



CAPER

Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report



2020 Program Year

October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021

Village of Oak Park
Development Customer Services
Neighborhood Services Division
123 Madison Street
Oak Park, Illinois 60302

Village of Oak Park
**CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT
(CAPER) FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2020
October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021**

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First Year CAPER

The Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for program year one (PY 2020) of the Consolidated Plan includes Narrative Responses to CAPER questions that Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) grantees such as the Village of Oak Park must respond to each year in order to be compliant with the Consolidated Planning Regulations. The program year ran from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021.

GENERAL

Introduction

The Village of Oak Park is a thriving community of approximately 54,583 people located immediately west of the city of Chicago in northeastern Illinois. The Village is noted for its diverse population and its architectural heritage, being known particularly as the place with the most Frank Lloyd Wright designated buildings anywhere in the world. Within its 4.5 square miles live one of the region's most diverse mixes of cultures, races, ethnicities, professions, lifestyles, religions, ages and incomes.

The Village operates under the Village Manager form of government. An elected legislative body of a President and six Trustees hire a professional Manager to oversee the day to day administration of government programs and services. The President and Board approve all HUD-funded projects. The Development Customer Services Department is the designated agency administering HUD funds on behalf of the Village. The Village currently receives Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and is a member of the Cook County HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) Consortium. The Village also has a Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program.

The Village's Development Customer Services Department oversees building permits, inspections, code enforcement, business services and licensing, planning, historic preservation, zoning, housing, parking and the aforementioned federal grants. This management structure is designed to streamline Village Hall processes and enhance customer service to deliver quicker response times and a speedy resolution of issues that can affect a property improvement project or investment opportunity.

The Development Customer Services Department – particularly its Neighborhood Services Division – consults with a number of agencies throughout the year. Continuum of Care members, community representatives, subrecipients, and public service agencies provide input into the department's plans for HUD funding in on-going consultations and collaborations.

Goals & Accomplishments

1. PY 2020 Goals and Accomplishments

Table A below provides information on PY 2020 Oak Park CDBG activities and includes goal accomplishment totals and notes.

Table A: PY 2020 Consolidated Plan/Action Plan Goal Descriptions – Summary of Accomplishments Table

1	Goal Name	Public Services	Goal	Actual	Notes
	Goal Description	Expanding the availability of and increasing access to needed services is a key goal. Services include, but are not limited to, mental health services, fair housing, and emergency food provision and nutrition services. The Village also determined as highest priority to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19, as well as to facilitate assistance to eligible persons economically impacted by COVID-19.	19,005 persons	27,534 persons	Goal exceeded by 31%
2	Goal Name	Public Infrastructure			
	Goal Description	Creating livable communities through improvements to public infrastructure. Maintaining and improving the quality of Oak Park's existing infrastructure is instrumental to ensuring that residents live in a safe, clean, and decent environment.	2,350 persons	2,332 persons	Goal at 99%
3	Goal Name	Homelessness			
	Goal Description	Oak Park aims to support services to prevent homelessness and to assist those currently experiencing homelessness. These services include, but are not limited to, homelessness prevention, emergency shelter, rapid re-housing, street outreach and HMIS.	Facilitate assistance to persons impacted by homelessness	232 persons	Facilitated by Housing Forward
4	Goal Name	Affordable Housing			
	Goal Description	The Village of Oak Park aims to maintain, and improve affordable housing, both renter-occupied and owner-occupied. The highest priorities were the Small Rental Rehab Program, the Single Family Rehab Loan Program, and code enforcement. The Small Rental Rehabilitation Program increases affordability for renters in multi-family buildings having 7 or fewer units, and the Single Family Rehabilitation Loan Program provides zero percent loans deferred for 20 years for low and moderate income homeowners. Code enforcement enhances the health and safety of Oak Park's population by inspecting the local housing stock and ensuring that it is in good condition.	Rehab 8 housing units	1 housing unit	See housing section for comments.
5	Goal Name	Public Facilities			
	Goal Description	Maintaining and improving the quality of Oak Park's exiting public facilities is instrumental to ensuring that residents have access to safe and accessible facilities.	17 persons	29 persons	Goal exceeded by 41%
6	Goal Name	Economic Development			
	Goal Description	Economic development will promote the vitality of Oak Park's economy in depressed areas of the community. Fostering growth in these areas will, in turn, provide greater opportunities for the Village's low and moderate-income residents. The Oak Park Section 108 Loan Program is a business loan fund focused on the expansion of businesses.	Facilitate loans to eligible businesses supporting a National Objective	0 applicants	See housing section for comments.
7	Goal Name	Administration and Planning			
	Goal Description	Administration of the CDBG Program by Village staff, homelessness assistance administration and planning, and fair housing administration.	Does not report	N/A	N/A

2. Affordable Housing Summary

Single Family Housing Rehab (SFR) Program/Lead Hazard Reduction

In PY 2020, there were 2 SFR activities completed (Rehab and Lead Reduction) within 1 household. The household assisted was a moderate-income household.

Funds spent/loaned - \$24,450 in Revolving Loan funds

Grant Funds spent - \$9,500 for lead based paint hazard reduction

Housing goals were not met in PY 2020. The Village of Oak Park's PY2020 Action Plan goal was to rehab 8 housing units, however, only 1 housing unit rehab was completed, utilizing 2 CDBG funded programs; SFR Rehab and Lead Reduction. This is attributed to delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic (lack of contractor availability after the shut-down was lifted) and staff shortages resulting in a lack of the program's marketing implementation. There are 5 active participants that will carry over into PY2021.

3. Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing:

In 2010, the Village of Oak Park approved a newly conducted Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing study for Oak Park. Oak Park is a leader in fair housing and diversity as evidenced by historic programs that were enacted in the 1970s to promote racial and economic integration. The following are observations to consider, based on current data, to eliminate any new potential impediments to fair housing in Oak Park:

Minority households and other members of the protected classes have difficulty securing affordable housing in Oak Park; there is an inadequate supply of handicapped accessible housing in Oak Park; members of the protected classes are under-represented on appointed citizen boards and commissions; affordable housing developers don't have access to local HOME Program funds; any prospective developer of new single-room occupancy (SRO) units would require a parking variance for their project, resulting in the need for a public hearing; more than half of the housing complaints filed in Oak Park involved rental transactions; only one of the seven Oak Park CTA transit stations is handicapped-accessible; rental real estate advertisements in local newspapers that prohibit or limit pets may discourage persons with service animals from considering these units; and mortgage loan denials and high-cost lending disproportionately affect minority applicants.

In response to the findings above, Oak Park organized and is carrying out an Action Plan to best address the concerns. The actions that are being undertaken are found in the Analysis of Impediments document. These actions are being carried out through an in-house staff Fair Housing Action Plan Initiative Problem Statement, which identifies potential problems, action items, staff involved in the steps to resolution, and timelines for carrying out the action items.

