Rosehill Neighborhood to complement its revitalization efforts in PY2009.

Housing Reconstruction

Applications for the reconstruction of thirteen (13) CDBG-funded units were taken during PY08. These applications are currently under consideration for approval. Additionally, there are eight (8) approved applications remaining from PY07.

Home Ownership Assistance Loan Program

The City continues to see a reduction in the number of Home Ownership Assistance loans requests. No requests were made during the 2008 program year. While marketing efforts continue, home ownership

assistance loans are not being made due to lack of interest and lack of qualified buyers. The City will continue to promote this program and institute additional marketing to promote this opportunity.

Public Services

The City allocated \$15,000 in PY2008 CDBG funds for the Retired Senior Volunteer Center (RSVP) that provides services to seniors and handicapped.

Residential Demolition LMA

The 2008 residential demolition project is on schedule. Through July, 2009, 20 residential structures were demolished. All 20 structures were located in low and moderate income areas.

Water and Sewer Line Improvements

The City has made \$5,200 grants using CDBG funds for water and sewer line improvements to five (5) households.

Residential and Commercial Demolition SBS

20 units were demolished as residential LMA.

2 units were demolished as SBS.

Response to Citizen Comments

The City received no comments from citizens regarding the 2009 Action Plan.

Public Housing (91.220(h))

Additional Activities – Rosehill Neighborhood Revitalization Project

The City, in cooperation with the Housing Authority of the City of Texarkana, Texas, private community organizations, and developers continue revitalization efforts in a low and moderate income neighborhood. The Rosehill Revitalization Project is funded through a combination of low income housing tax credits, private financing from commercial lending institutions, CDBG, state grant funding resources and private financing from non-profit housing development corporations.

Projected Needs:

Housing Needs of Families in the Jurisdiction by Family Type

Family Type	Overall	Affordability	Supply	Quality	Accessibility	Size
Income <=30% AMI	1426	5	5	5	1	2
Income >=30% but <=50% of AMI	661	3	2	4	1	1
Income >50% but <80% of AMI	1058	3	2	3	1	1
Elderly	650	4	2	4	1	1
Families w/Disabilities	157	4	2	4	1	1
Caucasian	2786	4	2	4	1	3
African-American	2600	5	4	5	1	4
Hispanic	43	5	4	5	1	4
Native American	10	5	4	5	1	4
Asian/Pacific Islander	7	5	4	5	1	4

Characteristics of the information provided in the table above are as follows:

- a. The estimated number of rental families having housing needs is provided in the “Overall” needs column.
- b. The remaining characteristics as each applies to the impact of that factor on the housing needs for each family type are rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 indicating “no impact” and 5 indicating “severe impact.”

Housing Needs of Families on the Waiting List (Section 8 and Tenant-Based Assistance)

	# of Families	% of Total Families
Waiting List Total	791	100%
Extremely low income <30% AMI	539	68%
Very low income >30% but <50% AMI	252	32%
Low income >50% but <80% AMI		
Singles/Disabled	212	27%
Families with Children	428	54%
Elderly Families/Elderly/Disabled	45	6%
Families with Disabilities	106	13%
Caucasian	187	24%
African American	587	72%
Hispanic	12	2%
Native American	1	.001%
Asian/Pacific Islanders	4	1%

Housing Needs of Families on the Waiting List (Public Housing Only)

	# of Families	% of Total Families
Waiting List Total	335	100%
Extremely low income <30% AMI	272	81%
Very low income >30% but <50% AMI	43	13%
Low income >50% but <80% AMI	20	6%
Singles	154	46%
Families with Children	110	33%
Elderly Families	20	6%
Families with Disabilities	51	15%
Caucasian	92	28%
African American	239	71%
Hispanic	4	1%
Native American	0	0
Asian/Pacific Islanders	0	0
<u>Characteristics by Bedroom Size</u>		
1BR	218	65%
2BR	67	20%
3BR	44	13%
4BR	6	2%

The following needs were demonstrated:

1. There is a need for a comprehensive housing strategy developed between the PHA and the City of Texarkana to address the long range (10-20 year) housing needs of the citizens of Texarkana, particularly the African American and elderly populations, which are the most severely cost burdened.

A joint effort to develop and implement these strategies began in PY2003 and has resulted in the development of Renaissance Plaza, a 120-unit high-rise apartment complex for low-income elderly and disabled individuals, which meets Section 504 compliance.

The HOPE VI grant award to the PHA is resulting in three (3) older, dilapidated PHA complexes being demolished and redeveloped with mixed-use housing. The result of this innovative project will be the blending of households of various income levels in single-family homes for ownership and rental units for both elderly and family residents. Currently, Covington Homes, the first of the three PHA complexes is being demolished.

Subsidized housing on the existing site and the surrounding community is a part of the replacement housing. The project includes developing a community with commercial as well as residential opportunities throughout the area expanding beyond and eliminating the present boundaries of public housing. This blending will spawn new development throughout the area giving new life to this depressed area.

Subsidized housing will meet Section 504 compliance.

2. There is a significant need for additional affordable single-family housing comprised of new housing stock in Texarkana, Texas.
3. There is a need for additional Section 8 rental assistance vouchers to serve unmet needs in Texarkana, Texas.
4. There is a need for supportive housing units for persons with HIV/AIDS. According to Special Health Resources, there are currently 13 persons who fit this category in an emergency shelter.
5. There is a need for decent public housing units in Texarkana, Texas.
6. There is a significant need for additional reconstructed/rehabilitated homes in Texarkana, Texas.
7. The low and moderate-income elderly particularly minority elderly have the greatest need for housing in Texarkana, Texas as they are currently residing in the oldest housing stock in the City.
8. There is a significant need for a variety of financing alternatives for affordable housing to meet the needs. These alternatives should include grants, forgivable loans, loans and Section 8 voucher home-purchase assistance.

***NOTE:** There is no current information available regarding the housing stock available to persons with disabilities.

Identification of Priority Needs

The priority needs in the City of Texarkana were identified primarily through two avenues of analysis. The City's Department of Community Redevelopment and Grants compiled extensive data from varied sources in preparation of this Strategic Plan, including, but not limited to:

The 2000 U.S. Decennial Census, specific subsets of that Census data prepared for HUD's 2006 American Community Survey; usaelectionpolls.com; Housing and Urban Development User.org data; The Housing Authority of Texarkana Housing Consolidated Plan; Texas Housing Data/recenter.tamu.edu; Northeast Texas Regional Community Plan; Texarkana Planning Commission; Southeast Texas Planning Commission; Texas Council Child Welfare Board 2008-2012 Strategic Plan; Bowie County Property Appraiser's Office; the Texarkana Homeless Coalition; the Texarkana Homeless Coalition 2006 Homeless Census; the Texarkana Homeless Coalition's Continuum of Care Committee; Texarkana Special Health Resources of Texas, Inc., Community Healthcore, Bowie County Sheriff's Office; City of Texarkana Police Department; Housing Authority of Texarkana, Texas; Texarkana/Bowie County Family Health Center; City of Texarkana Department of Community Redevelopment and Grants; Bowie County Department of Health and Human Services and the Texas State Homeless Coalition.

The goals of this project are:

1. Improve the quality of Public Housing, through the demolition of dilapidated 60 year old units and construction of new units.
2. Decrease the concentration of public housing through the development of mixed income multifamily and single family neighborhoods.
3. Increase the availability of resources (financial and supportive) to provide for avenues from public housing to home ownership.

4. Create economic development with the community to provide for sustained growth and development.

Rosehill Neighborhood revitalization consists of five phases:

1. Construction of Renaissance Plaza Senior Adult Housing
2. Covington Townhomes
3. Stephens Homes
4. Single Family In-fill Housing
5. Commercial Development

The Rosehill Neighborhood Revitalization Project has a major goal of expanding affordable housing opportunities for Texarkana residents. Ancillary goals, although no less important, are to provide economic development activities, enhance educational opportunities for residents, foster community pride, encourage landlords to upgrade their properties in order to remain competitive with the new units, and to encourage home ownership to further stabilize the population.

