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Fourth Program Year
Action Plan (CD 34)

The CPMP Fourth Annual Action Plan includes the [SF 424](#) and Narrative Responses to Action Plan questions that CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, and ESG grantees must respond to each year in order to be compliant with the Consolidated Planning Regulations. The Executive Summary narratives are optional.

Narrative Responses

GENERAL

Program Year 4 Action Plan Executive Summary

A. Housing and Community Development Objectives and Priorities

The City of Meriden Community Development Office intends to utilize \$899,877 of Year 34 Community Development Block Grant funding (CD-34) to improve the housing conditions, improve the living environment, and provide economic opportunities in Meriden's inner-City neighborhoods during the 2008-2009 program year.

Meriden's inner-City neighborhoods contain its housing stock most in need of attention, its neediest residents, its least-utilized economic development potential, and numerous institutions that provide social services. Meriden's inner-City area contains high concentrations of low and moderate income and minority households, a high percentage of renters, and much of its older multi-family housing stock. Meriden's inner-City neighborhoods, which were most severely affected by the recession and housing market collapse of the early 90's, have experienced the City's highest levels of disinvestment and decline in owner occupancy. These are also the most densely populated areas of the City that historically exhibit the City's highest unemployment levels. In Meriden's inner-City neighborhoods, many residents frequently experience cost burden problems and homeowners struggle to maintain their properties. Further, all Public Housing Developments, except one in South Meriden, most of its privately managed assisted housing and most of the City's social service providers and religious institutions are located in the inner-City. These same areas contain the City's State Enterprise Zone area, two brownfield sites (Factory H and the HUB) the former VMMC hospital, the Lewis Avenue Corridor, Colony Street, and West Main Street. These areas have also been identified as needing economic development and revitalization efforts to foster economic growth. Flooding of Harbor Brook has also had a negative effect on the inner-City. Periodic and seasonal flooding over the years has driven businesses out of the area. In 2007, the City of Meriden retained its status as a "distressed" community under Section 32-9j of the Connecticut General Statutes.

B. Goals and Objectives of the City of Meriden Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development

GOAL: To regenerate the City of Meriden from within by revitalizing its inner-City neighborhoods and maximizing the economic development potential of the area and the residences contained therein.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) To Provide Decent Housing
 - To maintain and rehabilitate its existing housing stock both privately and publicly owned
 - To retain its housing stock in a standard, livable condition
 - To reduce and eliminate slum and blighting influences
 - To reduce severe cost burden problems of rental households
 - To promote development and expand homeownership opportunities
 - To reduce isolation and increase housing choice for lower income persons
 - To reduce and prevent lead poisoning
 - To provide for the housing needs of the homeless, victims of domestic violence, the emotionally challenged, and other special populations
 - To upgrade and improve the local infrastructure
- 2) To Provide a Suitable Living Environment
 - To improve safety and security
 - To reduce youth gang involvement and provide other needed youth services
 - To promote and develop neighborhood and tenant association organizations and cohesion to empower such residents
 - To provide and expand needed day care services
 - To establish efficient, cost effective, safe and economically production transportation networks and systems serving the City and the region
 - To reduce incidence and effects of child abuse and neglect and sexual assault and abuse
 - To provide services that enable Hispanic persons participate in economic and housing opportunities available within the community
 - To promote and assist energy conservation in public and private facilities
 - To reduce substance abuse and teen pregnancy
 - To reduce illiteracy
 - To increase access to medical care
 - To create, promote and expand the arts, entertainment and recruitment venues and opportunities within the City
 - To provide and assist services that enable persons to maintain an independent living status
 - To ensure needed behavioral health services are maintained
- 3) To Create Economic Opportunities
 - To redevelop underutilized or vacant properties
 - To promote the growth of small business and entrepreneurial enterprises
 - Retain and expand existing industries
 - To recruit and attract new industries and businesses
 - To develop and/or adapt the skills of the local labor force to meet business needs and ensure worker future employability
 - To expand employment opportunities for economically disadvantaged, long-term unemployed and special needs population through work training, supportive services and life skill training
 - To empower and attain self sufficiency for persons residing in public housing and/or receiving Section 8 assistance

- To improve the transportation corridors, hubs and gateways of the City to improve its image
- To establish an economically stable, vibrant and sustainable downtown.

Evaluation of Past Performance

The City allocates its CDBG funds to activities that primarily benefit low, very low and extremely low income residents. The City also uses CDBG funds to allow low income residents to rehabilitate existing housing units and to move from public housing and subsidized rental housing units to owner occupied units. Some of the CDBG funds have assisted the elderly, frail and disabled to rehabilitate their homes. CDBG funds are used to address the needs of special needs residents, including the homeless, those at risk of becoming homeless, the disabled and the elderly. The City has consistently spent the maximum allowable (22 percent) of its grant and program income on eligible public service activities. Specific totals of residents served by the CDBG and City programs, which meet the goals and objectives of the City's five-year Consolidated Plan, and are summarized annually in its CAPER Reports. Each year, the City' use of CDBG funds consistently supports programs that assist over 5,000 low income Meriden residents and over 20 housing units.

C. Overview of Projects for Year Four Action Plan

The projects listed for implementation are intended to meet one of more of the sub-objectives identified in the areas of decent housing, suitable living environment, and economic opportunities. The City of Meriden Action Plan outlines the proposed use of \$1,074,877 during the thirty fourth program year (CD-34). The funding will be spent in support of projects to be implemented by the City of Meriden and its subgrantees. Of these monies, \$899,877 is CD-34 funds and \$175,000 is projected Revolving Loan Program Income. Twenty percent of available funds will be spent on Administration (\$214,800). The remainder of the funds (\$860,077) will be spent on programs benefiting low and moderate income persons. The creation of economic opportunities is an inherent outcome resulting from the implementation of the activities outlined in the plan and other activities being undertaken on an ongoing basis by the City of Meriden.

Activities furthering the provision of Decent Housing

The City will use \$679,000 during the program year for strategies to provide decent housing in Meriden's low income and minority areas. The funds comprise 63 % of all funds available. Projects include: 1) Loans for Home Rehabilitation, 2) Housing Code Enforcement, 3) Legal Services, and 4) Anti-graffiti and anti-litter activities. These activities will be primarily focused in US Census tracts 1701-1704, 1706, 1708-1710 and 1713-1715 which have above average levels of minorities and/or low income residents. All funding for these activities comes from CD-34 and revolving loan program income. Special needs residents, including the elderly, frail and disabled, are eligible to participate in the Loans for Home Rehabilitation program and will be encouraged to apply whenever possible. The City estimates that the percentage of funds benefiting minority households will be consistent with the number of families living in the targeted census tracts. Currently, the low income population of the targeted census tracts is 28,945. The percentage minority population in those areas is 28%. Therefore, the City expects that at least 28% of the home rehabilitation program funds will go to minority households (approximately four loans out of 12).

Activities furthering the provision of Suitable Living Environments

The City will use \$181,077 during the program year for strategies to provide a suitable living environment in Meriden's inner-City. The funds comprise 17% of all funds available. Projects include: 1) housing for the homeless and victims of domestic violence, 2) elderly transportation, 3) economic opportunities for the mentally challenged, 4) activities for at-risk youth, 5) literacy training, 6) child advocacy training, and 7) general public services for special needs populations. Specific groups that will benefit include renters with severe cost burden, the homeless, elderly and at-risk youth. These activities will be primarily focused in US Census tracts 1701-1704, 1706, 1708-1710 and 1713-1715 which have above average levels of minorities and/or low income residents. All funding for these activities comes from CD-34.

Activities furthering Economic Opportunities

The City Manager's office coordinates various City-led economic development activities. Participating in these activities are the Grants Administrator, Economic Development Director, the Public Works Department and the Department of Planning and Enforcement. Also working with the City Manager on economic development initiatives are the Economic Development Task Force, the Blight and Brownfields Committee, the Greater Meriden Chamber of Commerce and the Economic, Housing and Zoning Committee. Key projects being undertaken in 2008-09 to further economic opportunities in Meriden's inner-City include:

- Reuse of the "HUB" Brownfields Site located in downtown Meriden
- Assessment and Remediation of "Factory H" Brownfields Site
- Street and Sidewalk Rehabilitation projects on West Main Street and Railroad Ave., with funding provided by City Capital Improvement Bond Fund and Federal Transportation funds
- Implementation of fire, EMS, police and other programs using federal and state grant funds as they are secured

Administration

The remaining program funds totaling \$214,800 will be used for administrative costs. The funds comprise 20% of all funds available (CD-34 and program income).