In addition to the above suggestions, Oak Park continues ongoing actions to encourage fair housing. One specific component of Oak Park's fair housing and diversity efforts involves investigation, which is the monitoring and enforcement mechanism for the provision of the Fair Housing Ordinance and diversity policy of the Village. The Oak Park Community Relations Department conducts thorough investigations into charges of racial discrimination brought by persons seeking housing in Oak Park. Conciliation meetings are conducted when necessary and records are maintained of all case files. If complaints are received, rental market-housing tests are initiated by the Village to ascertain that the Fair Housing Ordinance is being followed.

In January 2013, the Village hired HOPE Fair Housing as a fair housing testing coordinator. HOPE Fair Housing previously had conducted hundreds of rental, sales, insurance and mortgage lending tests. Over the summer and fall of 2013, HOPE Fair Housing conducted several paired tests. The testing results showed evidence of discrimination based on race and disability. Additionally, while not specifically tested for, it was believed that there was discrimination based on familial status and age. Oak Park has long embraced a philosophy of acceptance of all. This testing identifies multiple cases where prospective renters were treated differently by race or disability, which may suggest that the philosophies embraced by Oak Park's leadership for decades may not have reached down as deep into some levels of the community as had always been assumed. One issue with one landlord later was rationalized as being an equipment issue, which showed the management company was not overtly discriminatory.

HOPE recommended an extensive fair housing training program for building owners and managers, future testing after the training, promotion of the Community Relations Commission and complaint process, and utilization of customer service reporting for building owners so that they can ensure agents are treating renters equally. Additionally, HOPE has utilized the Community Relations Commission complaint process to specifically address the reasonable accommodation testing results. In response, the Village created the Fair Housing Task Force, comprised of community members and leaders. The task force focused on improvement in three key areas: enforcement of existing laws and ordinances, community education, and oversight for housing-related agencies in Oak Park. The Village feels that it is making an excellent effort to encourage compliance with Fair Housing laws by funding the Oak Park Regional Housing Center at a high level each year. In PY 2020, this agency received \$154,174 in CDBG funds, and even more funding from Village units besides CDBG Programs.

Educational programs also were conducted. These programs focused on community relations and diversity for Realtors, educators, school staff, building owners, building managers, Village staff and representatives from community groups. Specific neighborhood problems were addressed and block conflicts facilitated.

Oak Park Regional Housing Center's Fair Housing Outreach and Administration Program

For PY 2020, the Oak Park Regional Housing Center (Housing Center) received \$154,174 in CDBG administration and public service funds to partner as the Village's Fair Housing Program provider. This program promoted long-term racial diversity in Oak Park's rental housing market through counseling, outreach, and affirmative marketing. During PY 2020, the Housing Center assisted 4486 persons.

The Housing Center was established in 1972 for the purpose of promoting Oak Park as a community that welcomes integration and to act as a placement agent for renter households seeking non-traditional moves. Since its founding, it has encouraged home seekers to make pro-integrative moves, to eliminate discrimination, and to promote open housing opportunities in previously segregated communities in the region.

Oak Park Residence Corporation

The Oak Park Residence Corporation was founded in 1966 in cooperation with the Oak Park Housing Authority, the Village of Oak Park, and the State Housing Board. The 1973 Village of Oak Park Housing Task Force recommended that the Oak Park Residence Corporation change its focus to buying and rehabilitating multi-family buildings. In 1975, the Oak Park Residence Corporation began purchasing multi-family buildings.

The Oak Park Residence Corporation continued to collaborate with the Village and the Housing Center to promote fair housing initiatives in Oak Park, and its management practices are in keeping with the Village's policy of upgrading housing stock and promoting racial diversity. By investing in the purchase, rehabilitation and management of large rental buildings, the Oak Park Residence Corporation has helped preserve the quality of housing in the Village.

4. Other Actions in Strategic Plan or Action Plan taken to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs.

The primary obstacle in the past to meeting the needs of underserved persons was the lack of a focused effort to identify and support the greatest needs in Oak Park. This was addressed through the Village's Consolidated (Con) Plan development process, which occurs every five years, the most recent being in 2019 for the 2020-2024 Con Plan (and the PY 2020 Action Plan). The Con Plan was the primary vehicle to serve low to moderate income persons in the Village of Oak Park. This Con Plan provided a strategy to determine the priority needs in the Village, to distribute federal funding to the areas of most need, and to affect the persons with the most need in the community. The 2020 program year was the first year of the 2020-2024 Con Plan. For PY 2020 these chosen Priorities provided direction for the distribution of Federal funds to best meet the needs of the underserved in the community. The Priorities reflect the perceived needs in Oak Park, as determined through the participatory process, data and studies, survey results, and expertise of the participating agents.

Another obstacle in meeting the needs of underserved persons is the lack of funding for services provided to lower income persons, which was addressed by the Village's choice to distribute a relatively large amount of its CDBG allocation to local non-profit subrecipients. In the 2020 Program Year, an allocation of \$249,911 from the CDBG Program funded 15 public service activities administered by various not-for-profit service providers and one Village department. (In addition, the Village allocated \$90,438 in CDBG Administration funds to the Oak Park Regional Housing Center). These projects ended up supporting the growth and well-being of teenage and young-adult parents; assisting troubled parents; helping persons with physical, mental and developmental disabilities and their caregivers; assisting survivors of domestic violence; feeding the hungry; improving nutrition of low-income persons; increasing housing counseling and fair housing services; expanding homeless assistance, including job readiness; providing case management to persons living in low-income housing; assisting seniors; and providing dental care for low-income youth.

In addition, an allocation of \$38,740 from the CDBG Program funded a facility improvement activity administered by 2 not-for-profit service providers to improve two group homes.

In PY 2020, there were Single-Family Rehabilitation Program activities and Lead Hazard Reduction activities that were funded through CDBG, all of which improved Oak Park housing stock inhabited by low to moderate income persons and met the needs of underserved persons.

Close to one hundred percent of the Village's CDBG award was focused on support to low- and moderate-income persons. As funding to the CDBG program has been reduced by Congress over the past several years, the Village and the non-profits faced the largest obstacle to meeting underserved needs, which is the removal of the federal financial support previously relied on.

Finally, to facilitate better community awareness about what programs and services are available to underserved persons within the community, the Village posted important information on the Federal Grants page of its website, and advertised the availability of the PY

2020 grant applications in a local newspaper, as well as sending this information to all persons on the community development mailing list.

5. Leveraging Resources

Oak Park leverages its formula grant funds with a number of other local, state, federal and private resources. Each CDBG subrecipient reports the amount of other funding leveraged for the activity undertaken. Oak Park also requires proportional matching funds to cover services provided to other communities' beneficiaries when subrecipients provide regional services.

In PY 2020, the Village did not receive Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program funds. The ESG program provides funding to: (1) engage homeless individuals and families living on the street; (2) improve the number and quality of emergency shelters for homeless individuals and families; (3) help operate these shelters; (4) provide essential services to shelter residents, (5) rapidly rehouse homeless individuals and families, and (6) prevent families/individuals from becoming homeless.