The City's CDBG funded housing reconstruction program was a major factor in the selection of the Rosehill Neighborhood for revitalization. The City's housing reconstruction program has demolished and reconstructed approximately sixty units since 2002, over seventy percent of the reconstructed units are located in the Rosehill Neighborhood. The City's efforts combined with the investment of the Texarkana Texas Independent School District in the Rosehill Neighborhood schools served as a catalyst for the housing authority, community college, and neighborhood associations to collaborate in a massive revitalization effort.

At this time, the project has achieved the following benchmarks:

- Receipt of \$10 million in tax credit financing for Covington Housing project. Private financing is currently pending.
- Renaissance Plaza opened September 1, 2008.
- Approval of \$20 Million HOPE VI grant request.
- Application to the U.S. Department of Justice for Weed and Seed designation for the Rosehill Neighborhood – this application is pending – we expect notification by September, 2009;
- Application and pending transfer of the Watt-Guillot U.S. Army Reserve Center from the DOD to the Texarkana College for the vocational training center. Center to be used for a concurrent enrollment building trades for low income at risk students from Texarkana School Districts.

Citizen Participation (91.220(b))

On November 13, 2006 the Texarkana, Texas City Council adopted a revised Citizens' Participation Plan under resolution number 313-06. The development of the 2009 Action Plan was conducted in accordance with policies and procedures set forth in the Citizen's Participation Plan.

The 2009 Action Plan was developed by evaluating the strategies contained in the five-year Consolidated Plan and by developing a proposed course of action built upon those strategies, newly assessed needs, and long-range housing and community development goals of the City. The following steps were taken

to provide for citizen participation in the development of this plan and future housing and community development strategies:

The City receives comments from the public concerning progress on the Consolidated Action Plan and its community development efforts through the public comment process at each council meeting. Representatives of the Community Development Department are present at these meetings and provide verbal or written responses to all questions and comments submitted by the public. Additionally the City Secretary maintains a written record of all comments received.

Regular meetings are scheduled with City department directors to discuss status of the City's Consolidated Plan and to solicit input concerning 2009 Action Plan strategies and the impact of citizen input on future strategies.

The Texarkana City Council appointed a CDBG Citizens Advisory Committee in May 2002. Council members representing the City Wards with the highest percent of low and moderate-income residents (Wards 1 – 4) appointed two residents of their Wards to serve on the committee. Council members representing the City Wards with the lowest percentage of low and moderate-income residents (Wards 5-6) appointed one resident of their Ward to serve on the committee. The Mayor appointed an "at large" citizen, creating an eleven member citizen committee.

CDBG Citizens' Advisory Committee members began meeting in June 2002. The Committee has met regularly since this date and has completed the following objectives:

1. Review of the Consolidated Plan Needs and Action Strategies.
2. Review of the HUD CDBG program requirements.
3. Conducted community needs assessment within their Wards (this activity is on-going). Determination that CDBG housing and community development activity will be focused in specific census tract (104, 105, and 106) with the long range plan of outward development from a central point in these tracts to include surrounding neighborhoods and other census tracts.
4. Development of the 2008-2012 Consolidated Plan.
5. Review and approval of the Rosehill Neighborhood Revitalization Area and revitalization strategies.
6. Review of the 2009 Action Plan strategies and budget.
7. Participation in two public hearings on the 2009 Action Plan Strategies and budget.
8. Review of public hearing comments.
9. Development of Request for Proposals Format to be used for the solicitation of public service agencies.
10. Review and evaluation of public service Requests for Proposals.
11. Reporting committee progress to representative council members.

The Committee meets throughout the program year for the purpose of evaluating the impact of the Action Plan strategies, continuation of needs assessment, development of implementation strategies for the 2008 – 2012 Consolidated Plan, and development of long range (20 year) housing and community development plans for the City.

Public hearings to solicit input concerning community needs for the 2009 Action Plan were held:

<u>Locations</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time Held By Location</u>
Texarkana Texas City Hall	August 10	6:00 pm
Texarkana Texas City Hall	August 12	12:00 noon

The 2009 Action Plan was made available for public comment beginning on July 10, 2009 through August 10, 2009. Copies of the plan were made available on the City's website, at Texarkana, Texas City Hall. Two public hearings on the 2009 Action Plan were conducted on August 10, 2009 and August 12, 2009. No formal action was taken by Council at these hearings. The Action Plan was formerly adopted effective August 12, 2009, after the 30 day comment period ended.

Citizens Comments on the Action Plan – No comments were received from citizens during the comment period for the Action Plan.

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Summary of Specific Annual Objectives (91.220 (c) (3))

2009 Annual Goals and Objectives: Suitable Living Environments

Priority – HOUSING				HUD Defined Objective / Outcome	Outcome #1 Availability / Accessibility	Outcome #2 Affordability	Outcome #3 Sustainability
				Objective 1: Suitable Living Environment	SL-1	SL-2	SL-3
				Objective 2: Decent Housing	DH-1	DH-2	DH-3
				Objective 3: Economic Opportunity	EO-1	EO-2	EO-3
Objective/ Outcome	Strategy	Proposed Projects	Funded Amount	Geographic Eligibility	Target Population	Performance Measures	
DH-2	H1: Provide decent and affordable housing through single-family owner-occupied housing reconstruction for lower income residents Priority Level: HIGH	➤ Reconstruction	\$167,143	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ City-wide ➤ Annual Target Areas (Census Tracts 104, 105, 106) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Very low and low income residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reconstruction of 2 owner-occupied houses. 	

<p>DH-1</p>	<p>H2: Evaluate and Reduce Lead Hazards Priority Level: HIGH</p>	<p>➤ Not Funded w/CDBG in 2009</p>	<p>\$0</p>	<p>➤ City-wide ➤ Annual Target Areas (Census Tracts 104, 105, 106)</p>	<p>➤ Very low and low income residents ➤ Very low and low income prospective home owners and tenants ➤ Low-income and impacted neighborhoods</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>DH-2</p>	<p>H3: Provide water and sewer improvements to low- and moderate income households. Priority Level: MED</p>	<p>➤ Not Funded w/CDBG in 2009</p>	<p>\$0</p>	<p>➤ Low Income families ➤ Annual Target Area (Census Tracts 104, 105, 106)</p>	<p>➤ Very low and low income residents</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>DH-2</p>	<p>H4: Provide home ownership assistance program for down payment and closing cost assistance Priority Level: MED</p>	<p>➤ Not Funded w/CDBG in 2009</p>	<p>\$0</p>	<p>➤ City Wide ➤ Annual Target Area (Census Tracts 104, 105, 106)</p>	<p>➤ Very low and low income residents ➤ Section 8 Tenants ➤ Housing Authority Residents</p>	<p>N/A</p>

DH-2	<p>H5: Provide funding for emergency and major home repairs for low-income individuals through owner-occupied housing rehabilitation</p> <p>Priority Level: MED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Not Funded w/CDBG in 2009 	\$0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ City Wide ➤ Annual Target Area (Census Tracts 104, 105, 106) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Very low and low income residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ N/A
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Priority – NON HOUSING – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT						
Objective/ Outcome	Strategy	Proposed Projects	Funded Amount	Geographic Eligibility	Target Population	Performance Measures
SL-3	<p>CD1: Provide street and flood drain improvements to low- and moderate-income areas</p> <p>Priority Level: MED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Not Funded w/CDBG in 2009 	\$0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Low Income Areas ➤ Annual Target Area (Census Tracts 104, 105, 106) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Very low and low income residents 	N/A
SL-3	<p>CD2: Provide water and sewer improvements to low- and moderate income areas.</p> <p>Priority Level: MED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Not Funded w/CDBG in 2009 	\$0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Low Income Areas ➤ Annual Target Area (Census Tracts 104, 105, 106) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Very low and low income residents 	N/A

