

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-187

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FY 2023 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT/HOME PROGRAM FUNDING.

WHEREAS, the City of Vineland, in 2020, prepared a Five-Year Consolidated Plan for the City and for the Vineland-Millville-Bridgeton-Fairfield & Pittsgrove Townships HOME Consortium, covering the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plan is to identify housing and community development needs and to develop specific goals and objectives to address those needs over a five-year period, and is a requirement of the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development which the City must meet in order for the City and the Consortium to continue to receive federal housing and community development funds; and

WHEREAS, the City of Vineland has prepared an Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2023 which includes the funding applications for Community Development and HOME Program funding, said applications having been duly reviewed and considered, together with supporting documentation which took into account blight in the community, needs of low and moderate income families, environmental factors, fiscal considerations, and the maintenance of local effort in Community Development and HOME activities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Vineland:

1. THAT the FY 2023 Annual Action Plan, which includes the applications for FY 2023 Community Development Block Grant and HOME Program funding, be and the same are hereby in all respects approved. The Business Administrator is hereby directed to file a copy of said applications with the minutes of this meeting.

2. THAT it is cognizant of the conditions that are imposed in the undertaking and carrying out of Community Development and HOME activities with federal financial assistance.

3. THAT the Mayor of the City of Vineland is authorized to execute and file applications for financial assistance for such amounts as the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is willing to make available to carry out the Community Development and HOME Programs and act as an authorized representative of the City of Vineland.

4. THAT the Mayor of the City of Vineland is hereby authorized to provide such assurances and/or certifications as required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and also any additional or revised data which may be requested during the review of said applications.

Adopted:

President of Council

ATTEST:

City Clerk

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE USE OF
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2023
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND
HOME CONSORTIUM PROGRAMS**

PRESENTED BY
THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF VINELAND
JUNE 2023

For nearly five decades, the Community Development Block Grant Program has been recognized by municipalities nationally as an essential tool in addressing neighborhood and economic decline through revitalization, blight elimination and reinvestment in many of the nation's most distressed communities with a focus on the statutory objectives of principally benefitting low to moderate-income persons, eliminating or preventing blight or meeting an urgent need. These have been Vineland's guiding principles as it has formulated and pursued realistic and attainable goals notwithstanding fluctuating funding levels for the Community Development Block Grant and HOME funding allocations over the last several years.

In order to access Community Development funding, the City is required to develop a Consolidated Plan every five years and individual Annual Action Plans for each of the five years covered by the Consolidated Plan. This year the Office of Community Development, with the assistance of Triad Associates, completed the 2023 Annual Action Plan, the 4th year in the current five-year cycle. Both the Consolidated Plan and the individual Action Plans are based on a comprehensive strategy to address all aspects of the community's needs, including housing, social services, infrastructure, recreation and other community and economic needs. The process of Needs Assessment is more than a statistical analysis. It must also include community participation in planning for the coming year. In this regard, the City, working through its Community Development Advisory Committee and Community Development Office, encourages community participation in assessing needs and formulating strategies to meet the needs with the limited Community Development and HOME Funds that are anticipated to be available in the next federal fiscal year.

For Program Year 2023, commencing July of this year, Vineland's Community Development Block Grant allocation is \$427,479. HOME funding for 2023 is \$639,011 for the entire HOME Consortium, consisting of Vineland, Millville, Bridgeton, Fairfield Township and Pittsgrove Township. The City of Vineland will receive \$264,550 of that amount for both program administration and for housing activities, including owner-occupied rehab and creation of new affordable units. Community Development Block Grant funding has consistently been targeted to those most in need, particularly at times of high unemployment when community services are strained and overwhelmed with requests from the community, and municipal revenues and the resources needed to provide basic services are challenged as well. It is in this context that the Community Development Advisory Committee focused its efforts on selecting a program and budget that would respond to near-term needs, have a focus on the broader perspective for revitalization and reinvestment as set forth in its Five-Year Consolidated Plan, and be targeted to ways, whenever possible, to leverage the limited Community Development Block Grant and HOME funding.

It should be noted that, through the judicious use of CDBG and HOME funds for rehabilitation assistance to low and moderate-income homeowners, loan repayments serve to supplement new HUD funding as homes are sold. These repayments are considered to be Program Income and support the continuation of our Homeowner Rehabilitation Program. Program Income for 2023 is estimated to be \$50,000 under CDBG and \$50,000 under HOME.

The City's community and economic development needs have historically far exceeded the resources available through the Community Development Block Grant and HOME programs. It is for this reason that every effort is made by the Community Development Office to leverage these funds, which can serve as matching funds for planning, application development and implementation using other regional, state, and federal grants.

The City of Vineland continues to leverage and access other programs, such as the Urban Enterprise, Federal Empowerment Zone, Main Street and Special Improvement District Programs and Affordable Housing Trust Fund with the goal of connecting neighborhoods with business districts as integrally related resources that have the potential to positively impact each other. The Community Development Advisory Committee is sensitive to the dynamics of linking neighborhood revitalization/preservation activities, blight elimination activities, with economic development and public services as a means of enhancing the quality of life in communities and, at the same time, meeting the objectives and goals as are set forth in the newly updated Five-Year Consolidated Plan.

The Community Development Advisory Committee, working in conjunction with Aaron Melnick in the Community Development Office and Melissa Walsh from Triad Associates, developed a schedule that would continue to engage the public through the forum of public hearings and written commentary from the general public, community and public service advocates, City Departments, and other interested municipal, county, and regional interests. Two public hearings were held. Our role as an Advisory Committee is to filter the requests that are presented through the public process, which historically have represented needs that far exceed resources available through the Community Development Block Grant and HOME Programs. It is also the Advisory Committee's responsibility to ensure that funds are targeted toward activities that are eligible per the CDBG and HOME Regulations, as well as the overriding statutory objectives, which focus on benefit to low and moderate-income persons, blight elimination, and urgent needs in the community.