Managing the Process

Actions taken during the last year to ensure compliance with program and comprehensive planning requirements

Ensuring compliance with program and planning requirements is an ongoing activity for the Village of Oak Park. The Village made every attempt to follow HUD rules and regulations while administering the CDBG Program. HUD performed their annual financial timeliness test on all CDBG Grantees in late August 2021 and at that time, the Village did not meet the requirements for Program Year 2020. HUD determined that many local governments were continuing to operate under the extenuating circumstances caused by coronavirus, and suspended, effective January 21, 2020, all corrective actions, sanctions, and informal consultations for timeliness for fiscal year 2021. By September 24, 2021, this was resolved for the Village of Oak Park as the timeliness requirement was met.

The Village continued its Subrecipient monitoring efforts in PY 2020 by checking all CDBG Subrecipients for compliance with HUD rules, regulations and timeliness of expenditures requirements. Compliance was checked through examination of submittals of requested documentation including billing and required reports, and also by considering Village-Subrecipient communication and meetings throughout the program year. The HUD-recommended risk assessment approach to monitoring was used by the Village. Each Subrecipient submitted quarterly reports describing activities of the previous quarter, as well as a final annual report (if the project was completed at program year's end), which summarized all the accomplishments and progress for that year. The reports were required in order to draw funds down.

The monitoring standards and procedures used by the Village of Oak Park followed the standards and procedures as set forth in HUD monitoring handbooks, guidelines, and technical assistance publications

Citizen Participation

The PY 2020 Action Plan and the PY2020 CAPER

The development of the Village of Oak Park 2020 Action Plan began on April 8, 2020 when a

Notice of Federal Funding Availability was published in the *Wednesday Journal* newspaper. In addition, all agency representatives on the Housing & CDBG Programs mailing list were sent a Notice with all of the details. After soliciting applications, the Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee (CDCAC) held a series of hearings and conducted an in-depth review of each application. A Notice of meetings was published in the *Wednesday Journal* newspaper. On May 13, 2020, the first of five public meetings was held by the CDCAC. Then, four more public meetings were held: April 7, April 14, April 22, and April 28, 2020 (public hearing).

The Village of Oak Park CDCAC reviewed proposals, heard applicant presentations and made funding recommendations to the President and Board of Trustees for a portion of the Village's PY 2020 CDBG entitlement. All of these recommendations were accepted. The Village Board then released the draft PY 2020 Annual Action Plan (& Draft Con Plan) on June 15, 2020 for a 30-day public comment period that began June 18, 2020. The Notice of Document Availability for the draft PY 2020 Action Plan (& Draft Con Plan) was published in the *Wednesday Journal* on June 17, 2020 and was advertised on the Village website, with the 30-day comment period running from June 18, 2020 to the close of business on July 17, 2020. No comments from the public were received during this period, and the Village of Oak Park Board of Trustees approved the allocation of funds as recommended on July 20, 2020.

On March 3, 2021, notice was given of a proposed substantial amendment to the Program Year 2020 Action Plan for a revised scope of work for the Housing Forward CDBG Emergency Shelter project, funded at \$30,000. A legal ad was placed in the *Wednesday Journal* newspaper. The proposed substantial amendment was available for public review and comment March 4, 2021 to 5 p.m. April 2, 2021. No comments were received.

To obtain citizen comments on the draft PY 2020 CAPER, the Village published a legal notice in the November 17, 2021 issue of the *Wednesday Journal* stating that the Village was making this document available for public review and comment. The draft CAPER was made available to the public for comments for fifteen days, from November 18, 2021 through December 2, 2021, and no comments were received.

Furthering Consolidated Plan Objectives

The amount of PY2020 Federal funds available was \$1,666,079 in CDBG, (plus \$461,787 in returned funds) all used in accordance with Action Plan objectives.

Geographic Distribution and Location of Expenditures

Geographic Distribution

Priority CDBG funding areas in the Village of Oak Park include areas where the percentage of low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons is 36.29% or higher. While the general rule is that an area benefit activity must serve an area where the concentration of LMI persons is at least 51% of the total population within the geographical boundary, Section 570.208(a)(ii) of the HUD regulations allows the "exception criteria," also referred to as the "upper quartile."

A grantee qualifies for this exception when less than one quarter of the populated block groups in its jurisdictions contain 51 percent or more LMI persons. HUD assesses the grantee's census block groups to determine whether a grantee qualifies to use this exception and identifies the alternative percentage the grantee may use instead of 51 percent for the purpose of qualifying activities under the LMI Benefit Area category. HUD uses the following steps in computing the upper quartile for a given community:

- Identifies the total number of block groups in the grantee’s jurisdiction;
- Subtracts the block groups with zero persons to determine the net number of block groups in the jurisdiction;
- Arranges the remaining block groups in descending order, based on LMI residents in the block group;
- Computes the last block group in the upper quartile by multiplying the net number of block groups by 25 percent; and
- Applies the “exception criteria” if the percentage of LMI persons in the last census block group in the top quartile is less than 51 percent.

HUD determines the lowest proportion a grantee may use to qualify an area for this purpose and advises the grantee accordingly. Oak Park, as an exception jurisdiction, has been allowed 36.29%.

These areas also include areas of racial and ethnic concentration where the percentage of a specific racial or ethnic group is at least 10 percentage points higher than the Village’s rate overall. The following narrative describes the characteristics of these areas.

Low and Moderate Income Areas

The following table presents information regarding low and moderate income (LMI) persons in Oak Park. LMI persons, as determined by HUD, have incomes at or below 80% of the median family income (MFI). In fairly recent estimates, HUD determined that there were 13,580 LMI persons in Oak Park, equivalent to 26.34% of the population for whom this rate is determined.

HUD defines an LMI census block group in the Village of Oak Park as one in which 36.29% or more of the population have incomes of 80% or less of MFI. According to these criteria, 14 of the Village’s 53 census block groups qualify as LMI areas.

Table B: LMI Census Block Groups

Census Tract	Block Group	Number of LMI Persons	Universe of LMI	Percent of LMI Persons
8121	1	385	1000	38.50
8123.01	2	655	1805	36.29
8125	1	550	1145	48.03
8125	2	375	720	52.08
8125	3	380	785	48.41
8126	2	450	865	52.02
8126	3	470	1035	45.41
8128.01	1	1005	1935	51.94
8128.01	2	405	985	41.12
8128.02	3	520	1160	44.83

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8130	1	300	680	44.12
8131	1	495	1000	49.50
8131	4	370	805	45.96
8132	4	330	845	39.05

Source: HUD

UCP Seguin is an agency with a proposed Public Facilities Improvements project at one Oak Park sites that is in a LMI area – census tract 8125, block group 1.

Concentrations of LMI Persons and Minority Persons

Eight Oak Park census tracts contained block groups identified as LMI areas. 2 of these LMI block groups were also areas of racial concentration. These areas were census tracts 8121 and 8125.

1 UCP Seguin Facility Improvement activity location was in areas of racial concentration that were also LMI areas. One group home was in census tract 8125, block group 1.