Priority – HOMELESS / SPECIAL NEEDS						
Objective/ Outcome	Strategy	Projected Projects	Funded Amount	Geographic Eligibility	Target Population	Performance Measures
SL-1	HM1: Provide financial support to organizations that provide services to homeless and special needs individuals Priority Level: MED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Not Funded w/CDBG in 2009 	\$0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ City-wide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Very low and low income residents 	N/A

Priority – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT						
Objective/ Outcome	Strategy	Projected Projects	Funded Amount	Geographic Eligibility	Target Population	Performance Measures
EO-1	ED6: Section 108 Loan Program Priority Level: MED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Not Funded w/CDBG in 2009 	\$0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ City Wide ➤ Low Income Areas ➤ Annual Target Areas (Census Tracts 104, 105 and 106) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Very low and low income residents ➤ Developers ➤ Business owners ➤ Entrepreneurs 	N/A

Priority – OTHER						
Objective/ Outcome	Strategy	Projected Projects	Funded Amount	Geographic Eligibility	Target Population	Performance Measures
SL-1	<p>O2: Remove slum and blight conditions throughout low-income areas and throughout the City through the demolition of substandard structures</p> <p>Priority Level: HIGH</p>	<p>Demolition – Low/Mod Areas</p> <p>Demolition Slum and Blight (City-Wide)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Demolition – LMA - \$210,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ City-wide ➤ Annual Target Areas (Census Tracts 104, 105, 106) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Very low and low income residents ➤ Section 8 Tenants ➤ Housing Authority Residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Demolition – non-low/mod CTS – 10 structures ➤ Demolition – low/mod areas – 30 structures

ACTION PLAN

2009 Action Plan Proposed Objectives

The City of Texarkana proposes the following:

1. Demolition of 30 substandard residential and/or commercial units located in low and moderate income areas.
2. Demolition of 10 substandard residential and/or commercial units designated as slum and blight.
3. Reconstruction of 2 owner occupied units using CDBG funding.
4. Administration of the CDBG program.
5. Application for Section 108 Loan to establish a Residential and Commercial Development Loan Pool targeted to the Rosehill Neighborhood.
6. Collaboration with the local PHA in the implementation of a Hope VI grant award.
7. Implementation of 5-year Weed and Seed program, targeted to the Rosehill Neighborhood.
8. Application to area foundations and grantors for a \$500,000 grant award to construct 50 new homes on infill lots in the Rosehill Neighborhood.

Demolition Low and Mod Areas

The City proposes to expend \$200,000 of its 2009 allocation on the demolition of substandard residential units in low and moderate income areas which pose slum and blight conditions.

Demolition Slum and Blight Scattered Sites

The City proposes to expend \$10,000 of its 2009 allocation on the demolition of substandard structures in non-low and moderate-income areas of the city to eliminate slum and blight conditions.

Reconstruction

The City proposes to expend \$167,143 of its 2009 allocation on the reconstruction of two (2) owner occupied housing units for very low income families.

Administration

The City proposes to expend \$91,785 of its 2009 allocation on the administration of the 2009 CDBG program.

Section 108 Loan Program

The City proposes to leverage its 2009 CDBG allocation and borrow up to \$2,000,000 in Section 108 loan funds to capitalize a commercial and residential development loan fund in a targeted low and moderate income area of the City. Preference will be given to development within the Rosehill Revitalization Areas, but other low mod areas will be eligible to apply. This HUD Section 108 loan will be guaranteed by the pledge of the City's future Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) distributions and additional collateral.

Geographic Distribution (91.220(f))

The City proposes to expend over 90% of its CDBG allocation in the areas of highest low income and minority concentration, (see map). Specifically the largest portion of the 2009 allocation will be

targeted to the Rosehill Revitalization area which has the highest levels of low income and minority population concentration within the City limits.

Homeless and Special Needs Activities (91.220(i))

The City continues to collaborate with the Texarkana Homeless Coalition and will provide a resource link for the homeless and for citizens with special needs to receive needed services. The City is also helping the Texarkana Homeless Coalition and the Texas Homeless Network create a Continuum of Care. The City will apply for funding from the State of Texas' Balance of State program and continues to collaborate with the Texarkana Homeless Coalition to ensure resources to meet the needs of the homeless are available.

Action Steps to end chronic homelessness include:

- Continue to collaborate with the Texarkana Homeless Coalition to create a Continuum of Care to create specific steps to take to assist the chronically homeless.
- Educate police officers, emergency room personnel, etc. on resources available to assist the chronically homeless.
- Provide easy access to information on emergency shelters for the homeless;
- Provide information on nonprofit organizations that address basic survival needs for homeless and low-income individuals;
- Provide access to information for medical care, including mental health and substance abuse treatment;
- Promote access to information on employment, job skills training and life skills training;
- Provide assistance in the development of a Continuum of Care for the Texarkana Homeless Coalition and subsequently transitional and permanent housing programs for homeless and non-homeless special needs persons through the provision of assistance with grant application preparation, funding, consulting and technical assistance.

Other Actions (91.220(k))

The jurisdiction plans to take the following "other actions" to address obstacles to meeting the underserved needs, foster and maintain affordable housing, evaluate and reduce lead-based paint hazards, reduce the number of poverty level families, develop institutional structure, and enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies:

- 1. Evaluate and Reduce Lead-Based Paint Hazards Evaluate and Reduce Lead Hazards:** Educate home owners (owner occupied housing assistance applicants) and potential homebuyers (HOAP loan applicants).
- 2. Reduce the Number of Poverty Level Families Provide Support for Low-Income Residents Public Services:**
 - a. Improve educational, job skills, and/or healthcare for low and moderate-income person's activities through community non-profits:** Assess existing public service needs not being met though existing public service agencies.
 - b. Provide Economic Development Opportunities for Low and Moderate Income Persons -** Development of Section 108 Loan program for suitable economic development project(s)

targeted to assist in the development of commercial projects, which could provide employment for the low and moderate-income residents of the city.

- 3. Demolition of Substandard Residential or Commercial Units in low and moderate- income areas and areas designated as slum and blight:** Clear severely deteriorated residential and commercial structures from low and moderate-income neighborhoods where rehabilitation of the structures is not possible; specifically, to demolish substandard housing scheduled for reconstruction, and vacant substandard housing.
- 4. Develop Institutional Structure and Enhance Coordination:** The City of Texarkana, Texas 2008-2012 Consolidated Plan contains a description of the institutional structure, including non-profit organizations and public institutions through which the City will carry out the affordable and supportive housing strategy. During the 2009 program year, the City will continue to assess the extent of the homelessness, evaluate existing services, and continue implementing the continuum of care strategy for the homeless. The City will apply to the Texas Balance of State for Transitional Shelter funding to assist the homeless and non-homeless special needs individuals. Additionally the City will coordinate services and leverage funding between private and public service providers to help serve as the foundation for continuum of care for the homeless.
- 5. Annual Implementation of the Fair Housing Plan**

The City will undertake the following actions during the 2009 program year to implement the fair housing plan: Continue to investigate and respond to fair housing complaints; increase fair housing education efforts through advertisements in For Rent/For Sale classified in the local newspaper, proclamation and other special events during fair housing month, realtor education, and other educational efforts through print and electronic media; and continue to evaluate the need for additional fair housing education and enforcement activities in the community utilizing the CDBG Community Advisory Council in this effort.
- 6. Remove Barriers to Affordable Housing**

There are many factors that affect the cost and production or maintenance of housing affordable to extremely low-, low-, and moderate-income families (at or below 80% of Median Family Income (MFI)). An analysis of these factors has aided the City in developing programs that reduce the adverse affects of these constraints on the supply and cost of housing.