D. Coordination

Meriden's City Council has the ultimate responsibility for the allocation of CDBG funds and the City's local resources associated with the implementation of projects and activities referenced in this plan. Overseeing the implementation of projects related to housing and community development are two committees of the Meriden City Council: 1) Economic Development, Housing and Zoning, and 2) Human Services. The Meriden Housing Authority has the authority and responsibility for coordinating and implementing Public Housing projects referenced in this plan. The Council of Neighborhoods coordinates various neighborhood association activities referenced in this plan. The Grant Administrator, housed within the City Manager's office, is responsible for coordinating the activities and gathering the information and data from all of the organizations and City departments involved in the City's housing and community development activities.

E. Monitoring

The City of Meriden employs a Grants Administrator who is responsible for the coordination, oversight and general monitoring of all activities funded by CD-34. In addition to the Grants Administrator, the CDBG program is also staffed with an Administrator Secretary. As administrator of the CDBG funds, the Grants Administrator ensures compliance with federal regulations through its review of grant application funding requests, recipient contracts, quarterly performance reports, and through subgrantee monitoring. All financial and purchasing transactions are conducted through the City's Finance Department. All financial transactions are subject to the annual audit of the City's municipal finances. Copies of all financial transactions are maintained in the Community Development office. Spreadsheets are also kept to verify that the City's HUD Spending Ratio is consistent with timeliness spending rules outlined by HUD. All information is available to the public by request.

F. Anti-Poverty Strategy

An analysis of the US Census tract data shows that as many as 8217 Meriden residents may be living below the federal poverty line. All of the programs outlined in this plan are intended to provide benefits to Meriden residents that are considered low income and/or fall below the federal poverty line.

G. Summary of Funding Sources-CD 34

1. Entitlement Grant

CDBG	\$899,877
ESG	\$0
HOME	\$0
HOPWA	\$0
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	\$899,877 TOTAL

Prior Years Program Income Not Previously Programmed or Reported

CDBG	\$0
ESG	\$0
HOME	\$0
HOPWA	\$0
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	\$0 TOTAL

Reprogrammed Prior Years Funds

CDBG	\$0
ESG	\$0
HOME	\$0
HOPWA	\$0
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	\$0 TOTAL

Total Estimated Program Income

CDBG	\$175,000.00
ESG	\$0
HOME	\$0
HOPWA	\$0
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	\$0 TOTAL

Section 108 Loan Guarantee Fund

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	\$0 TOTAL

ALL SOURCES	\$1,074,877 TOTAL
Other funds	\$0
Submitted Projects	\$1,074,877 TOTAL
Unsubmitted Projects	\$0 TOTAL

Annual Plan July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009

General Questions

1. *Describe the geographic areas of the jurisdiction (including areas of low income families and/or racial/minority concentration) in which assistance will be directed during the next year. Where appropriate, the jurisdiction should estimate the percentage of funds the jurisdiction plans to dedicate to target areas.*

The City of Meriden is a small urban community located in central Connecticut comprised of 58,244 residents. An analysis of the income levels from the 2000 US Census shows that approximately 50 percent of the City's residents may be extremely low, very low or low income. Meriden's low income and minority population is concentrated in US Census tracts 1701-1704, 1706, 1708-1710 and 1713-1715. The population of these tracts is 28,954. These areas comprise a large portion of the central downtown area. The City will direct its Community Development Block Grant funding to implement and support programs that serve the moderate, low and very low incomes of the City as well as its minority population.

The City of Meriden Action Plan outlines the proposed use of \$1,074,877 during the thirty fourth program year (CD-34). Of these monies, \$899,877 is CD-34 funds and \$175,000 is anticipated Revolving Loan Program Income.

63% of all funds available will be spent on the provision of Decent Housing in Meriden's low income and minority areas (US Census tracts 1701-1704, 1706, 1708-1710 and 1713-1715). 17% of all funds available will be spent of maintaining a Suitable Living Environment. 20% of all funds available will be spent on Administration. All of the programs positively impact the creation of economic opportunities in the City's low income areas.

Several programs specifically address the one-year goals for homeless, non-homeless and special needs households to be provided affordable housing. Specific special needs programs (Affordability for homeless, non-homeless, special needs) include:

- \$295,000 will be spent on Neighborhood Preservation Program activities, which provides low interest loans to low income households for the purpose of home rehabilitation.
- \$29,581 will be spent to provide counseling to homeless or near homeless individuals at shelter and counseling facilities.
- \$10,000 will be spent to provide counseling to children at risk of becoming homeless

Other programs make access to social services more affordable, thereby reducing the overall cost burden to the low income family.

- \$75,454 will be spent on youth service programs with the goal of reducing the cost burden of these services on low income households.

Table 1 summarizes the expenditure of funds during year 34 by objective category.

Table 1
City of Meriden-CD 34 Cost Breakdown by Strategy

	CD-34	Program Income	TOTAL	% of all funds available	% Low/Mod benefit
Decent Housing	\$504,000	\$175,000	\$679,000	63%	100%
Suitable Living Environment	\$181,077	\$0	\$181,077	17%	100%
Economic Opportunities	\$0	\$0	\$0		NA
Administration	\$214,800	\$0	\$214,800	20%	NA
TOTAL	\$899,877.00	\$175,000.00	\$1,074,877.00		\$860,077

Activities to be undertaken with CD-34 Funds

The City of Meriden has incorporated performance measurements into its Annual Plan. This includes the determination of an objective for each activity proposed and an assignment of an outcome for each activity included in the Annual Plan. The three priority objectives are: 1) Decent Housing, 2) Suitable Living Environments, and 3) Creating Economic Development Opportunities. Each proposed activity has been assigned an outcome as follows:

Table 2
Outcomes & Objectives Matrix

Outcomes→ ↓Objectives	Availability/Accessibility	Affordability	Sustainability
Suitable Living Environment	1. Enhance Suitable Living Environment Through Improved/New Accessibility	2. Enhance Suitable Living Environment Through Improved/New Affordability	3. Enhance Suitable Living Environment Through Improved/New Sustainability
Decent Housing	4. Create Decent Housing with Improved/New Availability	5. Create Decent Housing with Improved/New Affordability	6. Create Decent Housing with Improved/New Sustainability
Economic Opportunity	7. Provide Economic Opportunity through Improved/New Accessibility	8. Provide Economic Opportunity through Improved/New Affordability	9. Provide Economic Opportunity through Improved/New Sustainability

Program Administration-\$214,800

The City of Meriden will use \$214,800 for program administration. The City of Meriden Community Development Office is responsible for the overall administration and implementation of the City’s Community Development Block Grant Program. The City of Meriden Neighborhood Preservation Program office is responsible for the administration and implementation of the City’s Neighborhood Preservation Program, including the administration of the residential rehabilitation and first time homebuyer programs. The program will be administered in accordance with HUD guidelines.

Table 3
Administration-Proposed Use of Funds CD-34

Objective	Program Title	Other Program Description	HUD Outcome	AMOUNT AND FUNDING SOURCE	HUD Matrix Code/NOC
Administration	Administration	Administration and implementation of the City's Community Development Block Grant program including, but not limited to, citizen participation, grant program development, project evaluation and monitoring, compliance activities; City-related housing and community development projects, fair housing activities, and affirmative action programs. Administration of the NPP program, including, but not limited to, review of all loan application, administration and management of all funds, environmental compliance, management of all subcontractors, record keeping, inspection and monitoring of all completed activities through the warranty period. The City of Meriden is the project administrator.	Administration	\$214,800.00	21A

SUBTOTAL CD 34: \$214,800
SUBTOTAL Other Funds: \$0
TOTAL: \$214,800

Activities furthering the provision of Decent Housing-\$679,000

The City will use \$679,000 during Program Year 34 for projects aimed at revitalizing Meriden’s inner-city neighborhoods. Projects include: 1) NPP Loans and Grants, 2) Housing Code Enforcement, 3) Housing Legal Services, and 4) Community Services Initiatives. These activities will be primarily focused in US Census tracts 1701-1704, 1706, 1708-1710 and 1713-1715 which have above average levels of minorities and/or low income residents. The projected amount of funding is \$504,000 in CD-34 funds and \$175,000 in Revolving Loan Program Income.