The above narrative covered LMA CDBG activities. With regard to LMC CDBG activities, many clients served live in locations that were in areas of racial concentration and/or were LMI areas.

Institutional Structure

Actions taken during the last year to overcome gaps in institutional structures and enhance coordination

There exist some gaps in the Oak Park institutional structure. However, the coordination of local partnerships and networks has enabled the Village of Oak Park to overcome such gaps. Village staff works throughout the year to increase institutional structure, both within the Village and with our partner agencies. Staff maintains contact with partner agencies throughout the year, offering referrals for funding and training opportunities where appropriate. Staff also attends relevant training and conferences, where available, on all aspects of grant and project management.

The Village government landscape is shared with Oak Park Township, the local Elementary/Middle School (District 97) and High School (District 200) Districts, the Park District of Oak Park, the Oak Park Library District, the Oak Park Housing Authority and the Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township. These governmental units met monthly to coordinate their plans and programs. While the Village delivered many services itself, the Village also contracted with the non-profit sector to deliver services.

The Village participated in Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County (Continuum of Care lead agency) meetings throughout the program year. The Village also collaborated with neighboring municipalities in several efforts. Along with the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation, the Village continued to convene a group of area funders in order to better coordinate services to non-profits and to increase the impact of west Cook County grants funding efforts.

The Village participated in (and helped fund a plan for) the Oak Park Homelessness Coalition, a local body with the purpose of helping persons experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness. Participants include persons from local non-profits, Oak Park Township, Oak Park Housing

Authority, Oak Park Residence Corporation, the Oak Park Public Library, the Park District of Oak Park and the local school districts.

Many of the Village's largest contract service providers, or "community partners," received funding from a variety of sources. For example, the Oak Park Regional Housing Center received federal CDBG grant funds, local Village funds, and support from members and other agencies.

The Village has also identified new and innovative ways to increase the affordable housing stock by becoming a member of the Cook County HOME Consortium.

Strong links were maintained with the private sector through the Village's liaison membership on the Board of Directors of the Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Oak Park Special Service Area, the Business District Area Liaison Council, the Oak Park Area Visitors Bureau and individual business districts. To address the need for a more vibrant economy, in PY 2020 the Village continued to make economic development a main priority by marketing the Section 108 program during the 2020 program year.

Finally, as part of the PY 2020 budget process, the Village Board (the governing body) received input from the Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee (CDCAC) on the allocation of CDBG Funds. The yearly Village budget process was used by elected officials and staff to coordinate and allocate funding for community programs and services.

Thus, the Village of Oak Park maintains that the network of agencies, organizations, programs, resources and activities operating within the Village have shown the existence of comprehensive efforts to meet the needs of Oak Park residents. Between all the efforts of the existing providers within the Village, there appear to be few gaps in the service delivery toward the realization of the priorities, goals, and objectives outlined in the Consolidated Plan and, particularly, in the PY 2020 Action Plan.

Monitoring

Method and Frequency of Oak Park's Monitoring Efforts

The Village continued its Subrecipient monitoring efforts in PY 2020 by checking all CDBG Subrecipients for compliance with HUD rules, regulations and timeliness of expenditure requirements. Compliance was checked through examination of submittals of requested documentation including billing and required reports, and also by considering Village-Subrecipient communication and meetings throughout the program year. The HUD-recommended risk assessment approach to monitoring was used by the Village. Each Subrecipient submitted quarterly reports describing activities of the previous quarter, as well as a final annual report (if the project was completed at program year's end), which summarized all the accomplishments and progress for that year. The reports were required in order to draw funds down.

The monitoring standards and procedures used by the Village of Oak Park followed the standards and procedures as set forth in HUD monitoring handbooks, guidelines, and technical assistance publications.

Self-Evaluation

The PY 2020 CDBG activities supported through HUD funding consistently met or exceeded annual goals, except for two:

1-Public Infrastructure: Some Public Infrastructure activities cover more than one program year and have not been closed out yet, leading to fewer than anticipated accomplishments for the PY2020. 2-Affordable Housing: Delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and staff shortages result in a lack of the program's marketing implementation. Although the COVID-19 pandemic continued hindering the Village and Subrecipients in the effort to meet goals anticipated for Program Year (PY) 2020, the PY2019-allocated CDBG-CV funding helped make The Village's PY2020 accomplishments more attainable despite uncontrollable circumstances. All remaining PY2020 Goals have been exceeded.

Overall, the Village of Oak Park continues to move reliably toward meeting the community's vision by providing almost all the services that were identified as crucial to this population, with the goal of meeting the need foremost in the Village's plans. The ability of Oak Park to provide decent housing, a suitable living environment and economic opportunity to Oak Parkers is illustrated in detail in this CAPER.

Indicators of success include reports such as those from Thrive Counseling Center, an organization that provides psychiatric services to low-to-moderate income persons. The reports of success illustrate positive outcomes in accordance with the goal of the services, with the following PY 2020 Thrive Counseling Center CDBG indicators pointing to success:

"Thrive provided Psychiatric Services to 248 unduplicated persons, 88 of whom were Oak Park residents. These figures are unduplicated during the full funding period. All clients in the project are categorized within the extremely low, low- and moderate-income persons served. With regard to Integrated Assessment Treatment Planning (IATP) completion, our Oak Park clients completed 409 sessions with a completion rate of 84%. When reviewing data on medication management sessions, the rate is 92%. Such reports show that the programs are working to alleviate the difficulties that clients face in their particular life situations, through the support of CDBG funding".

Oak Park may have had a few barriers to success, including the cost of living in Oak Park, the still-recovering economy, and the reduction of State and donated funding for the non-profit service organizations, but overall the Village nearly fulfilled all of its projected goals, with several PY 2020 subrecipients even greatly surpassing their stated goals.

Lead-based Paint*Actions taken during the last year to evaluate and reduce lead-based paint hazards*

Lead based paint is an extremely serious hazard that can negatively affect the central nervous system in children less than six years of age. In addition to children getting lead-poisoned by eating paint chips, persons of any age can get lead poisoning from ingesting or inhaling lead dust created when paint is deteriorating, or when it is removed or disturbed.

Lead is a highly toxic substance that was banned for use in paint in 1978. Not only does the existence of lead-based paint create public health risks, it also increases the cost of rehabilitating older homes.

The housing stock in Oak Park consists primarily of homes built before 1978. Approximately 95 percent of the existing 23,723 housing units were constructed in eras when using lead-based paint was the norm. This suggests that most of the homes and apartment buildings that have not been recently renovated, or have not been built in the last 36 years, contain some lead-based paint.

Since the new lead-based paint regulations were implemented by HUD, the Village has stepped up its lead awareness, prevention and abatement efforts. During PY 2020, the Village continued to reduce lead-based paint hazards in Oak Park homes and assist those exposed to the hazard. The following are activities that the Village conducted to evaluate and reduce lead paint hazards.