Most of the City of Texarkana's policies were enacted to protect and further the public welfare. For instance, building codes and subdivision standards are required by law for the protection and general welfare of the community. Development impact fees are recovered from the developer to assure that the public costs of new developments are paid by that development. While recognizing the changing need of public policies, the City will review them periodically to determine whether they have become excessive or represent an unnecessary constraint on the development or maintenance of affordable housing.

7. Meet Underserved Needs

- a. Continue to apply for available financial resources to increase ability to meet underserved needs.
- b. Increase access to information about community service organizations dedicated to meeting the needs of low and very low income households;
- c. Work with PHA to increase the supply of rental housing in the City of Texarkana that is affordable to extremely low-moderate- and middle-income families.
- d. Increase opportunities for vocational education and job training to subsequently increase wages to keep pace with inflation and housing costs.
- e. Increase transportation services in low income areas.
- f. Increase affordable and specialized housing for low income, homeless and non homeless special needs individuals and families; and
- g. Increase funding to support specialized service providers in Texarkana.

8. Foster and Maintain Affordable Housing

The City is currently acquiring existing dilapidated units and infill lots in the target area and plans to use funding from various foundations and grantors to construct 50 new units of affordable housing that will be available for purchase to low-income individuals and families.

Policies for Producing and preserving Affordable Housing include:

- a. Continue slum and blight removal in low income areas
- b. Continue infrastructure improvements in low income areas
- c. Continue Code Enforcement and Inspection Department's work in low income areas
- d. Collaborate with private developers and the Housing Authority of Texarkana, Texas to promote affordable housing construction in low income areas
- e. Collaborate with community supportive service providers to promote opportunities for rental assistance
- f. Apply to Federal, State and Local funding programs to provide new housing construction, home owner reconstruction and emergency housing repairs in low income areas.

9. Reduce the Level of Poverty-Level Families

- a. Collaborate with local college and community supportive service providers to provide access to information on:
 1. Job skills training
 2. Employment opportunities
 3. Financial management training
- b. Apply to Federal and State grant funding programs to provide:
 1. Down-payment and closing cost assistance
 2. Housing Reconstruction and Emergency housing repairs

10. Develop Institutional Structure

Continue collaboration with the City's Department of Community Redevelopment and Grants (CRG) and Finance Department, other city departments and non-profit agencies receiving CDBG funding to carry out the activities covered by the Consolidated and Action Plans.

11. Enhance Coordination Between Housing and Service Agencies

Continue to assess the strengths and gaps and enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers, and among public and private health, mental health and other service agencies.

Resources (91.220 (c) (1))

The following federal and state resources are anticipated to be received during the 2009 program year:

- CDBG entitlement grant for 2009 program year is \$458,928.
- The City will submit an application for funding through the Assets for Independence (AFI) program with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration of Children and Families to provide \$350,000 funding, which is the average projected award amount, to establish Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) to assist low income individuals with down payment and closing cost assistance.
- The City anticipated program income in the amount of \$10,000.
- The City will make application for up to \$2,000,000 in Section 108 Loans, if awarded these resources will be allocated to residential and commercial development.

The following non-federal and non-state resources are anticipated to be received during the PY08 program year.

- The City through the Texarkana Housing Finance Corporation may seek bond funding for the development of single family homes in the targeted neighborhood (Rosehill).
- The City through the Texarkana Housing Finance Corporation will seek the donation of and tax forgiveness for vacant lots from the Bowie County Central Tax Appraisal District. These lots will be used to develop affordable single family units.
- The City will make application to the various foundations and grantors for monies to construct new homes on infill lots in the Rosehill Neighborhood.
- The City will provide \$2,000,000 in their PY2009 budget for infrastructure improvements in the Rosehill Neighborhood.

Monitoring (91.230)

The City will conduct monitoring on a monthly basis to ensure programs are being carried out in accordance with all U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development statutory and regulatory requirements and with the City Consolidated Plan and annual Action Plan. Monitoring will cover programs administered by the City with funds received from HUD. In addition, the monitoring will include a review of information being submitted to HUD to ensure that information and data submitted are correct and complete. An annual report will be prepared on the monitoring results, and submitted to the CDBG Citizens Advisory Committee for review. The City will also maintain a copy of this report. The City will also conduct onsite monitoring of all sub-recipients, as well as, public services, housing,

street improvement, and demolition projects to ensure contractor compliance with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements. The City monitors the expenditures on a monthly basis to ensure the timeliness expense of CDBG entitlement funds.

The City of Texarkana is committed to using federal funds appropriately and in such a manner that maximizes the public benefit to low- and moderate-income residents. The City currently utilizes a variety of administrative mechanisms to ensure the success of their endeavors through project monitoring and program monitoring.

Project Monitoring

The goal of project monitoring is to ensure that HUD-funded projects and activities are implemented in a timely manner in accordance with Federal regulations and other statutory or regulatory requirements. As a means to achieve this goal, the City's project monitoring effort focuses on identifying deficiencies, promoting corrections, and providing technical assistance in order to improve the performance of the City and all its partners. This process involves effective communication and cooperative, problem-solving relationships between the City and its contractors/sub recipients/project sponsors.

Project monitoring activities are comprised of desk reviews and/or on-site visits during which management procedures, goal establishment and achievement, record keeping, organizational financial status, construction and labor standards, procurement procedures, and many other areas are reviewed. The information that is reviewed is outlined in checklists that have been developed for each type of activity. These checklists were created using HUD's guidance, HUD's Monitoring Handbook, and regulations and other statutory requirements for each funding source.

Desk Review

Desk review is an ongoing process in which the program representative responsible for overseeing the project uses all available information to review the sub recipient's or project sponsor's performance in carrying out the approved project or activity. This review process enables the City to identify problems requiring immediate attention and to prepare for more in-depth on-site monitoring. Material used for this review includes, but is not limited to, the executed sub recipient/project sponsor agreement, requests for reimbursement, quarterly and annual reports, audits, and the certificate of liability insurance, client eligibility information, documentation from previous monitoring visits, and the original funding application.

On-site Monitoring

On-site monitoring is a structured review conducted by the program representative at the locations where project activities are being carried out or project records are being maintained. In preparation of the on-site monitoring visit, the assigned monitor contacts the agency to explain the purpose of the visit, schedules a time and date, sends a confirmation letter, and performs a desk review.

Once on-site, the monitor reviews the sub recipient/project sponsor files, including source documentation, to ensure compliance with all regulations governing their administrative, financial, and

programmatic operation. The monitor also verifies that their performance objectives are on target and that the activity or project is projected to be completed within budget. This information is utilized to complete the appropriate checklist and provide the sub recipient/project sponsor with tentative conclusions during the exit interview.

Once the on-site visit is concluded, a formal written report describing the results of the visit, as well as any findings or concerns is provided to the agency. This report also recommends corrective items to address and rectify the problem areas, if necessary. Once the corrective actions have been completed, the City closes out the monitoring review.

The City's Finance Department and Department of Community Development and Grants (CRG) work independently to monitor their respective projects and activities.

The CRG performs an annual desk review and an on-site monitoring visit for each public service activity to ensure that sub recipients are compliant with federal regulations and statutory requirements, as well as the terms of their sub recipient agreement with the City.

Additional monitoring takes place with each Request for Payment that is received. Prior to approval, the CRG personnel verify client eligibility with regard to the criteria outlined in their agreements such as Texarkana residency, services provided, whether the rate of reimbursement is appropriate for the services provided, as well as other criteria such as age or disability status, if appropriate. Their overall rate of spending is also reviewed at this time.

Once it is determined that all activities and clients are eligible, two levels of approvals are obtained and then the payment is processed. This periodic review enables the CRG to assess progress and ensure the timely expenditure of funds.