Table 4
Decent Housing-Proposed Use of Funds CD-34

Objective	Program Title	Other Program Description	HUD Outcome	Units	AMOUNT AND FUNDING SOURCE	HUD Matrix Code/NOC
Decent Housing	<u>NPP Loans</u>	Project will provide financial and technical assistance to property owners within specially designated inner-city target neighborhoods for the purposes of rehabilitating their residential structures. Estimated 12 structures will be rehabilitated. City of Meriden Neighborhood Preservation Office will be project administrator.	Create Decent Housing with increased Affordability	12	\$120,000/CD 34 \$175,000/Program Income	14A/LMA
Decent Housing	<u>Housing Code Enforcement</u>	Project will provide house-to-house inspections principally within the inner-city target neighborhoods in order to ensure compliance with the City’s Housing Code and Zoning Ordinance and identify housing units suitable for rehabilitation. Estimated 1800 dwelling units will be inspected. The Housing Code Division of the City of Meriden will be project administrator.	Create Decent Housing with Improved/New Sustainability	1800	\$250,000/CD 34	15/LMA
Decent Housing	<u>Housing Legal Services</u>	Project will provide legal services necessary to successfully prosecute major housing code violators. Project will also review and update the City’s Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice. Estimated 50 cases will be undertaken. City of Meriden	Create Decent Housing with Improved/New Sustainability	50	\$50,000/CD 34	15/LMA

Jurisdiction

		Legal Department will be project administrator.				
Decent Housing	<u>Community Services Initiatives</u>	The project will clean up litter and graffiti on vacant and City-owned properties located in the target areas under the direction of the code enforcement division. The program will provide 260 days of service throughout the year. Estimate 125 sites will be improved throughout the year. The project will be jointly administered by the City's Community Services staff and Public Works Department.	Create Decent Housing with Improved/New Sustainability	125	\$84,000/CD 34	6/LMA

SUBTOTAL CD 34: \$504,000.00
SUBTOTAL Other Funds: \$175,000.00
 TOTAL: \$679,000.00

Strategies to Create a Suitable Living Environment-\$181,077

The City will use \$181,077 during Program Year 34 for projects aimed at creating a suitable living environment in Meriden’s inner-city neighborhoods. Projects will enhance a suitable living environment through increased affordability and accessibility for special needs populations, including renters with severe cost burden, the homeless and elderly. Funding will also support youth service projects aimed at reducing youth gang involvement and neighborhood crime. Projects will be implementation primarily in the target areas (US Census tracks 1701-1704, 1706, 1708-1710 and 1713-1715). All funding for these activities comes from CD-34.

Table 5
Suitable Living Environment-Proposed Use of Funds CD-34

Objective	Program Title	Other Program Description	HUD Outcome	Units	AMOUNT AND FUNDING SOURCE	HUD Matrix Code/NOC
Suitable Living Environment	Beat the Street, Community Center, Inc.	Project will provide operational expenses for inner-city youth boxing and after-school club. A minimum of 547 youth will be served. Beat the Street, Inc. will be project administrator. Site location – 121 South Colony Street.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Increased Affordability	547	\$17,349.30	05D/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	New Opportunities Inc.- Summer Basketball League	Project will provide summer basketball league activities for a minimum of 250 youth, 11 - 19 years of age for seven weeks during the summer. New Opportunities of Waterbury will be project administration. Office location - 191 Pratt Street.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Increased Affordability	250	\$9124.20	05D/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	Joseph F. Coffee Boys and Girls Club of Meriden Summer Safe Havens	Project will provide recreational activities for a minimum of 250 inner-City youth during the summer afternoons. Boys & Girls Club of Meriden will be project administrator. Site location - 15 Lincoln Street	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Increased Affordability	250	\$8,910.00	05D/LMC
Suitable Living	YMCA-S.	Project will provide evening	Enhance	125	\$8553.60	05D/LMC

Jurisdiction

Environment	Meriden Teen Center	recreational activities for teens in the South Meriden area. A minimum of 125 youth will participate. YMCA and Main Street North Association will administer project. Site location - Holy Angels Recreational Center.	Suitable Living Environment through Increased Affordability			
Suitable Living Environment	Meriden YMCA/Raymond Rodriguez of CT Dojo Goju Karate-Youth Karate	Project will provide karate classes to a minimum of 40, five to 15 year old youth. YMCA will be project administrator. Site location - 110 West Main Street.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Increased Affordability	40	\$3920.40	05D/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	Meriden YMCA/Rec Express	Project will provide summer recreational activities at four sites for neighborhood youth. A minimum of 250 youth will participate. Meriden YMCA will be project administrator. Site locations – City Park.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Increased Affordability	150	\$3564.00	05D/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	Hebron Community Dev. Corp.- Summer Youth Chore & Mentor Project	Project will provide work experience activities for at-risk youth during the summer. Hebron Development Corp. will be project administrator. 20 youth will participate.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Increased Affordability	20	\$2494.80	05D/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	Big Brothers Big Sisters-Mentoring at Boy and Girl's Club and John Barry School	Project will administer mentoring activities by matching volunteer business or high school mentors with elementary school youth to help develop communication, behavioral, and academic skills. A minimum of 34 youth will	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Increased Affordability	34	\$2494.80	05D/LMC

Jurisdiction

		participate. Big Brothers/Big Sisters will be project administrator. Office location – 100 Riverview Center, Middletown.				
Suitable Living Environment	Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis, Inc. Domestic Violence Services-Shelter Operations	Project will provide emergency shelter, counseling, advocacy services, and a 24 hour emergency hot line to women and their children who are victims of domestic violence. A minimum of 110 persons will be served. The Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis, Inc. will be the project administrator.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Improved/New Accessibility	110	\$8910.00	05G/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis, Inc. Domestic Violence Services-Transitional Living Project	Project will provide temporary, transitional residence and counseling services to women and their children who are victims of domestic violence. A minimum of 15 low income persons will be served. The Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis, Inc., will be project administrator.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Improved/New Accessibility	15	\$8910.00	05G/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	Shelter NOW-New Opportunities Inc.	Project will provide counseling services at homeless shelter. A minimum of 50 persons will be served. Shelter NOW will be project administrator. Site location - 43 Casimir Drive.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Improved/New Accessibility	50	\$8553.60	05G/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	Women and Family Center-Support,	Project will provide a 24 hr./day crisis center for counseling and support services to rape	Enhance Suitable Living	1000	\$3207.60	05G/LMC

Jurisdiction

	Awareness, Information, and Referral (SAIR) Corps	victims. Trained volunteers will provide services. A minimum of 1000 persons will be served. The Women and Family Center Sexual Assault Task Force will be project administrator. Office location - 169 Colony Street.	Environment through Improved/New Accessibility			
Suitable Living Environment	American Red Cross Medical Transportation	Project will provide transportation services for elderly residents traveling to out of town medical appointments. A minimum of 116 elderly will be served. Meriden-Wallingford Red Cross will be project administrator.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Improved/New Accessibility	116	\$6000.00	5E/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	Kuhn Employment Opportunities, Inc. Mobile Work Crew	Project will provide handicapped persons work activities for job training and therapy. A minimum of 12 handicapped persons will participate in the project. The Meriden Park and Recreation and the Kuhn Employment Opportunities, Inc. will jointly administer this project. Office location – 1630 North Colony Street.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Improved/New Accessibility	7-12	\$27,799.20	05B/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	Casa Boricua de Meriden, Inc., Operations	Project will provide operational assistance for community center, which provides educational, employment, nutritional and service activities directed toward the Hispanic community. Casa Boricua de Meriden will be project administrator. Estimate 2000 individuals will be served.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Improved/New Accessibility	2000	\$7840.80	05/LMC

Jurisdiction

Suitable Living Environment	New Opportunities, Inc. Chore Project for Elders	Project will provide chore and shopping services for a minimum of 190 seniors. New Opportunities, Inc. of Waterbury will be project administrator - Office location - 191 Pratt Street.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Improved/New Accessibility	100	\$7128.00	05A/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	Child Guidance Clinic for Central CT, Inc.-Crisis Intervention	Project will provide to both at risk and abused/neglected children and their families a variety of crisis intervention counseling, parenting, and advocacy services. Estimate 300 persons to be served.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Improved/New Accessibility	300	\$5889.60	5N/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven/Meriden Literacy Tutoring	Project will assist with recruiting and training volunteers to work with adult residents to overcome low literacy skills. Estimate recruiting 10 volunteers to work with approximately 40 students.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Sustainability	50	\$2494.80	05/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	Children's First Parent Leadership Training, Inc.	Project will provide parent leadership and child advocacy training to parents of 50 at-risk youth.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Sustainability	50	\$13,543.20	05D/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	WFC-Project Reach (Reaching Every Adolescent to Create Hope)	Project will provide outreach to 140 runaway, homeless and at-risk street youth through age 21.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Sustainability	140	\$7500.00	5N/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	Catholic Charities	Provide children's behavioral health services for 40 youth from	Enhance Suitable	40	\$2500.00	5N/LMC

Jurisdiction

		low income families.	Living Environment through Sustainability			
Suitable Living Environment	New Opportunities Circles Campaign	Circles is an intentional strategy for building relationships across class and race lines in order to end poverty in Meriden. Project includes outreach to 15 families living in poverty and facilitation of community meetings.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Sustainability	15	\$2500.00	5N/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	Quinnipiac River Watershed Association-Summer Paddling Program	Provides paddling experience for 80 low income Meriden youth and 4 interns on Hanover Pond and Quinnipiac River.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Sustainability	80	\$3000.00	5N/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	Meriden Kids Walk Safe Coalition	Implement outreach strategy to make walking to school safe for 50 youth.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Sustainability	50	\$1000.00	05D/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	Father Motivation Program	Provides social support and life skills training to 10 destitute fathers living in Meriden.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Sustainability	50	\$500.00	05/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	YMCA Youth Theater	Provides scholarships for 50 low income youth to participate in the Meriden YMCA youth theater program.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Sustainability	25	\$1000.00	05D/LMC

Jurisdiction

Suitable Living Environment	NAACP-ACT SO	Provide support for 25 youth to participate in the Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics, a program of the NAACP.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Sustainability	25	\$1000.00	05D/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	Contingency	Program will reserve funds for additional public service activities identified during the program year			\$5389.10	TBD
				6339	\$181,077.00	

SUBTOTAL CD 34: \$181,077

2. Describe the basis for allocating investments geographically within the jurisdiction (or within the EMSA for HOPWA) (91.215(a)(1)) during the next year and the rationale for assigning the priorities.