VOP Housing & CDBG Programs Department

There was one Single-Family Rehabilitation (SFR) Program activity that performed interim controls for lead-based paint hazards in PY 2020 with the use of CDBG funds. One additional activity during PY 2020 was completed and fully covered through a Cook County lead abatement grant to assist low income families who are at risk of elevated blood levels; the rehab activity funded by CDBG through our SFR housing rehab program is still in process. These activities benefited moderate-income households.

VOP Public Health Department

The Village of Oak Park Department of Public Health is committed to eliminating elevated levels of lead in children in Oak Park. The Village has an agreement with the Illinois Department of Public Health to provide case management services for all children that live within the boundaries of the Village. The Health Department is considered the State's "delegate agency" for childhood lead. The Health Department participates in public awareness and education campaigns, provides nursing lead case management and will conduct environmental investigations, when required, under the Illinois Lead Poisoning Prevention Act and the Illinois Lead Poisoning Prevention Code.

Because of the age of the Village's housing stock, all of Oak Park's ZIP codes are defined as high risk for pediatric blood lead poisoning. As a result, every physician licensed to practice medicine is required to provide annual testing of children from 6 months of age through 6 years of age. In addition, childcare facilities must require that all parents or guardians of a child 6 months through 6 years of age provide a statement from a physician or health care provider as proof that a blood test occurred prior to admission. Physicians are required to submit lead sampling results to the Illinois Department of Public Health, where the sampling data is then entered into a data surveillance system called *HLPPS*. The Health Department's Nursing Division is responsible for reviewing incoming blood lead sample test results using the *HLPPS* data management system. Nursing staff review incoming lead results to determine whether nursing case management is required and/or whether a childhood lead case should be referred to the Environmental Health Division for an environmental investigation of the child's dwelling.

The Health Department is responsible for managing and maintaining *HLPPS*. In PY 2020, the Health Department will manage childhood blood lead test results through *HLPPS*.

Nursing Case Management – Case management of children begins at 10 µg/dl on all children younger than 84 months of age. Children with a lead level at or above 10 µg/dl are at risk of decreased IQ, behavior problems, poor grades in school and growth delays. The case manager is responsible for contacting the parent and providing case management, including:

- Interviewing the parent or guardian regarding the child’s behavior, habits and general health;
- Emphasizing the importance of follow-up lead screening to make sure levels do not increase;
- Providing the parent with educational brochures from the “Get the Lead Out” series;
- Referring all cases for a developmental screening;
- Routine case follow-up until the child’s lead levels reach a safe level; and
- Referring the case to the Health Department’s Environmental Health Division for environmental investigation/assessment.

Environmental Investigation/Assessment: An environmental investigation is conducted under the following circumstances:

- A child under the age of 3 with a confirmed lead blood lead level of 10 µg/dl or above.
- A child over 3 to 6 years with a confirmed blood lead level of 20 µg/dl or above.
- A child over 3 to 6 years with three confirmed successive blood lead levels of 15-19 µg/dl.

Environmental investigations are conducted by one or more of the Health Department’s Licensed Lead Assessors. Dwelling investigations are conducted in accordance with the Illinois Lead Poisoning Prevention Code and the Lead Poisoning Prevention Act. Each investigation includes a visual assessment, a dwelling diagram, an interview of the parent and, if applicable, collecting dust and/or wipe samples to determine if any lead hazards exist. The results of the investigation are shared with the parent and the property owner. If lead hazards are found, the property owner is required to submit a plan to mitigate and/or abate all lead hazards. Case follow-up is conducted to determine compliance with State laws. Cases will be closed if the lead hazards are mitigated or abated. If lead hazards are not mitigated or abated within specific time frames, the case will be referred to the Illinois Attorney General and/or the Cook County State’s Attorney for prosecution.

HOUSING

Housing Needs

Actions taken during the last year to foster and maintain affordable housing

In PY 2020, the Village allocated CDBG dollars to the Housing Programs unit of Oak Park government to support the Lead Hazard Reduction Program, the Single-Family Rehabilitation Program, and the Small Rental Rehabilitation Program. It is the Village's policy to fund these housing programs each program year. The Village also funded CDBG subrecipients that eliminated barriers to affordable housing.

The Village also identified new and innovative ways to increase the affordable housing stock by making the move to become a member of the Cook County HOME Consortium. PY 2020 was the 2nd official year of this partnership.

In cooperation with the Village, the West Cook Homeownership Center partnered with the Oak Park Regional Housing Center to conduct 24 First Time Homebuyer Seminars that included 18 persons. The seminars were widely promoted, however, the agency reported that participation was lower than typical and attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recognizing that property taxes can increase the cost of housing and affect the Village's ability to provide affordable housing, the Village continued to promote new commercial development to ease the reliance on property taxes.

The Village also encouraged developers to build affordable housing units in new housing developments within the Village.

Specific Housing Objectives

1. Evaluate progress in providing affordable housing

Housing goals were not met in PY 2020. The Village of Oak Park's PY2020 Action Plan goal was to rehab 8 housing units, however, only 1 Housing Unit rehab was completed, utilizing 2 CDBG funded programs; SFR Rehab and Lead Reduction. This is attributed to delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic (lack of contractor availability after the shut-down was lifted) and staff shortages resulting in a lack of the program's marketing implementation.

- 1 Housing Unit rehab was completed, utilizing 2 CDBG funded programs; SFR Rehab and Lead Reduction. There are 5 active participants that will carry over into PY2021. Funding to homeowners was provided through loans and some grants (for interim control of lead paint hazards) to eligible low/moderate income single-family homeowners to correct code violations and other housing deficiencies. Repaid loan funds will continue to fund the Single-Family Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Fund account. These projects are also described in the specific accomplishment sections of this CAPER.
- PY 2020 was the tenth year of operation of the Village's Small Rental Property Rehabilitation program, a CDBG-funded rehab loan program for income-eligible buildings under eight units. In the Small Rental Housing Program, no beneficiaries were served.

2. Efforts to address "worst-case" housing needs and housing needs of persons with disabilities.

In order to serve persons who live in seriously substandard housing, the Village funded the Housing Forward Emergency Shelter CDBG activity, which provided basic shelter to 232 homeless persons in PY 2020. This activity also provided food, case management, mental health services and referral services to homeless persons, which gave clients the ability to get out of seriously substandard housing for the long term. The Village also funded the Housing Forward Employment Readiness CDBG activity, which gave homeless persons the skills that can help them land a job. A total of 28 persons became employed due to this project, with a grand total of 75 persons being assisted. Combined, the two projects assisted 575 persons in PY 2020.

In order to meet the needs of persons with disabilities and improve accessibility, United Cerebral Palsy-Seguin (UCP-Seguin) spent \$32,000 in CDBG funds to serve 2 adults with developmental disabilities at one Oak Park Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA) group home.

In PY 2020, Sarah's Inn used CDBG funds to help employ a domestic violence advocate and counselor to ensure that information, referrals, support and crisis intervention were immediately available to battered spouses and their children. A total of 1,215 victims of domestic violence were served in PY 2020 (460 Oak Park persons).