APPENDIX A

**HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
2009 ACTION PLAN**

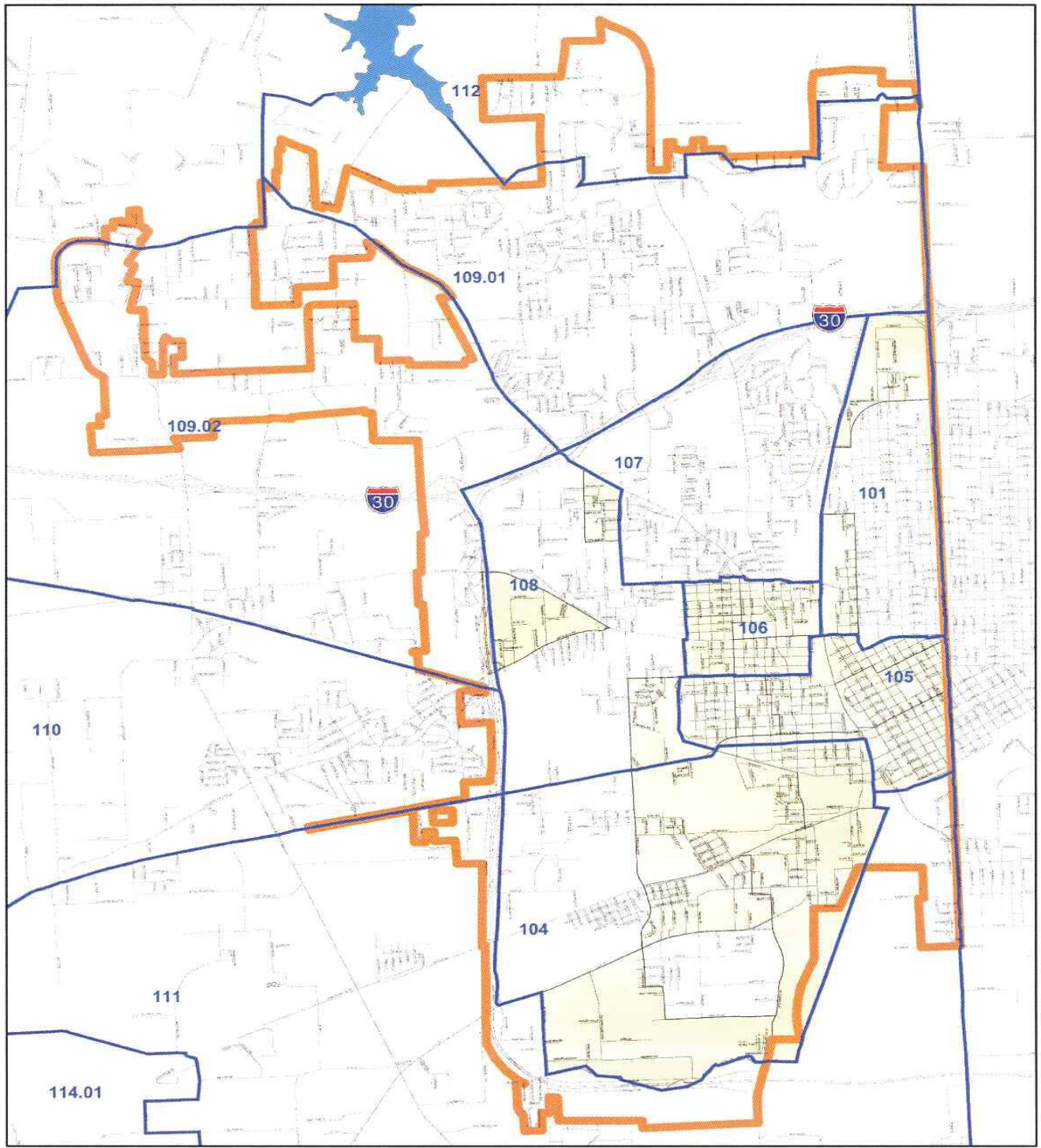
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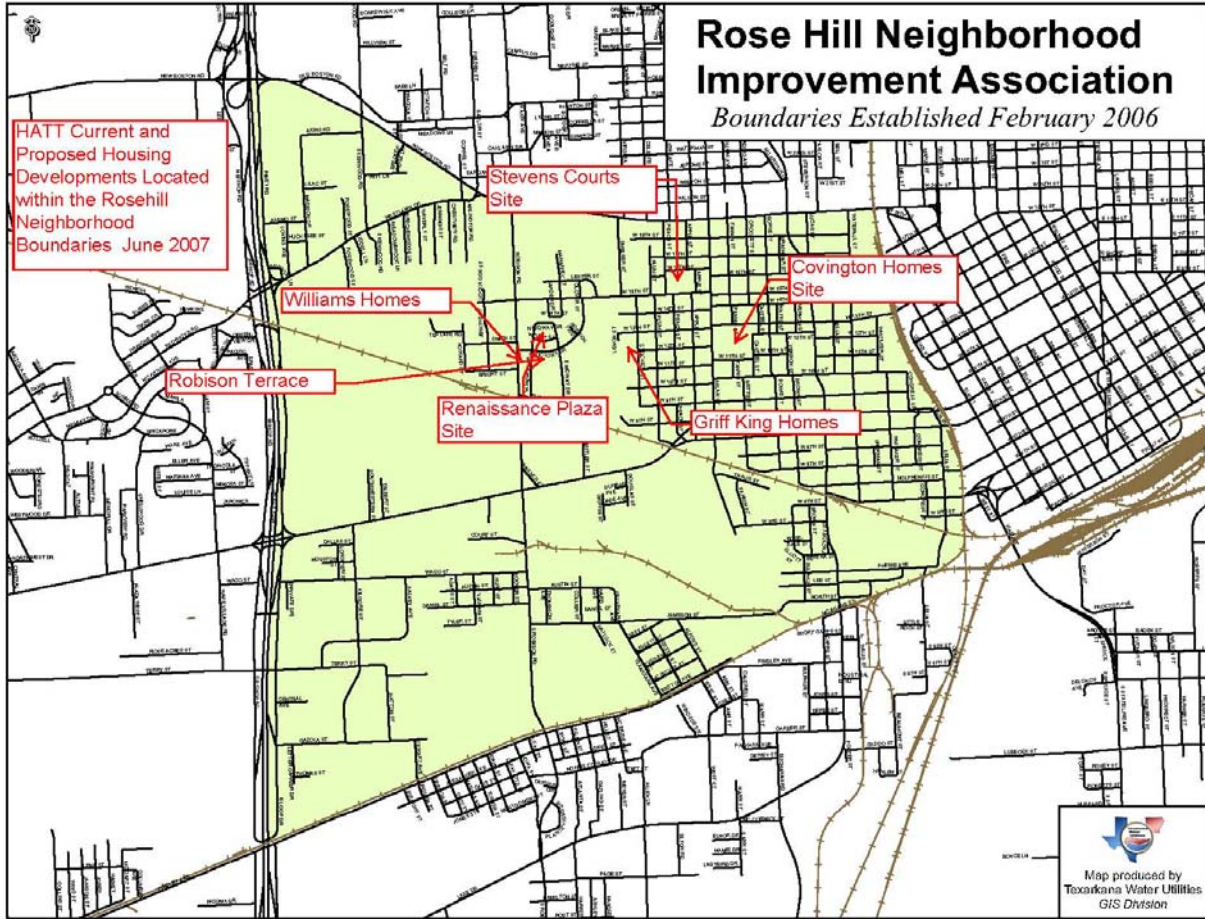
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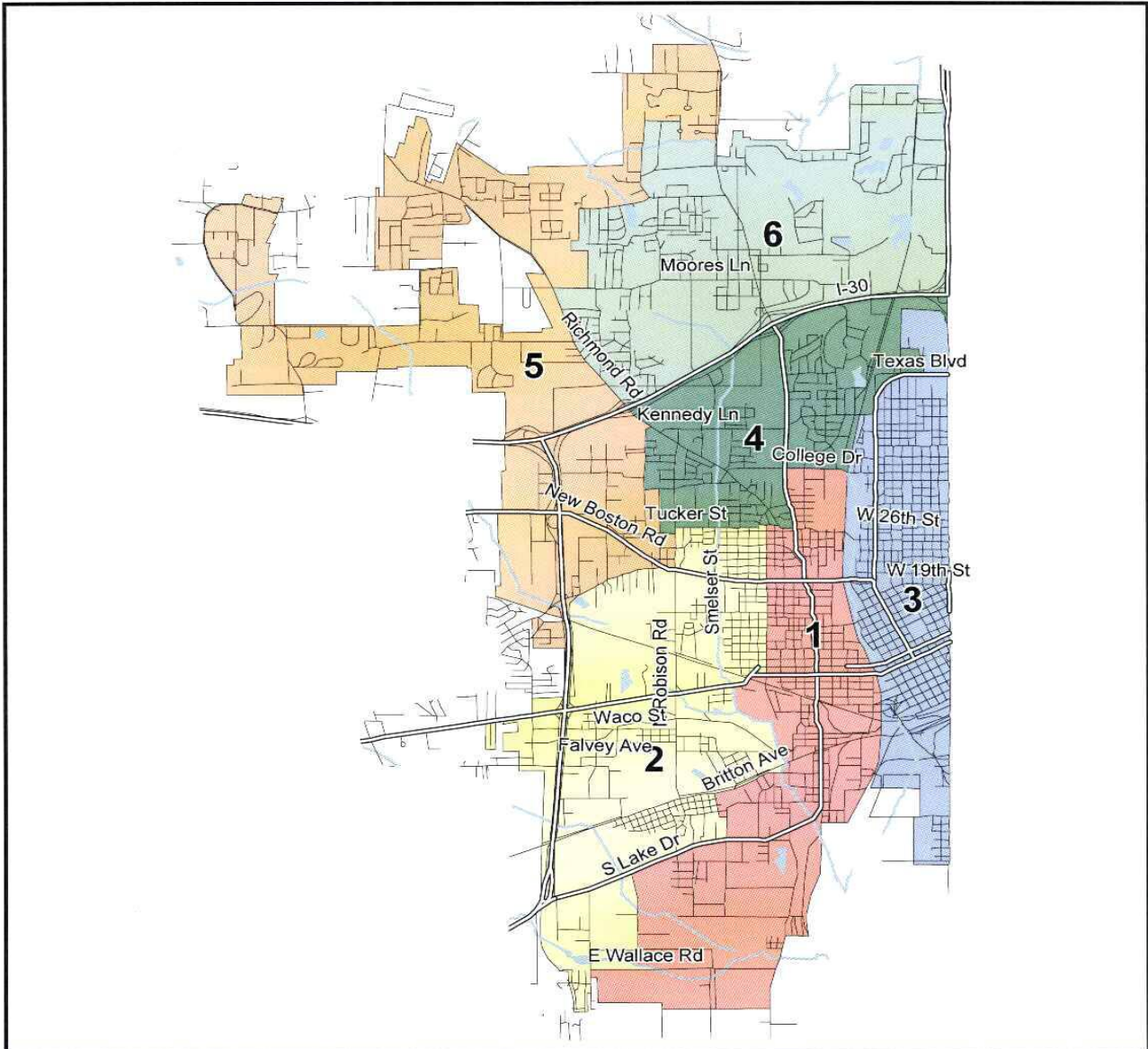
Texarkana, TX









