



## Action Plan (CD 35)

The CD 35 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 5 Action Plan Executive Summary

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### A. Housing and Community Development Objectives and Priorities

The City of Meriden intends to utilize \$1,012,103 of Community Development Block Grant funding to improve the housing conditions, improve the living environment, and provide economic opportunities in Meriden's inner-City neighborhoods during the 2009-2010 program year. Of the total amount available, \$922,250 is CD-35 funds, \$80,000 is projected Revolving Loan Program Income, \$9,853 is Reprogrammed CDBG funds from prior years. During the program year, the City of Meriden also expects to utilize \$244,198 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds, known as CDBG-R, and \$1,785,000 in Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds, known as NSP. Those programs, while mentioned here, are more fully described in other program plans.

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. The City of Meriden is considered 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

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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. 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 of its grant 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. These reports are available for download on the City's Office of Community Development webpage, located at [http://www.cityofmeriden.org/CMS/default.asp?CMS\\_ArealD=76](http://www.cityofmeriden.org/CMS/default.asp?CMS_ArealD=76).

### C. Overview of Projects

The projects listed for implementation are intended to meet one or more of the sub-objectives identified in the areas of decent housing, suitable living environment, and economic opportunities. The City of Meriden intends to utilize \$1,012,103 of Community Development Block Grant funding to improve the housing conditions, improve the living environment, and provide economic opportunities in Meriden's inner-City neighborhoods during the 2009-2010 program year. Of the total amount available, \$922,250 is CD-35 funds, \$80,000 is projected Revolving Loan Program Income, \$9,853 is Reprogrammed CDBG funds from prior years.

In addition to CDBG funds, the City will also receive \$244,198 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds (known as CDBG-R) during the program year. Specific plans for the use of these funds are not included in the CD 35 Annual Plan. Plans for the use of the funds are included in the *CD-34 Annual Action Plan Substantial Amendment*. The Substantial Amendment is available for download from the City's Office of Community Development webpage, located at [http://www.cityofmeriden.org/CMS/default.asp?CMS\\_ArealD=76](http://www.cityofmeriden.org/CMS/default.asp?CMS_ArealD=76).

The City has also received an allocation of US Department of Housing and Urban Development Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds administered by the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development. Specific plans for the use of these funds are not included in the CD 35 Annual Plan. Plans for the use of the funds are included in the *NSP Local Action Plan*, which is available for download from the City's Office of Community Development webpage, located at [http://www.cityofmeriden.org/CMS/default.asp?CMS\\_ArealD=76](http://www.cityofmeriden.org/CMS/default.asp?CMS_ArealD=76).

Activities furthering the provision of Decent Housing

The City will use \$538,000 during the program year for strategies to provide decent housing in Meriden's low income and minority areas. Projects include: 1) Housing Code Enforcement, 2) Legal Services 3) Loans for Home Rehabilitation and associated Lead Paint Hazards Assessment, Interim Controls and Clearance 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. Funding for these activities comes from CD-35 and revolving loan program income. 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 funds allocated for decent housing programs funds will go to low income minority households.

Activities furthering the provision of Suitable Living Environments

The City will use \$190,297 during the program year for strategies to provide a suitable living environment in Meriden's inner-City. 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, 7) general public services for special needs populations, 8) improvement of a public parks facility that serves low and moderate income clients, 9) job training, and 10) legal counseling. 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-35.

Activities furthering Economic Opportunities

The City will allocate \$100,000 in CD-35 funds for the repayment of a Section 108 Loan for the Demolition of Factory H, a blighted, brownfields site located in Census Tract 1709. 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. Specific plans for the use of \$100,000 annually for the repayment of a Section 108 Loan to demolish Factory H will be included in the *City of Meriden Section 108 Loan Application for Demolition of Factory H*.

Administration

The City will use \$183,806 in CDBG 35 and Reprogrammed CDBG funds from prior years for administrative costs.

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-35. In addition to the Grants Administrator, the CDBG program is also staffed with an Administrative 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. 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 35

1. Entitlement Grant

CDBG	\$922,250
ESG	\$0
HOME	\$0
HOPWA	\$0
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	\$922,250 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	\$9,853
ESG	\$0
HOME	\$0
HOPWA	\$0
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	\$9,853 TOTAL

Total Estimated Program Income

CDBG	\$80,000
ESG	\$0
HOME	\$0
HOPWA	\$0
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	\$80,000 TOTAL

Section 108 Loan Guarantee Fund

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	\$0 TOTAL

ALL SOURCES	\$1,012,103
Other funds	\$0
Submitted Projects	\$1,012,103
Unsubmitted Projects	\$0 TOTAL

## Annual Plan July 1, 2009- June 30, 2010

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### 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 intends to utilize \$1,012,103 of Community Development Block Grant funding to improve the housing conditions, improve the living environment, and provide economic opportunities in Meriden's inner-city neighborhoods during the 2009-2010 program year. Of the total amount available, \$922,250 is CD-35 funds, \$80,000 is projected Revolving Loan Program Income, \$9,853 is Reprogrammed CDBG funds from prior years.

