

2024-25 CDBG CAPER REPORT (draft)

Updates on the 2024-25 CDBG activities:

- **Trail Connection**
 - Phase 7 Imps - 95% completion.
 - Anticipating completion and close out by end of Sept 2025, City able to utilize all 2024-25 funds budgeted for this activity as well as prior year funds for public improvements.
- **Engineering Design**
 - Procurement underway for contract of engineering services for next phase of public improvements and environmental assessment services. Will move ahead with design based on Master Plan.
- **Master Planning**
 - Contract with consultant, master planning/info gathering underway, public meeting tentatively scheduled for evening of Nov 6, 2025.

CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

Progress the jurisdiction has made in carrying out its strategic plan and its action plan.

91.520(a) This could be an overview that includes major initiatives and highlights that were proposed and executed throughout the program year.

The ongoing improvement efforts in the Haycraft Neighborhood have addressed the comprehensive goals and objectives toward the overall revitalization of the neighborhood. The City of Elizabethtown's goal of infrastructure improvements (in low to moderate-income areas) has been achieved incrementally and comprehensively through the ongoing efforts of various public improvement projects over the years.

The most recent was the Haycraft Neighborhood Street/Sidewalk (Ph 7) Improvement project which includes continuing improvements and connections from the Haycraft Neighborhood (East Railroad Avenue/ East Poplar Street area) toward the East Dixie Avenue corridor. This project is expected to tie in with future public spaces, residential, and commercial developments which will greatly enhance the overall accessibility and livability of the targeted neighborhood and well as our downtown. This project is 95% complete

(project was greatly delayed due to the overall construction schedule of the Buffalo Lake Trail project), and it is expected to be 100% completed by the end of September 2025. The project funds will be drawn in full upon full completion, and the grant activity will be closed.

The City continues to cultivate and maintain strong working relationships with many community partners, organizations, and agencies with shared goals of community development and outreach services for specific low/moderate individuals and families.

The 2024-25 CDBG activities addressed several areas of the strategic plan and all areas of high priority that were identified in the City of Elizabethtown's 2020-25 and also the 2025-30 Consolidated Plan.

All of the efforts and activities of the 2024-25 CDBG program year meet the goals as anticipated and outlined in the Action Plan:

- **Provide Decent Housing**- Included within this broad goal are the following: assist homeless persons to obtain affordable housing; retain affordable housing stock, increase the availability of permanent housing that is affordable to low-income Americans without discrimination; and increase supportive housing that includes structural features and services to enable persons with special needs to live in dignity.
- **Provide a Suitable Living Environment**- This includes improving the safety and livability of neighborhoods; increasing access to quality facilities and services; reducing isolation of income groups within areas by improving affordable housing opportunities and revitalizing deteriorating neighborhoods; restoring and preserving natural and physical features of special value for historic, architectural, or aesthetic reasons; conserving energy resources
- **Expand Economic Opportunities**- Within this goal are creating jobs accessible to low and very low-income persons; providing access to credit for community development that promotes long-term economic and social viability; and empowering low and very low-income persons in federally assisted and public housing achieve self-sufficiency.
- **Improve Overall Community Structure** -Elimination of slum and blight conditions, elimination of conditions that are detrimental to health, safety and public welfare, conservation and expansion of the City's housing stock, preservation of historic properties, expansion and improvement of the quantity and quality of community services, evaluation and replacement of outdated infrastructure, redevelopment of

low and moderate-income areas for future land use, and alleviations of physical and economic distress.

Assess how the jurisdiction's use of funds, particularly CDBG, addresses the priorities and specific objectives identified in the plan, giving special attention to the highest priority activities identified.

The program activities outlined in our plan were a continuation of previous years' CDBG efforts that focus on the gradual and comprehensive stabilization and revitalization of primarily low-income residential area(s) within downtown Elizabethtown.