Low/Mod Income Areas





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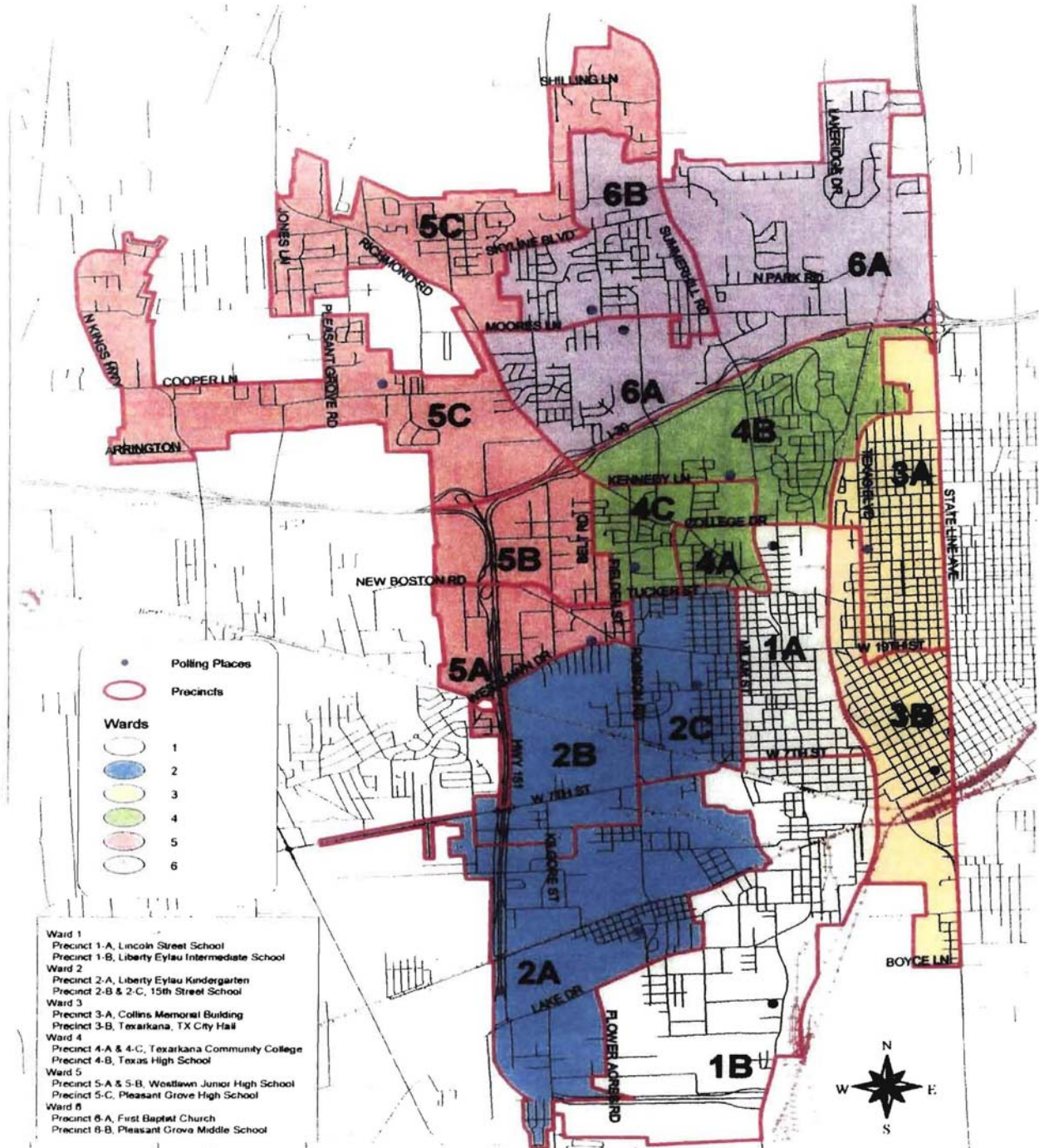
	Council Ward 1		Council Ward 5
	Council Ward 2		Council Ward 6
	Council Ward 3		
	Council Ward 4		
	Blocks		
	Major Roads		

City of Texarkana

Adopted Plan

Allison, Bass & Associates/DeskMap Systems, Inc.