53% 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). 10% of all funds available will be spent on creation of economic opportunities in the City's low income areas. 19% of all funds available will be spent of maintaining a Suitable Living Environment. 18% of all funds available will be spent on Administration.

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:

- \$38,373 will be spent to provide counseling to homeless or near homeless individuals at shelter and counseling facilities.
- \$45,391 will be spent on non-homeless special needs projects.

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

- \$84,536 will be spent on youth service programs with the goal of reducing the cost burden of these services on low income households.
- \$5,000 will be spent on improvements to a parks and recreation facility that serves low and moderate income youth.

Table 1 summarizes the expenditure of funds during year 35 by objective category.

Table 1  
City of Meriden-CD 35 Cost Breakdown by Strategy

	CD-35	Program Income	Reprogrammed funds	TOTAL	% of all funds available	% Low/Mod benefit
Decent Housing	\$458,000	\$80,000		\$538,000.00	53%	100%
Suitable Living Environment	\$190,297	\$0		\$190,297.00	19%	100%
Economic Opportunities	\$100,000	\$0		\$100,000.00	10%	100%
Administration	\$173,953	\$0	\$9853	\$183,806.00	18%	NA
TOTAL	\$922,250	\$80,000	\$9853	\$1,012,103.00	100%	\$828,297

Activities to be undertaken with CD-35 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-\$183,806

The City of Meriden will use \$183,806 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 program will be administered in accordance with HUD guidelines.

Table 3  
Administration-Proposed Use of Funds CD-35

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 administration, project evaluation and monitoring, compliance activities; City-related housing and community development projects, fair housing activities, and affirmative action programs. Administration of the NSP program, including, but not limited to administration and management of all funds, environmental compliance, management of all subcontractors, record keeping, inspection and monitoring of all completed activities. The City of Meriden is the project administrator. Location: 142 East Main Street, Meriden, CT 06450	Administration	\$183,806	21A

SUBTOTAL CD 35: \$173953  
SUBTOTAL Reprogrammed Funds: \$9853  
TOTAL: \$183,806

Activities furthering the provision of Decent Housing-\$538,000

The City will use \$538,000 during Program Year 35 for projects aimed at revitalizing Meriden’s inner-city neighborhoods. Projects include: 1) Housing Code Enforcement, 2) Legal Services 3) Loans for Home Rehabilitation and compliance 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 \$458,000 in CD-35 funds and \$80,000 in Revolving Loan Program Income.

Table 4  
Decent Housing-Proposed Use of Funds CD-35

Objective	Program Title	Other Program Description	HUD Outcome	Units	AMOUNT AND FUNDING SOURCE	HUD Matrix Code/NOC
Decent Housing	<u>Housing Code Enforcement</u>	Project will provide 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	\$408,000/CD 35	15/LMA
Decent Housing	<u>Housing Legal Services</u>	Project will provide legal services necessary to successfully prosecute major housing code violators. Estimated 50 cases will be undertaken. City of Meriden Legal Department will be project administrator.	Create Decent Housing with Improved/New Sustainability	50	\$50,000/CD 35	15/LMA
Decent Housing	<u>NPP Loans</u>	NPP Revolving Loan funds will be used for Lead Paint Hazard Assessment, Interim Controls, Abatement, and Clearance as required. NPP Loans may also be used for rehabilitation loans associated with the implementation of the NSP program. Up to 15 structures will be acquired, rehabilitated and resold to qualified homebuyers. City of Meriden will be project administrator.	Create Decent Housing with increased Affordability	15	\$80,000 Anticipated Program Income	14A/LMA

SUBTOTAL CD 35: \$458,000.00  
SUBTOTAL Other Funds: \$80,000.00  
 TOTAL: \$538,000.00

Strategies to Create a Suitable Living Environment-\$190,297

The City will use \$190,297\_during Program Year 35 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-35.