Public Housing Strategy

Actions taken during the last program year to improve public housing and resident initiatives

The Oak Park Housing Authority (OPHA) is an Illinois municipal corporation established in 1946 to provide very-low income households and families of all ages, races and backgrounds with affordable, safe, and sanitary housing while complying with HUD Federal Regulations and working within the Village of Oak Park's housing values, policies and standards.

OPHA is governed by a seven-member board of commissioners appointed by the Village President. The commissioners all must be residents of Oak Park. The commissioners have sole authority over policy and finances and operate the Authority within the legal framework created by Congress and the governing regulations formulated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

An executive director and staff manage the operations of OPHA, which shares some management and financial staff with the not for profit Oak Park Residence Corporation (the Residence Corporation manages the 74-unit The Oaks Building and the 21-unit Ryan Farrelly Apartments). Under 24 CFR 903, OPHA is considered a small public housing agency due to the fact that it owns less than 250 public housing units.

During PY 2020, OPHA continued the ongoing operation and maintenance of the 198-unit Mills Park Tower and the ongoing administration of the Federal Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program. The Federally funded HCV program provided rent subsidies that enabled income-qualified participants to lease privately-owned rental housing.

OPHA managed the 198 one-bedroom units in Mills Park Tower, a residence building comprised of 188 elderly persons and 10 persons with disabilities. The units are in good condition, and OPHA does not expect any units to be lost from the inventory. Mills Park Tower's recently-remodeled ground floor contains laundry facilities, a community room and a library. Atrium Healthcare, a licensed home care provider, staffs a Wellness Center with a nurse to provide services to those residents who qualify. The results from the Section 504 Needs Assessment of Mills Park Tower determined that the building is accessible.

Barriers to Affordable Housing

Actions taken during PY 2020 to eliminate barriers to affordable housing

Oak Park's comparatively higher real estate costs and property taxes continue to create economic barriers to low-and-moderate-income persons coming into Oak Park, especially for single households and persons with special needs. In PY 2020, the Village funded CDBG subrecipients that eliminated barriers to affordable housing.

Moreover, the Village has also identified new and innovative ways to increase the affordable housing stock by making the move to become a member of the Cook County HOME Consortium. PY 2020 was the first official year of this partnership.

A survey of six other municipalities with CDBG single family rehabilitation programs was conducted; Berwyn, DeKalb, Elgin, Hoffman Estates, Mt. Prospect and Waukegan. The purpose of the survey was to gauge how Oak Park compares to other communities and to determine how these communities market their program. The positive take-aways from the other communities are the referrals from a weatherization (energy) program (Elgin) and

referrals from local contractors (Waukegan). These are two areas that were unexplored in Oak Park. The energy program is just gaining traction and could be useful in referrals to the SFR program. Using local contractors as a source of referral is an untapped resource worthy of exploring.

Lastly, The SFR and SRP programs have an added energy component grant that is in process of being publicized. The add-on grant provides an increased benefit to using the programs.

Homeless

Homeless Needs

Overall actions taken to address the needs of homeless persons

The Village funded the Housing Forward Emergency Shelter/Interim Housing activity, which provided temporary shelter to 192 homeless persons in PY 2020. This activity also provided food, case management, mental health services and referral services to homeless persons. The Village also funded the Housing Forward Employment Readiness CDBG activity, which provided homeless persons with learning skills to gain employment. A total of 28 persons became employed due to this project, with a total of 40 persons being assisted. Combined, the two projects assisted 232 persons in PY 2020.

Actions to help homeless persons make the transition to permanent housing and independent living

During PY 2020, The village funded Housing Forward Emergency Shelter/Interim Housing activity also used CDBG funds to help homeless persons make the transition to permanent housing and independent living. By working closely with supportive Housing Programs, and the agency's partnership with the Housing Authority of Oak Park, 84 clients were transitioned to permanent housing.

Specific Homeless Prevention Elements

Actions taken to prevent homelessness

The Village funded the Housing Forward Emergency Shelter CDBG activity, which provided basic shelter to 192 homeless persons in PY 2020. This activity also provided food, case management, mental health services and referral services to homeless persons, which gave clients the ability to get out of seriously substandard housing for the long term. The Village also funded the Housing Forward Employment Readiness CDBG activity, which gave homeless persons the skills that can help them land a job. A total of 28 persons became employed due to this project, with a total of 40 persons being assisted. Combined, the two projects assisted 232 persons in PY 2020

Continuum of Care Discharge Planning: Foster Care

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) provides housing to youth in DCFS care through many programs until the youth's 21st birthday. These programs include traditional foster care placement and transitional living programs. DCFS also helps youth live on their own or with others by creating a placement contract. DCFS offers a number of programs to support youth in employment, college, vocational training. DCFS also prepares the youth to transition to adulthood through life skills and financial literacy classes. DCFS'

Youth Housing Assistance Program (YHAP) provides housing advocacy and cash assistance to young people ages 18 to 21. Cash assistance includes assistance with security deposit, rent and utility arrears and furniture. Youth who have a closed case and are not yet 21 can also receive a rental subsidy up to \$500 per month. Youth receiving a Family Unification Program or Fostering Youth to Independence housing choice voucher can receive YHAP services until they turn 23. Youth enrolled in DCFS' Youth in College program prior to their 21st birthday can continue to receive a monthly payment until their 23rd birthday.

Pandemic Programs

During the pandemic, DCFS increased services to provide YHAP to youth until they turn 27 years of age (including the housing subsidy). While DCFS normally closes cases when a youth turns 21, during the pandemic, youth were given the option of having their case remain open. DCFS also provided a monthly stipend of \$329 to youth who aged out of care and are 21 years of age. These services will end on September 30 (unless federal pandemic funding is extended)

Continuum of Care Discharge Planning: Health Care

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) operates under eight State administrative rules that govern the facilities it licenses or regulates, including hospitals, assisted living, skilled nursing, intermediate care, sheltered care, veteran homes, and community living facilities. All eight administrative rules include discharge procedures. Alliance members participate in Illinois' Coordinated Care Entity (CCE) projects that involve hospitals, housing, and service providers as vital partners. Designed to streamline and improve care for high users of health care, hospitals will notify the CCE of patients during emergency room visits, thereby reducing admissions and releasing individuals to their care coordination team. Emergency shelters have strong relationships with their local hospitals and connect clients to services immediately to avoid serious complications that may arise and require hospitalization. Many have registered nurses who visit weekly to offer these services.