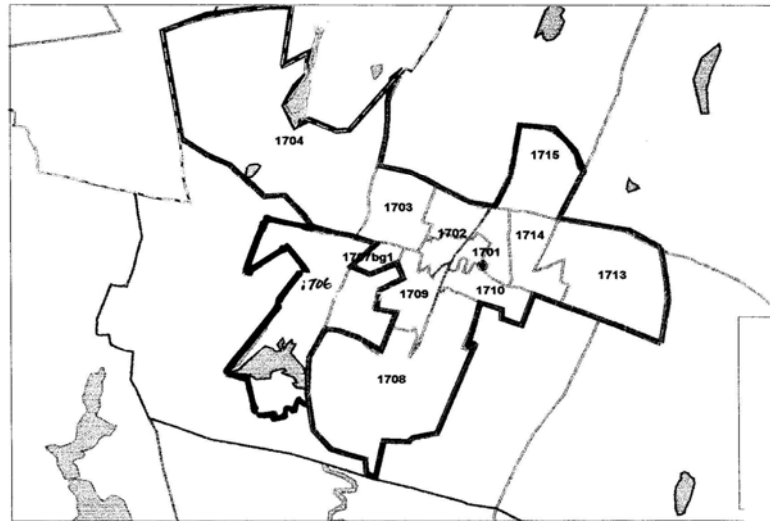
An analysis of the income levels from the 2000 US Census shows that approximately 50 percent of the City's residents can be classified as extremely low, very low or low income. Meriden's low income and minority population is concentrated in US Census tracts 1701-1704, 1706, 1708-1710 and 1713-1715. These areas comprise a large portion of the central downtown area. The City will direct its Community Development Block Grant funding to implement and support projects that serve the moderate, low and very low incomes of the City as well as its minority population. While the current median income levels for the City of Meriden have changed since 2000, for the purposes of the Action Plan, we will assume that the percentage of minority and low income residents has remained constant over the past seven years. The assumption will be re-evaluated when new Census data or other information becomes available.

Table 6
City of Meriden Low Income Census Tracts (2000)

Tract	2000 Pop.	Non-white pop.	Non-white %	Median Household Income	Median Household Income (2000)	% of Median Income level	Definition
1702	2,431	946	39%	\$17,411.00	58000	30%	Extremely Low
1710	1,645	500	30%	\$19,196.00	58000	34%	Very Low
1701	1,783	778	44%	\$20,481.00	58000	35%	Very Low
1703	2,358	1,016	43%	\$25,273.00	58000	44%	Very Low
1714	1,994	678	34%	\$35,393.00	58000	61%	Low
1709	1,925	589	31%	\$36,864.00	58000	64%	Low
1708	5,584	1,090	20%	\$38,373.00	58000	66%	Low
1715	3,524	1,459	41%	\$38,527.00	58000	66%	Low
1706	2,452	246	10%	\$40,909.00	58000	71%	Low
1713	3,604	805	22%	\$44,871.00	58000	77%	Low
1704	1,654	225	14%	\$45,450.00	58000	78%	Low
SUBTOTAL	28,954	8,342					

Total City	58,244	11,510		Estd Minority
Extremely Low	2,431		39%	946
Very Low	5,786		39%	2,259
Low	20,737		24%	5,080
Total Low Income	28,954			8285

Figure 1
Low Income Census Tracts-Meriden, CT



Source: 2000 Census

The City has several mechanisms in place to ensure that the CD-34 goes to the neediest individuals. First, all Neighborhood Preservation Program loans and financial assistance are required to be given to homeowners within the low income census tracts. Loans are given to homeowners outside the target census tracts on a case by case basis where it can be clearly demonstrated that there is a justifiable need based on income level or other documented need (such as an emergency). Second, all subgrantees under the Public Services category must provide documentation that the service is going to low income and minority families. Finally, US Census data shows that an estimated 50 percent of Meriden's residents can be classified as low income. Therefore, the projects that benefit the general area also will benefit 50 percent of the City's low income population by definition. Further, an estimated 28 percent of the low income population in Meriden are minority residents. Therefore, it is assumed for planning purposes that at least 28% of program funds will go to minority households. A complete accounting of the low income and minority residents served by the CDBG program funds will be included in the year-end CAPER.

3. *Describe actions that will take place during the next year to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs.*

The City's will complete the following activities related to addressing obstacles to meeting underserved needs:

- Continue advocacy with Regional Planning Agency and Department of Transportation for additional resources to enhance local public transportation for persons who need such to obtain employment
- Coordinate referrals concerning housing to City Departments or local agencies
- Review available data pertaining to income levels, labor status, or other economic indicators
- Review City policies regarding the use of federal funds as required

- Seek other federal, state or local funding to augment and support existing programs when feasible
- Support the activities of the Meriden Council of Neighborhoods, including neighborhood organizing, crime awareness and prevention activities, and public safety activities
- Submit on behalf of interested non-profit organizations the City's application to the state Neighborhood Assistance Act program.

4. *Identify the federal, state, and local resources expected to be made available to address the needs identified in the plan. Federal resources should include Section 8 funds made available to the jurisdiction, Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, and competitive McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act funds expected to be available to address priority needs and specific objectives identified in the strategic plan.*

The following resources are available to address the needs identified in the plan:

Federal Funds:

Community Development Block Grant: The City of Meriden Action Plan outlines the proposed use of \$1,074,877 of CDBG funds during the thirty fourth program year (CD-34). Of these monies, \$899,877 is CD-34 funds and \$175,000 Revolving Loan Program Income.

Meriden Housing Authority (MHA): The MHA anticipates to use \$10,000,000 during the program year for public housing. Of these monies, approximately \$5.2 million is from the HUD Section 8 Voucher contract (for 611 Housing Choice vouchers), \$1.2 million is from the HUD Federal Low-Income Public Housing Program contract, and the remainder is state and other revenue.

US Environmental Protection Agency \$700,000 million for brownfields projects including grants to complete brownfields assessment and remediation activities at Factory H and the HUB brownfield sites.

US Department of Justice: \$37,000 US Dept. of Justice-Office of Justice Programs Byrne Grant for Police Overtime.

US Department of Homeland Security: \$367,668 in FY 2007 federal funds for communications equipment for Meriden Firefighters.

Other Federal Opportunities: The City will review opportunities provided by HUD and other Federal resources that are offered for competitive application. Notices of Funding Availability published by the Federal Register will be reviewed regularly by the Grants Administrator. Priority will be given to opportunities for funding in the areas of housing rehabilitation funding, neighborhood, economic development, neighborhood revitalization, brownfields clean up and redevelopment, social services, special needs assistance, energy conservation, and public safety.

State Funds:

City of Meriden Department of Health and Human Services: Approximately \$2 million to administer social service projects that benefit Meriden’s low income, minority and elderly residents.

Local Funds:

City of Meriden: The City of Meriden provides annual operating budget funds, provided primarily through local tax revenue, provides funding for general services. Municipal Departments discussed within this Action Plan, such as the Department of Health and Human Services, Planning and Enforcement, Public Works, are primarily funded by the City through this mechanism. Specific projects related to Community Development funded through the General fund include: \$250,000 of General Fund monies to be expended on Building Code compliance activities, \$100,000 of General Fund monies to be expended on Economic Development activities and \$5,000 to support neighborhood associations. The City also issues bonds for Capital Improvement needs, such as infrastructure, improvements and public facility construction or renovation.