Table 5  
Suitable Living Environment-Proposed Use of Funds CD-35

Objective	Program Title	Other Program Description	HUD Outcome	Units/Persons per year	AMOUNT AND FUNDING SOURCE	HUD Matrix Code/NOC
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	\$5400	5E/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	Arts & Crafts Assoc. of Meriden	Provide low income pre-school children hands on arts and crafts classes. Location: 53 Colony Street, Meriden, CT 06451.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Sustainability	15	\$2250	05D/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	Augusta Curtis Cultural Center	Provide low income youth group mural projects that will help the beautification of Meriden. Location: ACCC, Meriden, CT 06450.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Sustainability	15	\$4000	05D/LMC
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	Enhance Suitable Living Environment	547	\$15,614	05D/LMC

Jurisdiction

		served. Beat the Street, Inc. will be project administrator. Site location – 121 South Colony Street.	through Increased Affordability			
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 participate. Big Brothers/Big Sisters will be project administrator. Site location-John Barry School, Meriden CT...	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Increased Affordability	34	\$2245	05D/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	Joseph F. Coffee Boys and Girls Club of Meriden Summer Camperships	Project will provide funding to send 11 children to summer camp in 2009 for a 2-week all day session.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Increased Affordability	11	\$2736	05D/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 500 individuals will be served.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Improved/New Accessibility	500	\$7057	05/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	Child Guidance Clinic for Central CT, Inc.-Crisis	Project will provide to both at risk and abused/neglected children and their families a variety of crisis intervention	Enhance Suitable Living Environment	300	\$5301	5N/LMC

Jurisdiction

	Intervention	counseling, parenting, and advocacy services. Estimate 300 persons to be served.	through Improved/New Accessibility			
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	\$12189	05D/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	Connecticut Legal Services	Project will assist people at risk of homelessness in Meriden access service and resources in order to stabilize their lives and strengthen their financial security.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Sustainability	25	\$5000	05/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	10	\$450	05/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	Hunters EMS Explorers	Provide assistance to 2010 Boy Scout Camporee at Hubbard Park in Meriden	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Sustainability	100	\$2000	05D/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	Joseph F. Coffee Boys and Girls Club “Project Club Kids”	Project will provide 150 Boys and Girls from financially challenged families in Meriden full access to the Boys & Girls Club and it “Drop in” special programs for 12 months	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Increased Affordability	150	\$5,000	05D/LMC
Suitable Living	Joseph F.	Project will provide recreational	Enhance	250	\$8,019	05D/LMC

Jurisdiction

Environment	Coffee Boys and Girls Club of Meriden Summer Safe Havens	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	Suitable Living Environment through Increased Affordability			
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	12	\$25019	05B/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	\$2245	05/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	\$900	05D/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	Meriden Soup Kitchen	Provide 60 meals daily during the week for the needy population at the First Baptist Church. Location: 460 Broad Street, Meriden, Ct 06450.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Sustainability	60	\$2250	05/LMC
Suitable Living	Meriden YMCA	Project will provide opportunities	Enhance	20	\$900	05D/LMC

Jurisdiction

Environment	Youth Theater	for children to learn and participate in the performing arts. Site location - 110 West Main Street.	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	\$3528	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	\$3208	05D/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	Meriden YMCA-South Meriden Teen Center	Project will provide evening 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.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Increased Affordability	125	\$8000	05D/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	Meriden YMCA-Camperships	Provide will provide 20 low income Meriden youth scholarships to attend Mountain Mist Day camp in summer of 2009.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Increased Affordability	20	\$2736	05D/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	Meriden-Wallingford	Project will provide emergency shelter, counseling, advocacy	Enhance Suitable	110	\$8019	05G/LMC

Jurisdiction

	Chrysalis, Inc. Domestic Violence Services- Shelter Operations	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.	Living Environment through Improved/Ne w Accessibility			
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/Ne w Accessibility	15	\$8019	05G/LMC
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	\$2250	5N/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	\$8212	05D/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	New Opportunities, Inc. Chore	Project will provide chore and shopping services for a minimum of 100 seniors. New	Enhance Suitable Living	100	\$6415	05A/LMC

Jurisdiction

	Project for Elders	Opportunities, Inc. of Waterbury will be project administrator - Office location - 191 Pratt Street.	Environment through Improved/New Accessibility			
Suitable Living Environment	New Opportunities Inc.-Shelter NOW	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	\$7698	05G/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	5N/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	Quinnipiac River Watershed Association-Summer Paddling Program	Refurbish basic heating in the City owned property known as Dossin Beach Bathhouse to be used as a year-round regional Environmental Education Center and Headquarters for the QRWA, which operates the facility.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Sustainability	80	\$5000	03F/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	St. John Lutheran Church & Preschool-Central CT Christmas in Action	Project will provide minor home repairs to 15 at risk elderly at no charge.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Sustainability	15	\$1500	5A/LMC
Suitable Living	Women and	Project provides employment	Enhance	10	\$4500	5/LMC