The City's 2024-25 CBG Action Plan included the trail connection from the Haycraft Neighborhood (East Railroad Avenue/ East Poplar Street area) toward the East Dixie Avenue corridor. This project will tie in with future public spaces, residential, and commercial developments which will greatly enhance the overall accessibility and livability of the targeted neighborhood and well as our downtown. Additionally, CDBG efforts have begun to prepare for the future target area for revitalization within the East Downtown Corridor Area as referenced in both the 2020-25 and 2025-30 Consolidated Plans.

These and other ongoing improvement efforts in the Haycraft Neighborhood and the East Downtown area have/will address many of the City's comprehensive priorities for revitalization of the targeted neighborhood.

- Reconstruction of unimproved street segments within areas that are eligible for community development revitalization. (high priority)
- The continuation of an improvement program that will upgrade existing to more efficient street systems, curbs, gutters, and sidewalk systems along the streets eligible for community development revitalization. (high priority)
- The continuation of an improvement program that will revitalize existing housing options and/or increase affordable housing options in the areas eligible for community development revitalization.
- Keep a continuous record of targeted area needs to best prioritize and utilize CDBG funds.
- Support facility improvements and increased services to neighborhoods and social service providers that serve areas and/or persons of low to moderate-income.

- Reduce blighting influences in targeted areas for revitalization and in the business and industrial areas close by. Voluntary acquisition and demolition activities will help to reduce blight and will also allow for future redevelopment activities.

Street/Sidewalk Improvements

The Haycraft Neighborhood Area Improvements (Phase 7) is 95% complete. This project will have successfully added a substantial trail connection in/out of the targeted neighborhood toward the greater downtown area as well as the larger Buffalo Lake trail. Trail markings and signage will be included along East Railroad Avenue to make traffic aware of the oncoming pedestrian / bicycle traffic from the trail path.

Continued Revitalization & Redevelopment

With the continuation of public infrastructure improvements and ongoing efforts to clear slum/blight conditions, the Hardin County Habitat for Humanity and potentially private developers will continue to develop affordable housing in this target area.

Additionally, CDBG efforts will help to prepare for future target areas for revitalization within the East Downtown Corridor Area as referenced in the Consolidated Plan.

Assess use of CDBG funds

Goals and outcomes-The comprehensive improvements address at least two of the four main goals of community development and revitalization: provide suitable living environment and improve overall community structure. These goals have been directly addressed with 2024-25 CDBG activities. The City recognizes each goal is very important but prioritizes accomplishing the most needed improvements and best utilizes the CDBG funding. The multi-phased revitalization approach has proven and continues to be very successful for this targeted neighborhood.

Aside from the main 2024-25 public improvement activity, the City uses all/any opportunities for affordable housing development and outreach to the targeted neighborhood and community-wide populations of lower income individuals, minorities, and others with more specific needs. The City places an emphasis on public participation throughout the planning and other various stages of community development. The project administrator stays in close contact with the residents of the targeted neighborhood(s) and with various organizations and social service providers throughout the community which includes a high percentage of minorities representing various races and backgrounds. This helps the City to keep an eye on the overall community needs, as well as those more specific to specific populations associated with poverty and low income, housing/homeless needs, single-headed households, dependency issues, and other social

issues that affect individuals of all ages. Whenever possible, the City offers program and events to the targeted neighborhood where any/all neighborhood citizens of all races, ethnic backgrounds, creeds, religions, ages, levels of ability, genders, and familial statuses are encouraged to attend and participate. We also notify the entire community of public meetings and events with various outlets (City Council meetings which are aired on local television, newspaper, City's webpage that offers translation in approximately 100 languages, etc.), and we encourage all citizens to participate. Additionally, the City maintains open communication and outreach with the residents of the Haycraft Neighborhood as well as the East Downtown Neighborhood, and all residents are invited to participate in neighborhood events and public meetings. A CDBG neighborhood outreach event is scheduled for **Thursday, November 6, 2025** evening to begin early outreach with residents and property owners and encourage their participation.

City of Elizabethtown-East Downtown Corridor