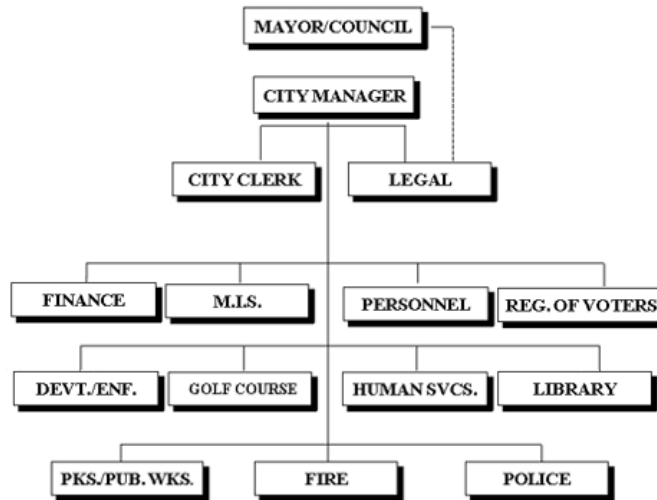
Managing the Process

1. *Identify the lead agency, entity, and agencies responsible for administering programs covered by the consolidated plan.*

The City of Meriden has responsibility for administration and allocation of the Community Development Block grant funds. The Meriden City Council, comprised of the Mayor and (12) twelve members, is the legislative and fiscal body of the City of Meriden. There are five Council Standing Committees which conduct the majority of the Council’s activities at regularly scheduled meetings. Comprised solely of Council members, they hold public hearings, review Council referrals, and forward recommendations to the full City Council for its consideration and approval. The Standing Committee that handles the CDBG funds related to public services is the Human Services Committee. The Standing Committee that handles the CDBG funds related to housing initiatives is the Economic Development, Housing and Zoning Committee.

The City Council appoints a City Manager to manage the day to day operations of the City. The Office of Community Development, located within the City Manager’s Office, manages the CD-34 funding. The City employs a Grants Administrator who is responsible for the coordination, oversight and general monitoring of all CD-related activities. In addition to the Grants Administrator, the CDBG program is also staffed with an Administrative Secretary. The Department of Development, Planning and Enforcement oversees the implementation of the Neighborhood Preservation Program and Code Enforcement projects. The City Legal Department conducts the housing legal service activities. The Public Works Department oversees the implementation of the anti-graffiti and anti-litter activities.

City of Meriden Organizational Chart



As administrator of the CDBG funds, the Grants Administrator ensures compliance with federal regulations through its review of grant application funding requests, recipient contracts, quarterly performance reports, and subgrantee monitoring. All financial and purchasing transactions are conducted through the City’s Finance Department. All financial transactions are subject to the annual audit of the City’s municipal finances. Copies of all financial transactions are maintained in the Community Development office. This information is available to the public upon request.

2. *Identify the significant aspects of the process by which the plan was developed, and the agencies, groups, organizations, and others who participated in the process.*

Each year, the City seeks proposals from City agencies and non-profit organizations that provide Community Development-related services in the City of Meriden. The Grants Administrator reviews each proposal and recommends funding the grant based on several criteria including level of funding requested versus available funds, number of low income and minority residents served, evidence of past success, eligibility of the organization as a non-profit or other qualified organization and compliance with the Comprehensive Plan. Public services proposals are also reviewed by the Meriden Department of Health & Human Services Director and Public Facilities proposals are reviewed by the Program Manager of the Neighborhood Preservation Program.

On January 18, 2008, the City issued a Request for Proposals for CD-34. The RFP was distributed via regular mail to approximately 100 community orgaizations, via email to approximately 30 current or former CDBG subgrantees, and posted on the City’s homepage www.cityofmeriden.org. Applicants were given until February 29, 2008 to respond. Thirty-eight (38) applications were submitted by 25 non-profit organizations and five City departments or divisions.

On February 8, 2008 and March 11, 2008, a public hearing notice was published in the *Record Journal*. The public hearing notice was also posted on the City website (www.cityofmeriden.org) from February 1-March 25, 2008. In the public hearing notice, applicants and members of the public were invited to participate in the March 25, 2008 public hearing and to comment on their proposal and the City's community development needs.

On March 25, 2008, the City held its first public hearing on the CD 34 program. The public hearing was held at the Meriden Senior Citizens Center, Meriden, CT from 7:00-9:00 PM. Over 30 individuals participated as speakers in the public hearing and approximately 20 other citizens were in attendance. All five Council members comprising the Human Services Committee were in attendance as well as the Grant Administrator and Administrative Secretary.

On April 21, 2008, the Grants Administrator formally submitted its recommendations on the use of CDBG-34 funding to City Council. Staff recommended partially funding 32 projects including Administration. The list of recommended CD-34 allocations was published in the *Record Journal* newspaper on April 21, 2008 and was also posted on City website (www.cityofmeriden.org) from April 21-May 23, 2008.

On April 21, 2008 and Tuesday, May 13, 2008, a public hearing notice was published in the *Record Journal*. The public hearing notice was also posted on the City website (www.cityofmeriden.org) from April 21 through May 23. In the public hearing notice, applicants and members of the public were invited to participate in the May 15, 2008 public hearing and to comment on their proposal and the City's community development needs. In the public hearing notice, the City also stated it would accept written comments on the proposed use of funds until May 23, 2008.

On May 15, 2008 a second Public Hearing on CDBG-34 funding allocations was held. The Public Hearing was attended by the Grant Administrator and all five members of the Meriden City Council Human Services Committee. At Public Hearing, five individuals whose comments are summarized as follows, participated as speakers.

- New Opportunities of Waterbury spoke in support of receiving full funding allocation for the proposals submitted for Shelter NOW, Chore Service, Summer Basketball, and the Circles Program. The NOW representative thanked the committee for considering the award for a new program; the Circles program.
- Quinnipiac Watershed Summer Paddling requested an additional \$400 to cover the anticipated costs of providing insurance for the canoe instruction. The insurance costs cover 80 canoe trips during the summer. The additional funds would fully fund the summer canoe instruction program.
- Kuhn Employment spoke in support of receiving full funding allocation for the Employment Opportunities Program. The Kuhn representative thanked the committee and the City Parks and Recreation Department for continuing to fund the program.
- Frank Rotella, private citizen, spoke against continued funding for the NPP Loan program since the program was originally intended to pay for itself through the repayment of the loans.

Following the second Public Hearing, on May 15, 2008, the City of Meriden Human Services Committee held a public meeting to review the recommended use of CD-34 funds. The Committee recommended adopting the CDBG-34 funding allocations as recommended by the Grants Administrator, with an amendment to increase the allocation to the Quinnipiac River Watershed Association Summer Paddling Program by \$500 to cover the insurance costs that were discussed. The \$500 would be taken from the contingency line item. The contingency line item is intended to be available to fund program proposals received during the program year.

April 21-May 23, 2008 was reserved as a 30-day public comment period on recommended use of CDBG-34 funds. During the public comment period, no public comments were received.

On June 2, 2008, the City of Meriden City Council adopted the resolution put forth by the Human Services Committee on the recommended use of CDBG-34 funds.

Copies of all public notices are included as attachments to the Annual Plan.

3. *Describe actions that will take place during the next year to enhance coordination between public and private housing, health, and social service agencies.*

Several steps are taken to ensure coordination between public and private housing, health, and social service agencies during the program year. First, new CD proposals are reviewed and critiqued by the Director of Meriden Department of Health & Human Services and the Program Manager of the Neighborhood Preservation Program. Second, the Grants Administrator will continue to meet with each subgrantee in person during the program year. Each subgrantee is required to attend a grantee orientation meeting, which is held at the beginning of the program year. Mid-year project review meetings are also held with each subgrantee as necessary. Each of these steps will help facilitate information exchange between the City and those providing housing, health and social service functions.

In addition to the CDBG-funded activities, over the next year, the Grants Administrator and the City's Director of Health & Human Services will participate in and monitor several ongoing activities that will result in enhanced cooperation and coordination between the City and private and non-profit entities working to promote and develop affordable and special needs housing.

First, the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness has proposed implementing an Community Impact Initiatives (CII) plan for the Meriden area. The purpose of the planning exercise is to achieve annual reductions in the numbers of, and an eventual end to, individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Connecticut. The planning process will identify and recommend measurable tools for combating homelessness. City staff plans to participate in this initiative and attend meetings as they are scheduled. Specific recommendations may be incorporated into the City's Annual Plan or five-year Consolidated Plan.

Second, over the next year, the Meriden Housing Authority plans to hire an outside consultant that will assist them evaluate the feasibility of relocating the residents of the Mills Public Housing Complex into new affordable housing units to be developed in the City of Meriden. The City will work with MHA to review all plans and recommendations that are developed to help ensure that the affordable housing goals are consistent with the City's goals for affordable housing.