Jurisdiction

Environment	Family Center-Open DOHR Employment and Training	and training services for 10 low income men and women in the Allied Health field including CAN training, Medical Receptionist training, job placement assistance, computer instruction and employment readiness workshops	Suitable Living Environment through Sustainability			
Suitable Living Environment	Women and Family Center-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	\$6750	5N/LMC
Suitable Living Environment	Women and Family Center-Support, Awareness, Information, and Referral (SAIR) Corps	Project will provide a 24 hr./day crisis center for counseling and support services to rape 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.	Enhance Suitable Living Environment through Improved/New Accessibility	1000	\$2887	05G/LMC
				4515	\$190,297.00	

SUBTOTAL CD 35: \$190,297  
SUBTOTAL Other Funds: \$0  
 TOTAL: \$190,297

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.

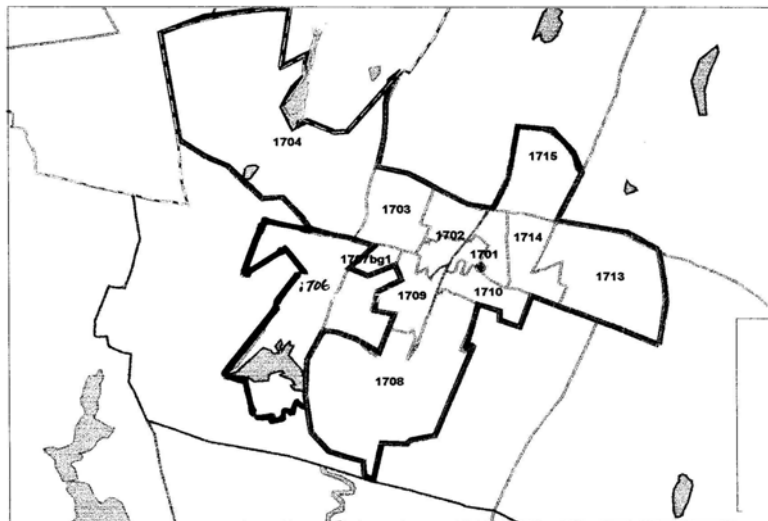
An analysis of the income levels from the 2000 US Census shows that approximately 50 percent of the City's residents can be classified as extremely low, very low or low income. Meriden's low income and minority population is concentrated in US Census tracts 1701-1704, 1706, 1708-1710 and 1713-1715. These 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 since 2000. 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	35%	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	35%	\$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	8,352					

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-35 goes to the neediest individuals. First, City Code Enforcement activities funded by CDBG are limited to the low income census tracts outlined above. 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 \$1,012,103 of Community Development Block Grant funding to improve the housing conditions, improve the living environment, and provide economic opportunities in Meriden's inner-city neighborhoods during the 2009-2010 program year. Of the total amount available, \$922,250 is CD-35 funds, \$80,000 is projected Revolving Loan Program Income, \$9,853 is Reprogrammed CDBG funds from prior years.

Community Development Block Grant-Recovery Act: The City expects to receive \$244,198 in CDBG-R/American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds during the program year. Specific plans for the use of these funds are included in the *CD-34 Annual Action Plan Substantial Amendment*. The Substantial Amendment is available for download from the City's Office of Community Development webpage, located at [http://www.cityofmeriden.org/CMS/default.asp?CMS\\_AreaID=76](http://www.cityofmeriden.org/CMS/default.asp?CMS_AreaID=76).

Neighborhood Stabilization Program: The City of Meriden has entered into an agreement with the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development to implement \$1,785,000 in programs to alleviate the conditions associated with the home foreclosure crisis. Specific plans for the use of these funds are included in the *NSP Local Action Plan*. The Local Action Plan is available for download from the City's Office of Community Development webpage, located at [http://www.cityofmeriden.org/CMS/default.asp?CMS\\_AreaID=76](http://www.cityofmeriden.org/CMS/default.asp?CMS_AreaID=76).

Meriden Housing Authority (MHA): The MHA anticipates using \$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 \$800,000 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: \$14,300 US Dept. of Justice-Office of Justice Programs Byrne Grant for Police Overtime. Several funding applications for police staffing and overtime assistance are also pending with the US Department of Justice and the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management.

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, \$150,000 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.