Continuum of Care Discharge Planning: Mental Health

The Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Mental Health (DMH) has a long-standing policy that persons are not to be discharged into homelessness, if possible. In extended care facilities, stable housing and benefits are reliably in place before discharge. In acute treatment facilities, where the length of stay is 12 days or less and where 30% of persons admitted were homeless at entry, the facility staff relies on their relationships with local homeless-serving 2 organizations to create linkages to other resources. Alliance members work with community hospital social work staff to inform them of resources for avoiding homelessness for persons discharged from psychiatric departments. DMH has an initiative to prevent persons in crisis with a serious mental health problem from being discharged or sent to a nursing home if housing resources are not available. Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitation Facilities (SMHRF) Comparable Service Program pays for crisis stabilization as an alternative to psychiatric hospitalization. It will pay for housing and services while securing other benefits in order to transition to other community housing and services. This policy applies to state-run hospitals— both acute and extended treatment facilities—and to other state-funded treatment programs. While community hospitals mainly served private pay and Medicaid patients, Medicaid has increased low- and moderate-income persons' access to these private resources, offering new partners in the effort to prevent the discharge of persons into homelessness.

Continuum of Care Discharge Planning: Corrections

The Alliance works with Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) programming to ensure

successful re-entry. This programming begins at intake and extends throughout incarceration, working to obtain appropriate housing before release. Offenders at risk of homelessness or who have special needs are assigned Parole Reentry Group caseworkers to work on discharge plans in the 90 days prior to release. Post release, parolees are evaluated for vulnerability. IDOC refers the chronic cases to the Alliance network for community linkages. Cook County Jail has received Second Chance Grants designed to reduce the risk of re-incarceration and homelessness among juvenile offenders.

The Sheriff's Re-Entry Council develops community partnerships through homeless resource fairs and cooperative projects like Datalink, which integrates mental health service data in order to reconnect detainees to their previous service provider. The Sheriff has entered into cooperative agreements with a coordinated health care entity to house persons in IMD facilities as an alternative to jail for persons with serious mental illnesses who are homeless. The Alliance partners with IDOC, Veteran Affairs, Social Security Administration, Illinois's Division of Mental Health, Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice, Illinois Health Care and Family Services, and the Illinois Department of Human Services to assist in identifying community resources and housing prior to prison release. IDOC stakeholders conduct onsite prison screenings to determine eligibility for community housing and support services. There are health care delivery mechanisms and initiatives that include members of the Continuum of Care, criminal justice departments, local government, and emergency health care providers as partners.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development Assessment of Relationship of CDBG Funds to Goals and Objectives

CDBG funds enabled the Village to meet or exceed its goals in almost all areas. In the areas that were below goals, explanations for the shortfalls were provided (See the Self Evaluation above).

The CDBG funds were the main force behind being able to provide the services with the outcomes that are being reported. Several organizations relied solely on Village CDBG funds to provide services. With larger organizations that cover several communities, the Village CDBG funds provided access to services for Oak Park residents which may not have been provided otherwise. State funding reductions to non-profits impacted the range and number of services that could be provided and CDBG was able to assist. The use and application of CDBG enabled the Village to meet the need and goals in most high priority activities.

As identified earlier, the Housing Programs division of Oak Park began a second major CDBG-related housing program in 2011. The first program, the Single Family Housing Rehabilitation (SFR) program, was re-designed and re-opened in 2008. This program has been carried out and enhanced over time, and is nearly always accompanied by a Lead Hazard Reduction Grant for the homeowner. As the expertise grew in delivering this service, a retired rental rehab program was reinstated due to community need. This second housing program is the Small Rental Property Rehabilitation (SRP) program.

Both the SFR and SRP programs are considered successful overall.

How CDBG funds were used for activities benefiting low- and moderate-income persons

Every completed Village of Oak Park PY 2020 CDBG activity was targeted to LMI families or persons, or met the LMI objective for facilities, housing units and infrastructure. Thus, 100% of the PY 2020 activities covered this primary National Objective.

The following is a listing of the completed PY2020 low to moderate income CDBG activities: Beyond Hunger Hunger Relief, Hephzibah Children’s Association Family Support Program, Housing Forward Emergency Shelter/Interim Housing, Housing Forward Employment Readiness, NAMI Metro-Suburban Drop-In Center, New Moms Teen and Adult Parenting, Oak Park Regional Housing Center Fair Housing Outreach, Oak Park-River Forest Infant Welfare Society Children and Youth Dental Clinic, Sarah’s Inn Domestic Violence Services, Thrive Counseling Center Psychiatric Services for Medicaid Clients, UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago Facilities Improvements, Village of Oak Park Public Works Infrastructure Improvements, Village of Oak Park Housing Rehab and Lead Hazard Reduction, Village of Oak Park Code Enforcement, Village of Oak Park Public Health Healthy Nutrition Incentives, Way Back Inn Childcare for Parents with Addictions and West Cook YMCA Single Resident Occupancy Residence Case Management Program. Two activities indirectly served low to moderate income persons: Oak Park Regional Housing Center Fair Housing Administration and Village of Oak Park CDBG Administration, though neither report accomplishments. All of these activities are more fully described in other sections of the CAPER.

The low- and moderate-income Limited Clientele and Housing CDBG activities require that 51 percent or greater of participant’s income be at or below 80 percent of the area median income. The majority of participants were low and very low-income persons, documented through Federal tax returns, SSI records, signed personal income certifications, and other means of income verification and documentation collected, as prescribed by HUD. In addition, several activities listed above were Presumed Benefit low and moderate income CDBG activities. These are: Beyond Hunger, Community Support Services, Hephzibah Children’s Association Family Support Program, Housing Forward Emergency Shelter CDBG and Employment Readiness, NAMI Metro-Suburban Drop-In Center, New Moms, INC., OP Regional Housing Center, Oak Park – River Forest Infant Welfare Society Children’s Clinic, Sarah’s Inn Domestic Violence Services, Thrive Counseling Center Psychiatric Services for Medicaid Clients, UCP Seguin Facilities Improvements, Way Back Inn, and West Cook YMCA.

Anti-displacement and Relocation

The Village ensures that rehabilitation work does not displace anyone, when rehabbing rental units, and keeps single family housing rehabilitation costs under \$25,000 and localized to one secured area at a time, including when performing lead hazard reduction activities. No persons were permanently or temporarily displaced in PY 2019 by rehabilitation work, and no properties were acquired or demolished in PY 2019. If future rehabilitation and relocation ever occurs, steps taken to notify households will be in keeping with the notification and displacement requirements of the Uniform Relocation Act or Section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended.

Anti-Poverty Strategy

Actions taken during the last year to reduce the number of persons living below the poverty level

Housing of poor quality, lack of education, unemployment, low income, and ill health are the primary factors in the cycle of poverty. The Village directly affected these factors by utilizing its resources, including social services and the local educational system.

The Village's school system is nationally recognized for its high educational standards and special programs. All residents can send their children to public schools in the Village. Lower income renters must find affordable rental units in order to reside in Oak Park and allow their children to attend the schools. In PY 2020, many affordable units were available in Oak Park, which encouraged more families with fewer resources to reside in the community, and afforded them an opportunity to receive the educational benefits of the Oak Park school system.