Citizen Participation Response:

Numerous citizens participated in the CD-34 application process by speaking at the public hearings and also by providing written comments throughout the process. Over 30 individuals participated as speakers in the March 25, 2008 public hearing and approximately 20 other citizens were in attendance. Five popularly elected Council members were also in attendance. One private citizen was in attendance at the May 15, 2008 Public Hearing and City of Meriden Human Services Committee. He spoke against continued funding for the NPP Loan program since the program was originally intended to pay for itself through the repayment of the loans. No other written comments were received regarding the proposed use of CD-34 funds.

Provide a summary of efforts made to broaden public participation in the development of the consolidated plan, including outreach to minorities and non-English speaking persons, as well as persons with disabilities.

The City completed numerous activities to help foster public participation by minorities, non-English speaking persons, and persons with disabilities. The City held two public forums specifically to receive comments on CD-34 Annual Plan. The March 25, 2008 public hearing was held at the Meriden Senior Center and the public hearing and Human Services Committee held on May 15, 2008 were held at City Hall. All meetings were noticed in the *Record Journal* newspaper and on the City website.

Provide a written explanation of comments not accepted and the reasons why these comments were not accepted.

There were no comments received.

Institutional Structure

1. *Describe actions that will take place during the next year to develop institutional structure.*

The CD-34 program will continue to be administered by the Community Development Division which is located with the City Manager's office in the City of Meriden. The Grants Administrator is a full-time professional with numerous years of experience in managing grant programs. The CDBG Secretary has assisted in the administration of the CDBG program for over 20 years.

Monitoring

1. *Describe actions that will take place during the next year to monitor its housing and community development projects and ensure long-term compliance with program requirements and comprehensive planning requirements.*

The City of Meriden Community Development Office is responsible for the overall administration and implementation of the City's Community Development Block Grant Program. The Community Development Office ensures compliance with federal regulations through its review of grant application funding requests, recipient contracts, quarterly performance reports, and subgrantee monitoring. Further, in CD-34, the City will maintain records of the program accomplishments, funding spent, people served, housing units rehabilitated, and other information in the HUD-provided "CPMP" tool to help ensure compliance with the federal regulations. All data will be submitted to HUD on a timely basis. All data will be inputted into the IDIS reporting system on at least a quarterly basis.

Per the requirements of 24 CFR Part 91.230, the City monitors all CDBG subrecipients and City Departments to ensure that all activities are carried out in furtherance of the Annual Plan and to ensure long-term compliance with requirements of the programs involved, including minority business outreach and the comprehensive planning requirements. The City gathers relevant data through the required reports and monitoring of these organizations as required by federal regulations. Since Meriden is not a HOME Entitlement Community, these types of funds or other State resources received by local agencies are not directly administered or monitored by the Community Development Office, but rather by the State grantor department. However, local agencies respond to special request from the Community Development Office for information about these State administrated programs. As such, this information is incorporated into the Plan and will be available for assessing progress.

The Grants Administrator has also established a performance based evaluation system to monitor each subgrantee. During the Program year, the City will evaluate the performance of each subgrantee and City Department based on the specific milestones outlined in each project proposal. Progress towards those goals will be reported on a quarterly and on an annual basis. Specifically, each subgrantee and City Department is required to:

- Execute a contract (of Memorandum of Agreement for City Departments) outlining the reporting requirements, project objectives, and relevant federal statues
- Provide quarterly reports that provide documentation of clients served by demographics, including income level, minority, and elderly status
- Provide quarterly narrative reports that provide documentation of outcomes and performance measures.
- Document all expenses incurred, e.g. enrollment logs, receipts, etc.
- In person meetings between Grants Administrator and subgrantees. Meetings include a grantee orientation workshop and an on-site meeting with the Grants Administrator and subgrantee as necessary.
- Document consistency with Consolidated Plan

The purpose of this will be to establish standards that will be used to evaluate grantee performance. Evidence of non-compliance may be used to decrease or eliminate funding awards in subsequent years. In addition, the Grants Administrator conducts annual onsite visits to each CDBG funded Public Service Agency to ensure compliance with applicable regulations and to review progress toward goals outlined in their application for funding.

In addition to the City staff, an ad-hoc committee comprised of the Grants Administrator, City Manager, Chairman of the Human Services Committee and the Mayor; the Manager of the Neighborhood Preservation Program; and the Director of the Health and Human Services Department work in cooperation ensure the success of the program. The group assists by identifying needs, advising on program guidelines, ensuring compliance with HUD regulations, overseeing activities funded by the CDBG program and maintaining long term compliance with the Consolidated Plan. The ad-hoc committee also review and recommends budget prior to its submission to the City Council for consideration.

Lead-based Paint

1. *Describe the actions that will take place during the next year to evaluate and reduce the number of housing units containing lead-based paint hazards in order to increase the inventory of lead-safe housing available to extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families, and how the plan for the reduction of lead-based hazards is related to the extent of lead poisoning and hazards.*

The City of Meriden Health Department, in coordination with the Building Department, will continue to monitor incidents of Lead Paint Poisoning. Properties may be inspected for lead paint if there is a child under the age of six living there and the child has been found to have an elevated blood lead level through a blood test conducted at a City or school clinic. During the investigation, parents are educated about the health hazards of lead paint and property owners are ordered to abate the hazards which are found. In collaboration with the City of Meriden Building Department, information is provided for safe paint scraping. Lead paint disclosure forms are also required with each Neighborhood Preservation Program rehabilitation loan.

HOUSING

Specific Housing Objectives

**Please also refer to the Housing Needs Table in the Needs.xls workbook.*

1. *Describe the priorities and specific objectives the jurisdiction hopes to achieve during the next year.*

The City of Meriden has several objectives in its Consolidated Plan that are specifically related to the provision of affordable housing. These include:

- a. Affordability for the purpose of provision of decent housing
- b. Sustainability for the purpose of provision of decent housing
- c. Availability/Accessibility for the purpose of enhancement of the living environment and quality of life
- d. Assist Special Needs Populations including renters with severe cost burden, the homeless, and the elderly

The CD-34 Action Plan is intended to make further progress in the provision of decent housing for special needs populations, including the homeless, elderly and homeowners with a severe cost burden by:

- Make available housing rehabilitation loans for qualifying homeowners in the target areas
- Identify and prosecute housing code violators
- Clean up litter and graffiti in the target neighborhoods
- Provide grants to social service organizations that provide temporary housing, transitional housing and counseling services to the homeless population and to those at risk becoming homeless
- Provide grants to social service organizations to help make their services to low income families more affordable, thereby reducing the cost burden

2. *Describe how Federal, State, and local public and private sector resources that are reasonably expected to be available will be used to address identified needs for the period covered by this Action Plan.*

The City will use 63 percent of its Community Development Program Funding for strategies and projects aimed at revitalizing Meriden's inner-city neighborhoods. Projects include: 1) Loans for Home Rehabilitation 2) Housing Code Enforcement, 3) Legal Services, and 4) Anti-graffiti and anti-litter activities. These activities will be primarily focused in US Census tracts 1701-1704, 1706, 1708-1710 and 1713-1715 which have above average levels of minorities and/or low income residents. The projected amount of funding is \$504,000 in CD-34 funds and \$175,000 in Revolving Loan Program Income. The implementation of the housing-related projects will result in the accomplishments of the following specific outcomes during the program year:

- Finance twelve (12) Rehabilitation Loans
- Allow for the inspection of approximately 1800 structures
- Enforce Housing Code in 50 legal cases annually
- Provide daily monitoring and cleanup of litter and graffiti in at approximately 125 sites in the target areas
- Review and update the City's Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice

Needs of Public Housing

Describe the manner in which the plan of the jurisdiction will help address the needs of public housing and activities it will undertake during the next year to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership.

The Meriden Housing Authority (MHA) is responsible for providing decent, safe and sanitary housing for individuals residing in Meriden who have low and moderate incomes. MHA is an autonomous corporation which is allowed to act as a municipal entity and participate in municipal benefits. Therefore the City's Community Development division and the MHA operate independently and therefore the Community Development division's direct role in providing public housing is very limited.

In its five-year plan (2005-2009), the Meriden Housing Authority specifically states the following goal related to encouraging public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in home ownership:

- *"Increase assisted housing choices by conducting outreach efforts to potential voucher landlords, implementing voucher homeownership program, implement public housing or other homeownership programs, convert public housing to vouchers."*

The City of Meriden, in partnership with the Meriden Housing Authority assists those in public housing move towards home ownership with a program that loans up to \$5000 towards closing costs. Funds for this program were allocated in 2005 under the CD-31 program year. Under this program, MHA provides the first time homeowner a low interest loan for the purposes of purchasing a private home outside of the public housing system. The City has \$45,500 in CD-31 funds available for this program during the program year.