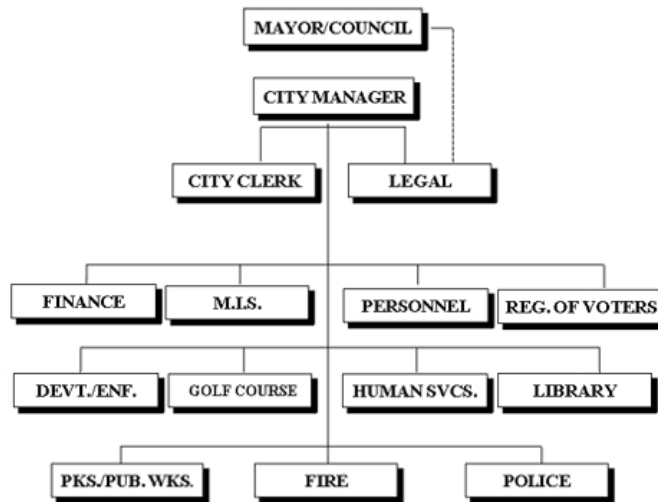
Managing the Process

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-35 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. Beginning in 2009, the CDBG program will also be staffed by an NSP Program Specialist. The Department of Development, Planning and Enforcement oversees the implementation of the Code Enforcement projects. The City Legal Department conducts the housing legal service 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.

On January 23, 2009, the City issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for CD-35. The RFP was distributed via regular mail to approximately 100 community organizations, via email to approximately 30 current or former CDBG subgrantees, and posted on the City's homepage [www.cityofmeriden.org](http://www.cityofmeriden.org). Applicants were given until February 27, 2009 to respond. Thirty-eight (38) applications were received.

The RFP, which included a notice of the public hearing date, was posted on the City website from January 23-March 12, 2009. Applicants and members of the public were invited to participate in the March 12, 2009 public hearing and to comment on their proposal and the City's community development needs.

On March 12, 2009, the City held its first public hearing on the CD 35 program. The public hearing was held at the Meriden Senior Citizens Center, Meriden, CT from 7:00-9:30 PM. 30 individuals participated as speakers in the public hearing. Four Council members, who are also members of the Human Services Committee, were in attendance as well as the Grant Administrator and Administrative Secretary.

On April 6, 2009, the Grants Administrator formally submitted its recommendations on the use of CDBG-35 funding to City Council. The proposed use of CDBG 35 and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds was published in the *Record Journal* newspaper on April 7, 2009 and was also posted on City website from April 7-May 7, 2009. (A subsequent public notice on the proposed use of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act/CDBG-R funds

On April 20, 2009 a public hearing notice was published in the *Record Journal*. The public hearing notice was also posted on the City website ([www.cityofmeriden.org](http://www.cityofmeriden.org)) from April 20 through May 7, 2009. In the public hearing notice, applicants and members of the public were invited to participate in the May 7, 2009 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 7, 2009.

On May 7, 2009 a second Public Hearing on CDBG-35 funding allocations was held. The Public Hearing was attended by the Grant Administrator and four of five members of the Meriden City Council Human Services Committee. The comments provided at the public hearing are summarized below:

Rose Cignata spoke on behalf of Gallery 53/Meriden Arts & Crafts Association. She said that the Gallery is seeking \$74,400 to replace several 100-year old windows at the community art gallery. CDBG funds would be used for window replacement, which would provide energy efficiency benefits for the organization which currently provides art classes to low income Meriden residents using CDBG funds.

Staci M. Roy spoke on behalf of the Augusta Curtis Cultural Center. She said that the ACCC is seeking \$5000 to run a year long program that would involve teaching Meriden students mural painting techniques. CDBG funds would be targeted to low income Meriden youth.

Marie Laffin and Sister Catherine Mary Clark spoke on behalf of the Franciscan Home Care Program. They said that they are seeking \$10,000 in CDBG funds to ensure that low income Meriden residents are offered the opportunity to receive Hospice care

regardless of their ability to pay. The Franciscan Home Care program has been providing Hospice care in Meriden for over 30 years.

Angie Lopez spoke on behalf of Casa Boricua. She thanked the Meriden City Council for continuing to provide CDBG funds for Casa Boricua. She urged the Council to help Casa Boricua to make sure that the Casa Boricua Community Center remains open. She said that if any extra CDBG funding becomes available they would be interested in using it for building repairs.

John Gopoian spoke on behalf of the Boy Scouts 2010 Camporee at Hubbard Park program that was submitted by Hunter's EMS Explorers. Hunter's EMS Explorers is seeking \$2000 to support the 2010 Boy Scouts 2010 Camporee that will be held at Hubbard Park in Meriden. CDBG funds will be used to ensure that low income Meriden youth have the opportunity to attend the event.

Anna Neumon, Ginny Chirsky, and David James spoke on behalf of the Quinnipiac River Watershed Association. They requested funding in the amount of \$3000 so that the Summer Paddling Program could be fully funded.