Texarkana, TX - Ward Map



APPENDIX B

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2009 ACTION PLAN

TABLES REQUIRED BY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- I. Funding Sources
- II. Application for Assistance SF424
- III. Certifications
- IV. Listing of Proposed Projects Table 3

FUNDING SOURCES

Entitlement Grant	\$458,928
HOME	0
HOPWA	0
ESG	0
TOTAL ENTITLEMENT GRANT	\$458,928
Prior Year's Income NOT previously programmed or reported	
CDBG	\$ 0
HOME	0
HOPWA	0
ESG	0
TOTAL	\$ 0
Other Funds	\$ 0
Total Estimated Program Income	\$ 10,000
Section 108 Loan Guarantee Income	\$ 0
TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES	\$468,928
Submitted Proposed Projects Totals	\$468,928

Sf424

CERTIFICATIONS

In accordance with the applicable statutes and the regulations governing the consolidated plan regulations, the jurisdiction certifies that:

Affirmatively Further Fair Housing -- The jurisdiction will affirmatively further fair housing, which means it will conduct an analysis of impediments to fair housing choice within the jurisdiction, take appropriate actions to overcome the effects of any impediments identified through that analysis, and maintain records reflecting that analysis and actions in this regard.

Anti-displacement and Relocation Plan -- It will comply with the acquisition and relocation requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, and implementing regulations at 49 CFR 24; and it has in effect and is following a residential anti-displacement and relocation assistance plan required under section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, in connection with any activity assisted with funding under the CDBG program.

Drug Free Workplace -- It will or will continue to provide a drug-free workplace by:

1. Publishing a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the grantee's workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violation of such prohibition;
2. Establishing an ongoing drug-free awareness program to inform employees about -
 - (a) The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;
 - (b) The grantee's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace;
 - (c) Any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs; and
 - (d) The penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations occurring in the workplace;
3. Making it a requirement that each employee to be engaged in the performance of the grant be given a copy of the statement required by paragraph 1;
4. Notifying the employee in the statement required by paragraph 1 that, as a condition of employment under the grant, the employee will -
 - (a) Abide by the terms of the statement; and

- (b) Notify the employer in writing of his or her conviction for a violation of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace no later than five calendar days after such conviction;
5. Notifying the agency in writing, within ten calendar days after receiving notice under subparagraph 4(b) from an employee or otherwise receiving actual notice of such conviction. Employers of convicted employees must provide notice, including position title, to every grant officer or other designee on whose grant activity the convicted employee was working, unless the Federal agency has designated a central point for the receipt of such notices. Notice shall include the identification number(s) of each affected grant;
6. Taking one of the following actions, within 30 calendar days of receiving notice under subparagraph 4(b), with respect to any employee who is so convicted -
 - (a) Taking appropriate personnel action against such an employee, up to and including termination, consistent with the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; or
 - (b) Requiring such employee to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for such purposes by a Federal, State, or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency;
7. Making a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug-free workplace through implementation of paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Anti-Lobbying -- To the best of the jurisdiction's knowledge and belief:

1. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of it, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement;
2. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, it will complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions; and
3. It will require that the language of paragraph 1 and 2 of this anti-lobbying certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and

cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

Authority of Jurisdiction -- The consolidated plan is authorized under State and local law (as applicable) and the jurisdiction possesses the legal authority to carry out the programs for which it is seeking funding, in accordance with applicable HUD regulations.

Consistency with plan -- The housing activities to be undertaken with CDBG funds are consistent with the strategic plan.

Section 3 -- It will comply with section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, and implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 135.

Signature/Authorized Official

Date

Title

Specific CDBG Certifications

The Entitlement Community certifies that:

Citizen Participation -- It is in full compliance and following a detailed citizen participation plan that satisfies the requirements of 24 CFR 91.105.

Community Development Plan -- Its consolidated housing and community development plan identifies community development and housing needs and specifies both short-term and long-term community development objectives that provide decent housing, expand economic opportunities primarily for persons of low and moderate income. (See CFR 24 570.2 and CFR 24 part 570)

Following a Plan -- It is following a current consolidated plan (or Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy) that has been approved by HUD.

Use of Funds -- It has complied with the following criteria:

1. Maximum Feasible Priority. With respect to activities expected to be assisted with CDBG funds, it certifies that it has developed its Action Plan so as to give maximum feasible priority to activities which benefit low and moderate income families or aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight. The Action Plan may also include activities which the grantee certifies are designed to meet other community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community, and other financial resources are not available);
2. Overall Benefit. The aggregate use of CDBG funds including Section 108 guaranteed loans during program year 2009 (a period of one year) shall principally benefit persons of low and moderate income in a manner that ensures that at least 70 percent of the amount is expended for activities that benefit such persons during the designated period;
3. Special Assessments. It will not attempt to recover any capital costs of public improvements assisted with CDBG funds including Section 108 loan guaranteed funds by assessing any amount against properties owned and occupied by persons of low and moderate income, including any fee charged or assessment made as a condition of obtaining access to such public improvements.

However, if CDBG funds are used to pay the proportion of a fee or assessment that relates to the capital costs of public improvements (assisted in part with CDBG funds) financed from other revenue sources, an assessment or charge may be made against the property with respect to the public improvements financed by a source other than CDBG funds.

The jurisdiction will not attempt to recover any capital costs of public improvements assisted with CDBG funds, including Section 108, unless CDBG funds are used to pay the proportion of fee or assessment attributable to the capital costs of public improvements financed from other revenue sources. In this case, an assessment or charge may be made against the property with respect to the public improvements financed by a source other than CDBG funds. Also, in the case of properties owned and occupied by moderate-income (not low-income) families, an assessment or charge may be made against the property for public improvements financed by a source other than CDBG funds if the jurisdiction certifies that it lacks CDBG funds to cover the assessment.

Excessive Force -- It has adopted and is enforcing:

1. A policy prohibiting the use of excessive force by law enforcement agencies within its jurisdiction against any individuals engaged in non-violent civil rights demonstrations; and
2. A policy of enforcing applicable State and local laws against physically barring entrance to or exit from a facility or location which is the subject of such non-violent civil rights demonstrations within its jurisdiction;

Compliance With Anti-discrimination laws -- The grant will be conducted and administered in conformity with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 USC 2000d), the Fair Housing Act (42 USC 3601-3619), and implementing regulations.

Lead-Based Paint -- Its notification, inspection, testing and abatement procedures concerning lead-based paint will comply with the requirements of 24 CFR §570.608;

Compliance with Laws -- It will comply with applicable laws.

Signature/Authorized Official

Date

Title

APPENDIX TO CERTIFICATIONS

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING LOBBYING AND DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE REQUIREMENTS:

Lobbying Certification

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Drug-Free Workplace Certification

By signing and/or submitting this application or grant agreement, the grantee is providing the certification.

The certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance is placed when the agency awards the grant. If it is later determined that the grantee knowingly rendered a false certification, or otherwise violates the requirements of the Drug-Free Workplace Act, HUD, in addition to any other remedies available to the Federal Government, may take action authorized under the Drug-Free Workplace Act.

Workplaces under grants, for grantees other than individuals, need not be identified on the certification. If known, they may be identified in the grant application. If the grantee does not identify the workplaces at the time of application, or upon award, if there is no application, the grantee must keep the identity of the workplace(s) on file in its office and make the information available for Federal inspection. Failure to identify all known workplaces constitutes a violation of the grantee's drug-free workplace requirements.

Workplace identifications must include the actual address of buildings (or parts of buildings) or other sites where work under the grant takes place. Categorical descriptions may be used (e.g., all vehicles of a mass transit authority or State highway department while in operation, State employees in each local unemployment office, performers in concert halls or radio stations).

If the workplace identified to the agency changes during the performance of the grant, the grantee shall inform the agency of the change(s), if it previously identified the workplaces in question (see paragraph three).

The grantee may insert in the space provided below the site(s) for the performance of work done in connection with the specific grant:

Place of Performance (Street address, city, county, state, zip code)

220 Texas Blvd, Texas Boulevard, Texarkana, Texas 75501

Check if there are workplaces on file that are not identified here.

The certification with regard to the drug-free workplace is required by 24 CFR, Subpart F.