If the public housing agency is designated as "troubled" by HUD or otherwise is performing poorly, the jurisdiction shall describe the manner in which it will provide financial or other assistance in improving its operations to remove such designation during the next year.

The Meriden Housing Authority is not deemed troubled by HUD and is performing satisfactorily in its responsibilities to provide affordable public housing in Meriden.

Barriers to Affordable Housing

1. *Describe the actions that will take place during the next year to remove barriers to affordable housing.*

Meriden's inner-City neighborhoods contain its housing stock most in need of attention, its neediest residents, and its least utilized economic development potential. Meriden's inner-City area is contains high concentrations of low and moderate income and minority households and much if its older housing stock. In Meriden's inner-City neighborhoods, many residents frequently experience cost burden problems and homeowners struggle to maintain their properties. The City's Neighborhood Preservation Program

rehabilitation loan program is specifically established to remove barriers to affordable housing by providing low-cost rehabilitation loans to low income homeowners in the City's inner areas. Specifically, the City will use \$295,000 during the program year, including \$120,000 in CD-34 funds and \$175,000 in anticipated Revolving Loan Program Income for strategies and projects aimed at revitalizing Meriden's inner-city neighborhoods. The programs are designed make living in Meriden's inner-City residents viable and affordable for low-income residents, including minority households.

In addition to the activities undertaken by the City, the Meriden Housing Authority activities are specifically intended to address the barriers to affordable housing by providing economic subsidies to those most in need of affordable housing. The Meriden Housing Authority states the following goal related to the removal of barriers to affordable housing:

- *“Increase the availability of decent, safe and affordable housing by applying for additional rental vouchers, reducing public housing vacancies, and leveraging private or other public funds to crease additional housing opportunities.”*

Towards this end, the Meriden Housing Authority will continue to reduce the barriers to affordable housing by providing Section 8 vouchers and to provide first time homeowner loan assistance aimed at transitioning residents from public housing into the private housing market.

HOME/ American Dream Down payment Initiative (ADDI)

1. *Describe other forms of investment not described in § 92.205(b).*
2. *If the participating jurisdiction (PJ) will use HOME or ADDI funds for homebuyers, it must state the guidelines for resale or recapture, as required in § 92.254 of the HOME rule.*
3. *If the PJ will use HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is that is being rehabilitated with HOME funds, it must state its refinancing guidelines required under § 92.206(b). The guidelines shall describe the conditions under which the PJ will refinance existing debt. At a minimum these guidelines must:*
 - a. *Demonstrate that rehabilitation is the primary eligible activity and ensure that this requirement is met by establishing a minimum level of rehabilitation per unit or a required ratio between rehabilitation and refinancing.*
 - b. *Require a review of management practices to demonstrate that disinvestments in the property has not occurred; that the long-term needs of the project can be met; and that the feasibility of serving the targeted population over an extended affordability period can be demonstrated.*
 - c. *State whether the new investment is being made to maintain current affordable units, create additional affordable units, or both.*
 - d. *Specify the required period of affordability, whether it is the minimum 15 years or longer.*
 - e. *Specify whether the investment of HOME funds may be jurisdiction-wide or limited to a specific geographic area, such as a neighborhood identified in a neighborhood revitalization strategy under 24 CFR 91.215(e)(2) or a Federally designated Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community.*

- f. *State that HOME funds cannot be used to refinance multifamily loans made or insured by any federal program, including CDBG.*
4. *If the PJ is going to receive American Dream Down payment Initiative (ADDI) funds, please complete the following narratives:*
 - a. *Describe the planned use of the ADDI funds.*
 - b. *Describe the PJ's plan for conducting targeted outreach to residents and tenants of public housing and manufactured housing and to other families assisted by public housing agencies, for the purposes of ensuring that the ADDI funds are used to provide down payment assistance for such residents, tenants, and families.*
 - c. *Describe the actions to be taken to ensure the suitability of families receiving ADDI funds to undertake and maintain homeownership, such as provision of housing counseling to homebuyers.*

The City of Meriden does not participate in the Federal HOME/American Dream Down Payment Initiative program.

HOMELESS

Specific Homeless Prevention Elements

**Please also refer to the Homeless Needs Table in the Needs.xls workbook.*

Program Year 4 Action Plan Special Needs response:

1. *Sources of Funds—Identify the private and public resources that the jurisdiction expects to receive during the next year to address homeless needs and to prevent homelessness. These include the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act programs, other special federal, state and local and private funds targeted to homeless individuals and families with children, especially the chronically homeless, the HUD formula programs, and any publicly-owned land or property. Please describe, briefly, the jurisdiction's plan for the investment and use of funds directed toward homelessness.*

A portion of the CD-34 funds is specifically designed to address homelessness. Specifically, the City, through its public services grants, supports the operations of several private non-profit organizations whose mission is to provide temporary and transitional housing and other related counseling services for the homeless in Meriden. During 2008-2009, the City of Meriden will allocate \$37,081.20 to the implementation of projects that impact homelessness and relieve the cost burden on special needs populations. The following funding allocations are included in the 2008-09 Action Plan to specifically address the homeless needs identified in the Consolidated Plan:

- Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis, Inc. Domestic Violence Services-providing homeless shelter and counseling services to 110 individuals annually-\$8910
- Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis, Inc. Domestic Violence Services providing transitional living and counseling services to 15 individuals annually-\$8910

- Shelter NOW-New Opportunities Inc providing emergency shelter to 50 individuals annually-\$8553.60
- Women and Family Center-Support, Awareness, Information, and Referral (SAIR) Corps providing counseling services to 142 individuals-\$3,207.60
- Women and Family Center-Project REACH providing counseling services to 140 runaway youth-\$7,500.00

The Meriden Housing Authority (MHA) also works to address homelessness in the City of Meriden. MHA is responsible for providing decent, safe and sanitary housing for individuals residing in Meriden who have low and moderate incomes. The Meriden Housing Authority has the following goals to address homeless needs and to prevent homelessness:

- “Expand the supply of assisted housing”
- “Increase assisted housing choices”
- “Promote self-sufficiency and asset development of families and individuals”
- “Ensure equal opportunity in housing for all Americans”

The Meriden Housing Authority will address homelessness by providing Section 8 vouchers and to provide first time homeowner loan assistance aimed at transitioning residents from public housing into the private housing market. The Meriden Housing Authority will apply if funds are available for new Section 8 Certificates or vouchers for households experience severe cost burden.

2. *Homelessness—In a narrative, describe how the action plan will address the specific objectives of the Strategic Plan and, ultimately, the priority needs identified. Please also identify potential obstacles to completing these action steps.*

The City’s Action Plan addresses the specific homelessness objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan by allocating resources towards the provision of housing and counseling services to an estimated 317 individuals who are either homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless. The City estimated that 625 unduplicated persons receive emergency shelter during the course of a year and an additional 40 individuals are unsheltered. Further explanation of the City’s homeless needs is included in the Consolidated Plan.

3. *Chronic homelessness—The jurisdiction must describe the specific planned action steps it will take over the next year aimed at eliminating chronic homelessness by 2012. Again, please identify barriers to achieving this.*

To end chronic homelessness, the City intends to implement the strategies outlined in its 2005-2010 Comprehensive Plan as well as to support public service projects that provide counseling and support services to the homeless. These programs include the Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis, Inc. Domestic Violence Services and Transitional Living, Shelter NOW, Women and Family Center-Support, Awareness, Information, and Referral (SAIR) Corps, Women and Family Center-Project Reach. In addition, the City will support the Child Guidance Clinic, which will receive a grant of \$5889.60, and Catholic Charities, which will receive a grant of \$2500. These programs are intended to provide counseling to at-risk youth in order to alleviate future behavioral and other developmental problems that could lead to chronic homelessness.

4. *Homelessness Prevention—The jurisdiction must describe its planned action steps over the next year to address the individual and families with children at imminent risk of becoming homeless.*

The Meriden Housing Authority has found that providing rental subsidies to households below 80% of the median income level for the area is the most cost effective and practical means to address pending homelessness. The Meriden Housing Authority currently provides 485 units of Federal Public Housing at Mills Memorial (140), Community Towers (221) and Chamberlain Heights (124) housing complexes; 611 Section 8 Housing Assistance vouchers; and 215 units of State Moderate Income housing at Johnson Acres (52) and Yale Acres (163). The Meriden Housing Authority will secure additional Section 8 Housing Assistance vouchers as they become available so that more individuals can be served.

5. *Discharge Coordination Policy—Explain planned activities to implement a cohesive, community-wide Discharge Coordination Policy, and how, in the coming year, the community will move toward such a policy.*

Specific housing policies are established by the specific service providers including the Meriden Housing Authority, Shelter NOW, and Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis, Inc.