Five members of Casa Boricua spoke in favor of keeping Casa Boricua open as a community center.

Additional written public comments were provided. Copies of the written comments are included as an attachment to the CD 35 Annual Plan.

Following the second Public Hearing, on May 7, 2008, a regular meeting of the City of Meriden Human Services Committee was held to review the recommended use of CD-35 funds. The Committee recommended adopting the CDBG-35 funding allocations as recommended by the Grants Administrator, with the following amendments:

\$4000 allocated to Augusta Curtis Cultural Center Arts in the City Program  
\$2736 to Boys and Girls Club Campership Program  
\$2736 to YMCA Campership Program  
\$8000 to YMCA South Meriden Teen Center  
\$3000 total to QRWA Summer Paddling Program  
\$2000 to Hunters EMS Explorers for Boy Scout Camporee

April 7-May 7, 2009 was reserved as a 30-day public comment period on recommended use of CDBG-35 funds. During the public comment period, additional public comments were received and are included as an attachment to the CD 35 Annual Plan.

On June 1, 2009, the City of Meriden City Council adopted the resolution put forth by the Human Services Committee on the recommended use of CDBG-35 funds.

On June 15, 2009, the City of Meriden City Council adopted the resolution with the final allocation of CDBG 35 funds; Annual Plan Submitted to HUD.

July 1, 2009 Program Year Begins.

Copies of all public notices and written public comments received 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. 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 is in the process of implementing a 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 Consolidated Plan. City Staff will also participate in the Mayor's Emergency Services Summit meetings as they are scheduled. The purpose of this effort is to identify and determine the best way to support critical social service programs that have been impacted by the economic downturn.

***Citizen Participation Response:***

Numerous citizens participated in the CD-35 application process by speaking at the public hearings and also by providing written comments throughout the process. 30 individuals participated as speakers in the March 7, 2009 public hearing and approximately 20 other citizens were in attendance. Four popularly elected Council members were also in attendance. Fifteen members of the public spoke at the May 7, 2009 CDBG Public Hearing and approximately 20 other citizens were in attendance.

*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-35 Annual Plan. The March 12, 2009 public hearing was held at the Meriden Senior Center and the public hearing and Human Services Committee held on May 7, 2009 were held at City Hall. All meetings were noticed on the City website. A public notice regarding the May 7, 2009 Public Hearing was placed in the *Record Journal*.

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

All comments received were accepted and included in the Annual Plan.

#### Institutional Structure

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

The CD-35 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-35, 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 administered 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 statutes
- 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; 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.*

During the Program Year, the City will continue to address and secure lead paint clearance for NPP-funded home rehabilitation loans completed since 2006 per HUD requirements. Information on the City's progress can be obtained by contacting the Office of Community Development at 203 630 4105. The City of Meriden is currently implementing the following actions for 50 non-exempt housing units that received NPP Loan funds for home rehabilitation activities since July 1, 2006:

- For properties not exempt in which a child under six did not reside during the rehabilitation work or does not now reside, the City will provide a report to HUD clearing the property from lead hazards. Clearance testing is being performed by two certified organizations in accordance with the regulations.
- For properties not exempt in which a child under six resided during the rehabilitation work or now resides, the City will complete all steps required by the regulations to identify and remediate lead hazards. The City will provide documentation to evidence that the requirements of the regulations were followed and a copy of the clearance report. The City has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Lead Action for Medicaid Primary Prevention (LAMPP) project to assist the City in completing these activities.

In addition to these specific activities, several City Department also work collaboratively with the LAMPP project to reduce residential lead hazards for low-income children under six years of age. LAMPP has access to several federal funding programs that will be used to conduct risk assessments and inspections of housing units within targeted communities, provide lead hazard control education to families and property owners within targeted communities and provide property owners with financial assistance to rehabilitate housing units in targeted communities with identified lead hazards. The City of Meriden, CT is one of the target communities for the LAMPP activities. Meriden maintains programs in lead poisoning prevention and regulation enforcement through its Health Department. Meriden supports housing preservation and improvement through enforcement of a housing code and a Certificate of Apartment Occupancy program. Specific activities that will be jointly administered by the City of Meriden and LAMPP include the following:

1. **Referral of children with elevated blood lead below 20 µg/dl** – Under state regulation, the Meriden Health Department receives notices of children with elevated blood lead. The Health Department will make site visits to homes of children with elevated blood lead. Health Department staff will inform the family of LAMPP services and available funds to remediate lead hazards in eligible housing. With the family’s consent, Health Department staff will refer income-eligible families to LAMPP.
2. **Response to children with elevated blood lead level of 20 µg/dl or above** – As required by state regulation, the Meriden Health Department will investigate sources of lead poisoning for any child with a blood lead level of 20 µg/dl or higher and inspect the child’s housing for lead hazards. Health Department staff will provide education to the child’s family regarding the impact of lead poisoning and what the family can do to protect the child from future exposure. The Health Department will order the property owner of the child’s housing to submit an abatement plan and to abate identified lead hazards. Health Department staff will inform the property owner of funding available for eligible housing through the LAMPP project, provide a LAMPP preliminary application and refer the property owner to LAMPP.