Throughout the year, the Village continued its efforts to promote economic development, which resulted in additional employment opportunities, even in this troubled economic time. Job creation was encouraged for local retail ventures. Efforts to increase both employment opportunities and affordable housing led to an enhanced household income for many. A Section 108 Loan program was approved and is now being offered. Also, recognizing that property taxes increase the cost of housing and affect the Village's ability to provide affordable housing, the Village continued its major effort to cut costs and promote new commercial development to ease the reliance on homeowner property taxes.

The Village's Public Health Department provided information and programs to assist persons of lower income with health issues. In PY 2020, the Village's Department of Public Health Community Health Services Division provided immunizations; emergency response; general referral; vision and hearing; surveillance and control of infectious diseases; HIV testing, counseling and prevention; inspection of long-term and child care facilities; school health services; and senior health services. The department also transferred their Healthy Initiative Program to Development Customer Services which had a PY 2020 CDBG activity that improved the nutrition of low- and moderate-income persons. All of these programs helped low-income persons obtain basic health care and quality of life services.

The social service programs that the Village funded with CDBG dollars in PY 2020 provided assistance to many persons with incomes below the poverty level. These services were aimed at improving the lives of those persons and very likely assisted in reducing short- and long-term costs for many individuals and families. Specifically:

- The Children's Clinic used CDBG funds to provide low-cost or free dental services to low-income youth, which enabled their parents to avoid the exorbitant current and future dental costs that can financially cripple a family. 4,753 young persons were served in PY 2020.
- Community Support Services used CDBG funds to provide respite services for 352 individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members. These services provide families with the tools they need to create a stable and nurturing home environment so that children with developmental disabilities can grow up to lead independent and fulfilling lives.
- Housing Forward used CDBG funds to supply emergency shelter and a job readiness program to assist 232 homeless persons.
- NAMI Metro Suburban used CDBG funds to provide psycho-social services to 109 low-income mentally ill persons, which gave some clients the ability to overcome social and financial barriers.
- Beyond Hunger, the Oak Park-River Forest Food Pantry used CDBG funds to feed low-income persons, which enabled persons in poverty to avoid hunger. For 1,564 Oak Park

persons, this activity provided this essential human need. Regionally, the Hunger Relief program fed 9,171 persons.

- New Moms used CDBG funds to operate the Parenting and Family Support program. A total of 76 mothers were served in PY 2020.
- Sarah's Inn used CDBG funds to help employ a crisis line counselor to ensure that information, referrals, support and crisis intervention was immediately available to survivors of domestic violence and their children. A total of 5,217 survivors were served in PY 2020 (429 Oak Parkers).

CDBG-Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES ACT) Funding Used in PY 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic made funding through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES ACT) in the form of Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds, to the Village of Oak Park, in the amount of \$1,259,754. The amount of \$980,107 was received for the first CARES Act CDBG-CV allocation (CV-1) and \$279,647 was received for the second CARES Act CDBG-CV allocation (CV-3). The HUD mandate was that each proposed project should prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. Of course, every proposed project also needed to meet the CDBG National Objective of primarily serving low- and moderate-income persons, and needed to be an eligible CDBG project. Although the COVID-19 pandemic continued hindering the Village and Subrecipients in the effort to meet goals anticipated for Program Year (PY) 2020, the PY2019 allocated CDBG-CV funding helped make The Village's PY2020 accomplishments more attainable despite uncontrollable circumstances. With guidance and approval from the Village Board, Oak Park allocated the CDBG-CV funds to three categories of funding, which are now described.

Public Services CDBG-CV

Public Services comprises one of the top needs of the hardships that Oak Park residents have experienced due to COVID-19. On May 27, 2020, a notice of funding availability was advertised and the Village grants mailing list was notified of the funding, with a due date of June 10, 2020. Numerous agencies submitted an application to use these funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. Of these applicants, most agencies stood out as fully meeting the criteria of the request for proposals. These agencies are Beyond Hunger, Hephzibah, New Moms, Oak Leyden Developmental Services, the Oak Park-River Forest Infant Welfare Society Children's Clinic, Thrive Counseling Center, UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago, the Way Back Inn, and the West Cook YMCA. These agencies were awarded funding, which totaled \$162,107 in CDBG-CV funds to provide Public Services for assistance to persons who have been affected by the pandemic. With the exception of 2 Public Service recipients (New Moms and UCP Seguin), all agencies met their proposed goals during PY2020 and expended awarded funds.

Housing CDBG-CV

Housing is among the top needs of the hardships that Oak Park residents have experienced due to COVID-19. As an agency that has ably provided for Oak Park residents that experience or are at risk of homelessness, Housing Forward is well equipped to assist persons in need, with excellent leadership and staff. Housing Forward was awarded \$400,000 in CDBG-CV funds to provide rental, mortgage and/or utility assistance to persons who have been affected by the pandemic. Housing forward has reported that with the use of the CDBG-CV funds they have assisted 69 participants with rental assistance during PY2020.

Business Assistance CDBG-CV

Economic development and jobs retention are among the top needs of the hardships that Oak Park residents have experienced due to COVID-19. Oak Park staff administered a business assistance loan program that provided up to \$5,000 to small businesses who are able to create and/or retain jobs for Oak Park persons with incomes at or below 80% of the AMI. Each loan has a three-year term at 0% interest rate. At least one low to moderate income employee must be retained in order for the loan to be completely forgiven. The total amount of the business assistance program for the first round of CDBG-CV funding is \$300,000. For Round 3 of CDBG-CV funding (CDBG-CV part II for Oak Park; CV-3 according to HUD), the Village received an additional \$250,000 to go to the business assistance program. In PY2020 84 businesses were awarded CDBG-CV Business Assistance Funds.

Administration CDBG-CV

As with regular CDBG funds, in which each year the Village uses CDBG Administration funds to run the program, the Village set up a CDBG-CV Administration activity in the amount of \$147,647. The amount of \$118,000 was taken from the first CARES Act CDBG-CV allocation (CV-1) and \$29,647 was taken from the second CARES Act CDBG-CV allocation (CV-3). Village staff utilized CDBG-CV funds to implement and process the Business Assistance Loan Program.

NON-HOMELESS SPECIAL NEEDS

Actions Taken to Address the Special Needs of Persons Not Experiencing Homelessness*Actions taken to improve the quality of life for persons with mental illness through the provision of public services*

There was one Public Services activity in PY 2020 that improved the quality of life for persons with mental illnesses. NAMI Metro Suburban's Drop In Center increased the social involvement (psycho-social rehabilitation) of 109 clients with mental illnesses.

Actions taken to assist with the provision of permanent supportive housing for persons with special needs

United Cerebral Palsy Seguin of Greater Chicago (UCP Seguin) spent \$32,000 in CDBG funds to serve 2 persons, making modifications to one Oak Park Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA) group home to benefit adults with developmental disabilities.

Actions taken to improve the quality of life for persons living with HIV/AIDS

Housing Forward has sent several staff persons to training on HIV and also provided individual consultation to staff working with clients that are living with HIV. In addition, Housing Forward has MOUs with several agencies that provide services to people living with HIV. One of their housing partners is Heartland Health Outreach, which provides housing to people living with HIV.