6. *Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG)*

(States only) Describe the process for awarding grants to State recipients, and a description of how the allocation will be made available to units of local government.

This section is not applicable.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development

*Please also refer to the Community Development Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. *Identify the jurisdiction's priority non-housing community development needs eligible for assistance by CDBG eligibility category specified in the Community Development Needs Table (formerly Table 2B), public facilities, public improvements, public services and economic development.*
2. *Identify specific long-term and short-term community development objectives (including economic development activities that create jobs), developed in accordance with the statutory goals described in section 24 CFR 91.1 and the primary objective of the CDBG program to provide decent housing and a suitable living environment and expand economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.*

**Note: Each specific objective developed to address a priority need, must be identified by number and contain proposed accomplishments, the time period (i.e., one, two, three, or more years), and annual program year numeric goals the jurisdiction hopes to achieve in quantitative terms, or in other measurable terms as identified and defined by the jurisdiction.*

The City of Meriden is proposing to use \$181,077 in CD-34 funds for priority community development needs during CD-34. Funding will be spent on various public services activities that correspond to an identified need outlined in the Consolidated Plan. Together, the implementation of the public service projects will help develop a viable urban community by providing a suitable living environment by improving the safety and livability of neighborhoods, increasing access to quality public and private facilities and services, and reducing the isolation of income groups within a the community. The public services activities included in the Annual Plan address Community Development needs identified in the Consolidated Plan. Some of the Community Development activities simultaneously address the housing needs of the homeless and special needs populations.

The City views the expenditure of funds on public service related programs as a way to create economic opportunity in the community as a means to creating improved self-sufficiency and reduced homelessness over the long term: All activities proposed are consistent with the goals outlined in CFR Title 24 Part 91.1. Specifically, proposed activities will help accomplish the following objectives:

- Provide counseling services to 1315 individuals that are either homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in Meriden during the program year. Programs include MW Chrysalis, Shelter NOW, SAIR Corps, and Project reach. Project will provide a suitable living environment by making services accessible to needy individuals.
- Provide counseling services to 340 children that are the victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse. Program includes Child Guidance Clinic and Catholic Charities. Project will provide a suitable living environment by making services accessible to needy individuals.
- Provide 2318 special needs residents, including elderly, the poor, and the handicapped, increased access to medical appointments, jobs, meals or other daily functions in order to provide a suitable living environment. Programs include ARC, Casa, Kuhn, and Chore Service and Salvation Army. Project will provide a suitable living environment by making services accessible to needy individuals.
- Provide 1721 low-income Meriden youth access to recreational, job training and other projects aimed at reducing youth violence and crime in order to provide a suitable living environment. Projects include Beat the Street, Summer Basketball, Boys & Girls Club, Summer Safe Havens, Teen Center, Karate, Rec Express, Hebron, BBBS, QRWA Summer Paddling, and ACT-SO. Project will help create a suitable living environment through provision of affordable services to youth and their families.
- Provide literacy training to 40 adults and train 15 volunteers to help increase literacy over the long term. Project includes Literacy Volunteers. Project will help provide a suitable living environment through the implementation of programs aimed at sustaining learning over the long term.

- Provide leadership and child advocacy training to 50 low income and minority individuals to help increase child advocacy over the long term. Project includes Children's First PLTI. Project will help provide a suitable living environment through the implementation of programs aimed at sustaining child advocacy over the long term.
- Provide motivational training to 10 low income and minority fathers. Project includes the Father Motivation. Project will help provide a suitable living environment through the implementation of programs aimed at sustaining child advocacy over the long term.
- Provide a support network to 50 individuals with the goal of helping them overcome poverty. Project includes New Opportunities Circles Campaign.

Antipoverty Strategy

1. Describe the actions that will take place during the next year to reduce the number of poverty level families.

The City recognizes the interrelationship between housing and economic opportunities and the need to pursue both in order to assist households attain self-sufficiency. The City of Meriden recognizes while it has defined three priority strategy areas, that they are not separate or isolated strategies. The City believes these strategies are inter-related and impact, reinforce and contribute to each other to achieve the common goal of a viable, vibrant City. The health of the inner-City, its special needs populations and the community at large can not be artificially separated as they are an integral part of the whole. The betterment and improvement of any part inevitably contributes to the betterment of the other segments of the community. The City believes the implementation of the housing, neighborhood revitalization, economic development activities and services to special populations outlined in this Plan will help reduce the number of households in poverty. This is due to the interrelationship of suitable, decent housing and an individual's employability.

An analysis of the US Census tract data shows that as many as 8217 Meriden residents may be living below the federal poverty line. All of the programs outlined in this plan are intended to provide benefits to Meriden residents that are considered low income and/or fall below the federal poverty line.

This year, CD-34 funds will support the Circles Campaign, a program that is specifically intended to assist at least 50 individuals overcome poverty. The Circles Campaign will be administered by New Opportunities Inc. of Greater Waterbury. The Circles Campaign will help individuals overcome poverty by connecting individuals and families living in poverty to successful individuals in the community that can provide personal and professional support to them. The program works by arranging a series of classes and group meetings designed to help individuals in poverty understand and improve their circumstances and to inform people not in poverty of its causes and what they can do as individuals and as a community to assist those in poverty better their situation. The Circles program has been proven to be effective in other locations by providing people living in poverty the skills needed to improve their lives. During the program year, New Opportunities plans to recruit 20 community members to the Guiding Coalition, recruit 45 community members to serve in a "circle", and form circles and outreach meetings for 50 (some may be from the same household) residents currently living below the federal poverty level.

NON-HOMELESS SPECIAL NEEDS HOUSING

Non-homeless Special Needs (91.220 (c) and (e))

**Please also refer to the Non-homeless Special Needs Table in the Needs.xls workbook.*

- 1. Describe the priorities and specific objectives the jurisdiction hopes to achieve for the period covered by the Action Plan.*
- 2. Describe how Federal, State, and local public and private sector resources that are reasonably expected to be available will be used to address identified needs for the period covered by this Action Plan.*

The City of Meriden will allocate \$33,799.30 to non-homeless special needs projects. Specifically, the City will allocate \$6000.00 to the American Red Cross, which will aide the elderly; and \$27,799.20 to Kuhn Employment, which will aide developmentally disabled adults. An estimated 128 residents will be served. These programs also help meet other Community Development objectives.

Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS

**Please also refer to the HOPWA Table in the Needs.xls workbook.*

- 1. Provide a Brief description of the organization, the area of service, the name of the program contacts, and a broad overview of the range/ type of housing activities to be done during the next year.*
- 2. Report on the actions taken during the year that addressed the special needs of persons who are not homeless but require supportive housing, and assistance for persons who are homeless.*
- 3. Evaluate the progress in meeting its specific objective of providing affordable housing, including a comparison of actual outputs and outcomes to proposed goals and progress made on the other planned actions indicated in the strategic and action plans. The evaluation can address any related program adjustments or future plans.*
- 4. Report on annual HOPWA output goals for the number of households assisted during the year in: (1) short-term rent, mortgage and utility payments to avoid homelessness; (2) rental assistance programs; and (3) in housing facilities, such as community residences and SRO dwellings, where funds are used to develop and/or operate these facilities. Include any assessment of client outcomes for achieving housing stability, reduced risks of homelessness and improved access to care.*
- 5. Report on the use of committed leveraging from other public and private resources that helped to address needs identified in the plan.*
- 6. Provide an analysis of the extent to which HOPWA funds were distributed among different categories of housing needs consistent with the geographic distribution plans identified in its approved Consolidated Plan.*

7. *Describe any barriers (including non-regulatory) encountered, actions in response to barriers, and recommendations for program improvement.*
8. *Please describe the expected trends facing the community in meeting the needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS and provide additional information regarding the administration of services to people with HIV/AIDS.*
9. *Please note any evaluations, studies or other assessments that will be conducted on the local HOPWA program during the next year.*

The City of Meriden does not participate in the HOPWA program.

Specific HOPWA Objectives

Describe how Federal, State, and local public and private sector resources that are reasonably expected to be available will be used to address identified needs for the period covered by the Action Plan.

Not applicable

Other Narrative

Include any Action Plan information that was not covered by a narrative in any other section.

Additional background information on the Housing and Community Development needs of the City of Meriden, including significant community issues and priorities related to housing and special needs populations, is included in the 2005-2010 Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development. The needs and priorities of the City referenced in the Annual Plan are more fully described in the Consolidated Plan. A copy of the Consolidated Plan is available at City Hall, Community Development Office, 142 East Main Street, Room 218, Meriden, CT 06450.

Attachments to the Annual Plan include:

- SF 474
- Non-state Certification forms
- Copies of Public Hearing notices
- Project Worksheets