LAMPP staff will keep the Health Department informed about the application status for properties under orders for abatement and endeavor to reach decisions about property eligibility and acceptance in a time frame consistent

with the abatement order. LAMPP will coordinate its program activity with the Health Department enforcement activity on the property.

3. **Referral of property owners** – Staff of the Health Department will send letters to property owners of housing where a child with elevated blood lead resides and refer the owners to LAMPP. The Health Department will provide LAMPP preliminary applications to property owners and forward the applications to LAMPP.

Neighborhood Preservation Program staff will identify housing units in its housing rehabilitation program that are impacted by lead and refer property owners to LAMPP for possible joint funding of rehabilitation and lead hazard control. Neighborhood Preservation Program staff will provide the LAMPP preliminary application for financial assistance to interested property owners.

Housing code inspectors in the Department of Development and Enforcement will order property owners to stabilize defective paint, noting the need for lead-safe work practices for potentially lead-based paint. Housing code inspectors will identify housing potentially eligible for LAMPP and refer property owners to the Health Department or Neighborhood Preservation Program which will provide LAMPP preliminary applications and refer to LAMPP.

When owners of property in Meriden contact the LAMPP program, LAMPP staff will refer the owners to the Meriden Neighborhood Preservation Program for information about its housing rehabilitation program.

4. **Response to referred children** – LAMPP will provide in-home education to families referred and a visual risk assessment with dust wipes to identify lead hazards in the child's housing unit and common areas of the property. The written assessment report shall be in the form of a scope of work that identifies on a room/area basis each component that is a potential hazard and the actions required to control each hazard. Interim controls and standard treatments are to be specified whenever feasible, with alternatives for more permanent controls identified when preferred (e.g. window replacement). Dust wipe test results will be included. The report will clearly identify hazard control actions for the property owner to undertake or for a contractor to cost the items and submit a bid. LAMPP will provide the assessment report to the family and to the property owner. LAMPP will provide to the property owner education on the impact of lead on children and the property owner's responsibilities and potential liability. LAMPP will encourage the property owner to apply for LAMPP financial assistance for remediation of eligible properties. LAMPP will notify the Meriden Health Department of services provided to the family and any LAMPP application by the property owner.
5. **Response to referred property owners** – LAMPP will provide information about financial and technical assistance available from LAMPP, program requirements and property owner responsibilities. Upon receipt of a LAMPP preliminary application from the property owner, LAMPP will determine eligibility for the property and priority ranking as applicable.

The Meriden Neighborhood Preservation Program will provide information about assistance available under its housing rehabilitation program and determine eligibility of the property for assistance.

6. **Properties accepted and approved by LAMPP** - LAMPP will (a) provide a lead inspection and/or risk assessment for all eligible units and common areas in the property, (b) develop bid specifications for lead hazard reduction, (c) hold a building walk through for pre-qualified potential bidders, (d) accept bids on behalf of the property owner, (e) provide financial assistance through a contract with the property owner averaging around \$6,500.00 per housing unit (higher for units with abatement orders and single family houses), (f) develop and support temporary relocation plans as needed with the property owner and occupants, (g) provide construction supervision, and (h) provide clearance testing of each housing unit when lead hazard remediation activity is complete.

LAMPP will notify the Department of Development and Enforcement of any property approved for LAMPP financial assistance. If a property has identified housing code violations, LAMPP will coordinate code compliance activities and lead hazard control activities with the property owner and may, at the property owner's request, incorporate code compliance activity into the bid specifications for lead hazard control. The property owner must pay the costs for any code compliance work that is not included in lead hazard control activities.