Definitions of terms in the Nonprocurement Suspension and Debarment common rule and Drug-Free Workplace common rule apply to this certification. Grantees' attention is called, in particular, to the following definitions from these rules:

"Controlled substance" means a controlled substance in Schedules I through V of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812) and as further defined by regulation (21 CFR 1308.11 through 1308.15);

"Conviction" means a finding of guilt (including a plea of nolo contendere) or imposition of sentence, or both, by any judicial body charged with the responsibility to determine violations of the Federal or State criminal drug statutes;

"Criminal drug statute" means a Federal or non-Federal criminal statute involving the manufacture, distribution, dispensing, use, or possession of any controlled substance;

"Employee" means the employee of a grantee directly engaged in the performance of work under a grant, including: (i) All "direct charge" employees; (ii) all "indirect charge" employees unless their impact or involvement is insignificant to the performance of the grant; and (iii) temporary personnel and consultants who are directly engaged in the performance of work under the grant and who are on the grantee's payroll. This definition does not include workers not on the payroll of the grantee (e.g., volunteers, even if used to meet a matching requirement; consultants or independent contractors not on the grantee's payroll; or employees of subrecipients or subcontractors in covered workplaces).

APPENDIX C

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2009 ACTION PLAN

SUMMARY OF PROCESS USED TO DEVELOP THE 2009 ACTION PLAN AND SUMMARY OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

The 2009 Action Plan was developed by evaluating the strategies contained in the five -year Consolidated Plan and by developing a proposed course of action built upon those strategies, newly assessed needs, and long-range housing and community development goals of the City. The following steps were taken to provide for citizen participation in the development of this plan and future housing and community development strategies:

Meetings were held with City department directors to discuss status of the City's Consolidated Plan and to solicit input concerning the 2009 Action Plan strategies and the impact of citizen input on future strategies.

The Texarkana City Council appointed a CDBG Citizens Advisory Committee in May 2002. Council members representing the City Wards with the highest percent of low and moderate-income residents (Wards 1 – 4) appointed two residents of their Wards to serve on the committee. Council members representing the City Wards with the lowest percentage of low and moderate-income residents (Wards 5 – 6) appointed one resident of their Wards to serve on the committee. The Mayor appointed an “at large” citizen, creating an eleven member citizen committee.

CDBG Citizens' Advisory Committee members began meeting in June 2002. The Committee has met regularly since this date and has completed the following objectives:

1. Review of the Consolidated Plan Needs and Action Strategies.
2. Review of the HUD CDBG program requirements.
3. Conducted community needs assessment within their Wards (this activity is on-going).
Determination that CDBG housing and community development activity will be focused in specific census tracts (104, 105, and 106) with the long range plan of outward development from a central point in these tracts to include surrounding neighborhoods and other census tracts.
4. Development of the 2008 – 2012 Consolidated plan
5. Review and approval of the Rosehill Neighborhood Revitalization Area and revitalization strategies.
6. 2009 Action Plan strategies and budget.
7. Participation in two public hearings on the 2009 Action Plan Strategies and budget.
8. Review of public hearing comments.
9. Development of Request for Proposals Format to be used for the solicitation of public service agencies.
10. Review and evaluation of public service Requests for Proposals.

11. Reporting committee progress to representative council members.
12. Development of Request for Proposals Format to be used for the solicitation of public service agencies.
13. Review and evaluation of public service Requests for Proposals.
14. Reporting committee progress to representative council members.

The Committee meets throughout the program year for the purpose of evaluating the impact of the Action Plan strategies, continuation of needs assessment, development of implementation strategies for the 2008 – 2012 Consolidated Plan, and development of long range (20 year) housing and community development plans for the City.

Public hearings to solicit input concerning community needs were conducted on the following dates and at the following locations:

<u>Locations</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time Held By Location</u>
Texarkana, Texas City Hall	August 10, 2009	6:00 pm
Texarkana, Texas City Hall	August 12, 2009	12:00 noon

The 2009 Action Plan was made available for public comment beginning on July 10, 2009 through August 10, 2009. Copies of the plan were made available on the City’s website, and at the municipal building during this time period.

A final public hearing on the 2009 Action Plan was conducted on August 12, 2009 at a specially-scheduled meeting of the Texarkana, Texas City Council.

Citizens Comments

No written or verbal comments were received during the comment period.

City of Texarkana, Texas

Affirmative Marketing Efforts

PY 2009

1. The city has maintained a waiting list for housing reconstruction since PY 2000.
2. The waiting list is updated with new applicants as we receive notification and existing applicants quarterly.
3. The City has run 30-second advertisements concerning the owner occupied housing program on cable television since 2002. These advertisements are shown on stations with high viewership among minority and elderly populations. The advertisements run 12 – 15 times per day.
4. The City is coordinating marketing efforts through the churches serving minorities. Brochures and other information are distributed to these congregations.
5. In addition to the marketing efforts through newspaper advertising, the City has also been successful in having the paper print over one dozen stories concerning the housing reconstruction program. The majority of these stories have included information regarding the application process.
6. In addition, the City made information available through various non-profits and the City Web site.

CITY OF TEXARKANA, TEXAS

AFFIRMATIVE MARKETING PLAN

POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

In accordance with the regulations of the HUD CDBG and HOME Investment Partnership Program and in the furtherance of the City of Texarkana's commitment to non-discrimination and equal opportunity in housing. The City of Texarkana establishes procedures to affirmatively market the taking of new applications for Owner Occupied Housing Assistance under the HOME and CDBG programs. These procedures are intended to further the objectives of Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 and Executive Order 11063.

The City of Texarkana's policy is that individuals of similar economic levels in the same housing market area should have available to them a like range of housing choices regardless of their race, religion, color, sex, and national origin. The City will inform the public and potential applicants about this policy and fair housing laws through the following methods: a. Informing the general public and homeowners by placing news releases and advertisements in local print and electronic media. b. Inform potential applicants by providing informational materials about the program for rehabilitation or reconstruction of single-family homes.

Inform persons of all racial, ethnic, and gender groups of availability of assistance. As the City has assistance available, it will make the information known by: A) providing information to the general public and potential applicants during normal business hours.

The availability of this assistance will be made known through on-going advertising in electronic and print media. B) As part of its special outreach, the City will work with local organizations, churches, and equal opportunity housing agencies serving the low-income community to ensure they are aware of the existence of the rehabilitation and reconstruction programs.

Attract and solicit applications from persons not likely to apply without special outreach. In order to inform as well as solicit applications from persons least likely to apply without special outreach, the City has established procedures to reach this objective.

The City has identified several minority organizations, churches, and equal opportunity organizations that provide housing assistance to area residents on a non-profit basis. The City will work closely with these organizations, listed below, to ensure that families in need of housing rehabilitation or reconstruction know of opportunities available.

- a. Churches
- b. Senior Citizen Services
- c. United Way
- d. YWCA
- e. Weed and Seed

- f. Department of Human Services
- g. School Districts
- h. Other organizations serving low-income persons

Record Keeping

The City will keep the following records:

- a. The racial, ethnic, and gender characteristics of applicants and homeowners obtaining assistance.
- b. Copies of advertisements in print and electronic media.
- c. Copies of brochures, flyers, and/or other materials distributed to the public regarding the program.
- d. Dates of each contact in conducting special outreach.

Assessment and Corrective Actions

The effectiveness of the affirmative marketing program efforts shall be assessed in the following manner:

Determination of good faith efforts are made by comparing records with advertising and outreach efforts.

If records indicate persons representative of racial and ethnic groups in the City have made application, it will be assumed that the procedures were effective.

The City will review the procedures annually to evaluate the effectiveness of the affirmative marketing efforts.

The City will take corrective action if it is determined that it has failed to carry out the affirmative marketing procedures.

The City will carry out assessment activities and complete a written assessment of its affirmative marketing efforts in the annual performance report (CAPER) to HUD. This assessment will cover marketing relative to units rehabilitated or reconstructed during the year.