The Budget and Program presented to Mayor and Council by this Advisory Committee is responsive to the needs in the community and will have the highest return on investment of Community Development Block Grant and HOME Funds as will be represented by the positive outcomes and benefits to those most in need.

We look forward to the opportunity to review this proposed Annual Action Plan for use of CDBG and HOME funds at your meeting on April 18, 2023. With the concurrence of Mayor and Council, the proposed Program as presented or as may be revised for use of Federal Fiscal Year 2023 CDBG and HOME funds will receive a final public hearing prior to Resolution of City Council, which is tentatively scheduled for April 25, 2023.

The Community Development Advisory Committee wishes to extend our gratitude to Mayor and Council for the opportunity to participate in this important community endeavor.

Respectfully submitted,

City of Vineland Community Development Advisory Committee

Anne M. Bergamo
William Hartman
Carmen Oldknow
Dr. Charles Valentine

FACT SHEET
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2023
CITY OF VINELAND

A. PURPOSE

The Community Development Program Planning Process for the preparation of the F.Y. 2023 funding involved a citizen participation process, which included two public hearings for the F.Y. 2023 Annual Plan. The public hearings for the Annual Plan were conducted in the afternoons and evenings of February 23, 2023 and March 27, 2023. The purpose for the hearings was to solicit comments from citizens regarding proposed uses of funds expected to be available in Fiscal Year 2023, to provide a forum for the annual assessment of performance in implementing the goals of the City's Five-Year Consolidated Plan and the 2023 Annual Action Plan. In addition, the public hearings provided information regarding the legislative intent of the Program, priorities for use of Community Development funds as established by HUD, the funding available, submission and timing requirements, and a description of eligible and ineligible activities.

The Housing and Community Development Act states as its primary objective "the development of viable urban communities, by providing decent housing and suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income." This overall objective may be achieved through implementation of activities designed to benefit low and moderate-income families and/or aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight. The City may also respond to other Community Development needs with a particular urgency because of existing conditions that pose a serious and immediate threat to the health and welfare of the community, where other financial resources are not available to meet such needs.

B. FUNDING AVAILABLE

The Fiscal Year 2023 Community Development allocation for Vineland is \$427,479. The City is also entitled to a portion of the HOME Program funding available to the Consortium, estimated to be \$264,550. The Community Development Office has identified \$50,000 in CDBG Program Income funds and \$50,000 HOME Program Income funds that need to be programmed as part of the 2023 Action Plan. No prior year funds will be reprogrammed at this time. Annually the City receives requests for assistance that far exceed the grant maximum. Therefore, every effort must be made to identify activities that meet Community Development and City needs of the highest priority.

C. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND TIMING

Vineland's 2023 Community Development Program Year begins July 1, 2023. HUD requires that Annual Action Plans be submitted no later than August 16 of the year for which funds are provided.

CITY OF VINELAND
RECOMMENDED USE OF FUNDS
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2023 - 49TH YEAR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

	F.Y. 2021 Allocation	F.Y. 2022 Allocation	Requested F.Y. 2023 Allocation	Recommended F.Y. 2023 Allocation	Level of service
1. RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION					
Financial Assistance in the form of loans for low/moderate-income households. City-wide	\$155,748	\$147,755		\$179,618	10
Administration of a rehabilitation program (funded by CDBG and other sources)	\$150,000	\$150,000		\$132,518	
2. PUBLIC FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS					
PAFACOM – Support to purchase a generator for a residential program for disabled adults.	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$4,000	100
Salvation Army Public Facilities Improvements				\$4,348	20
3. PUBLIC SERVICES					
Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC) Cumberland Unit - Services to individuals with disabilities at Evanoff Center, 1680 W. Sherman Ave., Vineland	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	50
Boys and Girls Club – Support for Club's recreational programming for boys and girls	\$8,900	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	100+
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Cumberland County – advocacy for abused/neglected youth referred by Superior Court	\$6,000	\$0	\$6,000	\$4,000	20
Gateway Community Action Agency – General support for Head Start early education center, 237 W. Chestnut Ave., Vineland	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	91
PAL - Vineland Police Athletic League – Youth Sports Program	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$1,000	500
Rural Development Corp. – Homeless shelter operations	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	629
Salvation Army – Afterschool Program	\$4,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$2,500	20
Spirit & Truth Ministries – Soup kitchen and food pantry in Center City	\$13,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	150
Vineland Housing Authority - Computer Learning Center, provides computer aided instruction to youth and adult residents of Housing Authority	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$2,000	80

Vineland Public Library – Teen STEAM Makerspace programming	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$6,000	\$4,000	1,000
YMCA – partial memberships for low-mod families	\$6,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$5,000	20
Vineland Midget League Football		\$5,500	\$15,000	\$5,500	50
Vineland African American Community Development Corporation (VAACDC) – Leadership programming	-		\$5,000	\$2,500	25
4. RELOCATION					
For households displaced by City code enforcement activities	-	\$7,500		\$7,500	
5. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION					
a) Direct administrative salaries within the Dept. of Administration, legal advertising and related expenses as well as planning and other administrative costs associated with implementation of the program, including preparation of Consolidated Plan	\$93,900	\$93,900		\$85,495	

TOTALS

\$477,479*

- Includes \$50,000 in Program Income. 2023 CDBG allocation = \$427,479