7. **Child blood-lead testing** – The Meriden Health Department will provide blood lead screening for children living in LAMPP assisted housing units who are not tested elsewhere. Blood lead tests will be provided within the six month period preceding lead hazard control activities.
8. **Properties accepted and approved by Meriden Neighborhood Preservation Program** – For housing units designed for or potentially housing families with children under six years of age, the Neighborhood Preservation Program will (a) provide a lead risk assessment, (b) incorporate lead hazard control into rehabilitation plans for the property, (c) insure that all rehabilitation work that disturbs leaded or potentially leaded surfaces is done by workers trained in lead-safe work practices through a HUD approved program, and (d) provide clearance testing of each housing unit in which leaded or potentially leaded surfaces are disturbed. Property owners for such housing units will be referred to LAMPP for consideration of LAMPP financial assistance.
9. **Properties jointly accepted and approved** – LAMPP and the Meriden Neighborhood Preservation Program may jointly fund properties accepted and approved by both programs. The two programs will combine inspections and develop combined specifications for work. Bids based upon the specification for work will separately identify the cost of lead hazard control activities and other rehabilitation activities. LAMPP will provide financial assistance for all lead hazard control activities up to the limit of LAMPP funding. The Neighborhood Preservation Program will provide financial

assistance for remaining lead hazard control and other rehabilitation activities in accordance with its program requirements. Separate LAMPP and Neighborhood Preservation Programs contracts for financial assistance will be executed with the property owner.

10. **Training for construction workers, property owners and housing occupants** – LAMPP will provide HUD-approved 8-hour training in lead-safe work practices for remodeling workers, property owners, maintenance workers, and painters in a location convenient to Meriden. LAMPP will provide additional 2-hour training course(s) in lead-safe work practices for property owners, housing occupants and volunteers in housing rehabilitation programs. Timing and location of the training will be by mutual agreement. All training will free to the participants.

## 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-35 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:

- Identify and prosecute housing code violators
- 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 \$538,000 during Program Year 35 for projects aimed at revitalizing Meriden's inner-city neighborhoods. Projects include: 1) Housing Code Enforcement, 2) Legal Services 3) Loans for Home Rehabilitation and compliance activities, including loans associated with the NSP Program. 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 \$458,000 in CD-35 funds and \$80,000 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:

- Allow for the inspection of approximately 1800 structures
- Enforce Housing Code in 50 legal cases annually
- Provide rehabilitation assistance for up to 15 units of housing under the NSP program

#### *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 prior year CDBG 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.

During the program year, the City will work to allocate \$1,785,000 to acquire, rehabilitate and resell homes to low and moderate income buyers. Prior year CDBG funds and program income received may be used for new NPP Loans associated with the implementation of the NSP program. Specifically, the City will use all of its NSP funds and a projected \$80,000 in 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 5 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-35 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 \$33,373 to the implementation of projects that impact homelessness and relieve the cost burden on special needs populations. The following funding allocations 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-\$8019
- Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis, Inc. Domestic Violence Services providing transitional living and counseling services to 15 individuals annually-\$8019
- Shelter NOW-New Opportunities Inc providing emergency shelter to 50 individuals annually-\$7698
- Women and Family Center-Support, Awareness, Information, and Referral (SAIR) Corps providing counseling services to 142 individuals-\$2887
- Women and Family Center-Project REACH providing counseling services to 140 runaway youth-\$6750

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 \$5301 to provide counseling to at-risk youth in order to alleviate future behavioral and other developmental problems that could lead to chronic homelessness. Connecticut Legal Services, which provides legal assistance to Meriden residents facing homelessness, will receive a grant of \$5000.

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 \$190,297 in CD-35 funds for priority community development needs during CD-35. Funding will be spent on various public services activities and one public facilities project that correspond to an identified need outlined in the Consolidated Plan. Together, the implementation of the 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 1340 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 and Connecticut Legal Services. Project will provide a suitable living environment by making services accessible to needy individuals.
- Provide counseling services to 300 children that are the victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse. Program includes Child Guidance Clinic. Project will provide a suitable living environment by making services accessible to needy individuals.

- Provide 743 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, Chore Service, and St. John Lutheran Christmas in Action. Project will provide a suitable living environment by making services accessible to needy individuals.
- Provide 1907 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, BBBS, QRWA Summer Paddling, YMCA Summer Camperships, Boys and Girls Clubs Summer Camperships, Gallery 53, Hunters EMS Explorers, Augusta Curtis Cultural Center, YMCA Youth Theater and Children's First PLTI. 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 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.
- Provide employment and training services for 10 low income men and women in the Allied Health field including CAN training, Medical Receptionist training, job placement assistance, computer instruction and employment readiness workshops.

### 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-35 funds will support the Circles Campaign, a program that is specifically intended to assist at least 15 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.

#### 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 \$45,391 to non-homeless special needs projects. Projects include: New Opportunities, Inc.-Chore Project for Elders, St. John Lutheran Church and Preschool-Central CT Christmas in Action, Casa Boricua de Meriden, Inc., American Red Cross-Medical Transportation, Kuhn Employment Opportunities, Inc.- Mobile Work Crew.

*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