

Hidalgo County
Urban County Program



**Consolidated Annual Performance and
Evaluation Report (CAPER)**
2014 Program Year

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 Urban County Program (UCP) is a department within the Hidalgo County governance structure. Hidalgo County, as the grantee, created the UCP in 1988 to serve as the administrative entity for these HUD funds. Funded projects take place in eighteen non-entitlement cities and the four county precincts. Those cities include are: Alamo, Alton, Donna, Edcouch, Elsa, Granjeno, Hidalgo, La Joya, La Villa, Mercedes, Palmhurst, Palmview, Penitas, Progreso, Progreso Lakes, San Juan, Sullivan City and Weslaco. The cities range in population size from 240 (Progreso Lakes) to 35,670 (Weslaco), with an average size of approximately 23,350.

The principal beneficiaries of programs funded by the UCP are those persons of low and moderate-income means. HUD defines this target group as those persons having an income at or below 80% of the area's median income. This reporting year, 100% of eligible fund expenditures in the CDBG and HOME programs were of direct benefit to this target group.

In terms of minority benefit, Hidalgo County is predisposed to serve minority groups inasmuch that approximately 90% of the population is Hispanic. Given the correlation between minority status and income levels, funded projects overwhelmingly serve low and moderate-income persons that are of Hispanic descent.

The UCP further strives to make the appropriate accommodations for persons with disabilities if notified in advance. Translators and helpers can be made available on an as-needed basis. This accommodation is made known through advertisements notifying the public about upcoming public hearings or meetings. Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act is mandatory in all building construction projects funded by the UCP.

Comparison of the proposed versus actual outcomes for each outcome measure submitted with the consolidated plan and explain, if applicable, why progress was not made toward meeting goals and objectives. 91.520(g)

Categories, priority levels, funding sources and amounts, outcomes/objectives, goal outcome indicators, units of measure, targets, actual outcomes/outputs, and percentage completed for each of the grantee's program year goals.

Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected – Strategic Plan	Actual – Strategic Plan	Percent Complete	Expected – Program Year	Actual – Program Year	Percent Complete
Abused & Neglected Children	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	4820	2135	44.29%	857	686	80.05%
Battered & Abused Spouses	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	7595	2139	28.16%	930	689	74.09%
CHDO Program	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	100	65	65.00%	20	37	185.00%
Clearance & Demolition	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Buildings Demolished	Buildings	15	0	0.00%			
Direct Home Ownership Assistance	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	0	7		0	5	
Direct Home Ownership Assistance	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers	Households Assisted	75	23	30.67%			
Emergency Solutions Grant	Affordable Housing Homeless	ESG: \$	Overnight/Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing Beds added	Beds	4750	1706	35.92%			
Emergency Solutions Grant	Affordable Housing Homeless	ESG: \$	Homelessness Prevention	Persons Assisted	1570	1002	63.82%	8370	0	0.00%
Fire Station Equipment	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	0	21794		39322	21794	55.42%
Fire Station Equipment	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	2	17	850.00%			
Flood Drainage Improvements	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	2	1	50.00%			
Handicapped Services	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	50	16	32.00%	9	7	77.78%

Health Services	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	1775	1065	60.00%	357	363	101. 68%
Neighborhood Facilities	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted		0				
Neighborhood Facilities	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	8	2	25.00%			
Non-Residential Historic Preservation	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	1	0	0.00%			
Owner Occupied Rehabilitaiton Program	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$880832	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	75	45	60.00%	25	19	76.0 0%
Parks, Recreational Facility Improvements	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted		15879		26251	0	0.00 %
Parks, Recreational Facility Improvements	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	30	15	50.00%			
Planning/Administr ation	Affordable Housing Public Housing Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$ / ESG: \$	Other	Other	0	0				
Public Facilities	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Other	Other	8	4	50.00%			
Public Service (General)	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	150000	77695	51.80%	33482	8637	25.8 0%

Rehab Single Unit Residential	Affordable Housing Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	150	6	4.00%			
Rental Program	Affordable Housing	HOME: \$	Rental units constructed	Household Housing Unit	2	0	0.00%			
Section 108 Loan	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	100000	2	0.00%	5235	0	0.00 %
Senior Services	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	2355	479801	20,373.72%	311	478827	153, 963. 67%
Sidewalks	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	30000	0	0.00%			
Street Improvements	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	527355	347086	65.82%	70386	46628	66.2 5%
Transportation	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	292460	1680906	574.75%	382491	0	0.00 %
Water & Sewer Improvements	Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	35390	75028	212.00%	10169	0	0.00 %

Table 1 - Accomplishments – Program Year & Strategic Plan to Date

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 Urban County Program undertook the high priority needs activities identified in its Five (5) Year Consolidated Plan, such as Water/Sewer Improvements, Street Improvement Public Facility Improvements, Fire Station/Equipment, Public Services and these projects addressed the specific objectives listed in the Plan.

CDBG / HOME / ESG Narrative

HOME NarrativeThe Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) proposed to complete twenty (20) Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Program projects for this fiscal year. The projected amount was surpassed, resulting in a total of thirty-seven (37) successfully completed projects. The UCP expected to complete a total of twenty-five (25) projects within the in-house Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program. The final amount of units completed totaled nineteen (19). Our agency acknowledges that the proposed completions for Rehab projects was not met. However, as of the first quarter of the current fiscal year, there are eighteen (18) units under construction and twenty-two (22) in the eligibility phase. As such, the UCP anticipates exceeding the current year's projections for the Rehab Program. Regarding rental projects, due to the fact that there are two years left in our Five Year Consolidated Plan and Strategy, the UCP anticipates receiving and undertaking a rental project to meet this goal and objective.

CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted

Describe the families assisted (including the racial and ethnic status of families assisted).

91.520(a)

	CDBG	HOME	ESG
White	10,606	59	2,055
Black or African American	11	2	36
Asian	4	0	2
American Indian or American Native	9	0	10
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	3
Total	10,630	61	2,106
Hispanic	8,611	59	1,923
Not Hispanic	2,019	2	183

Table 2 – Table of assistance to racial and ethnic populations by source of funds

Narrative

In reviewing the pre-populated statistics, the UCP corrected CDBG and the HOME numbers that were incorrect. Also, there were no pre-populated data for the ESG Program. As a result, the UCP utilized IDIS reports for the CDBG and HOME data. Regarding the ESG Program, UCP gathered the data from HMIS Clienttrack and comparable database report.

CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

Identify the resources made available

Source of Funds	Source	Resources Made Available	Amount Expended During Program Year
CDBG		22,743,897	7,024,290
HOME		4,299,076	1,997,448
ESG		668,176	589,428

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

This section is not applicable due to the County not having identified any targeted areas.

Leveraging

Explain how federal funds leveraged additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements were satisfied, as well as how any publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that were used to address the needs identified in the plan.

CDBG Leveraged \$255,445.46 from Water/Sewer Improvements, Street Improvements and Public Services activities. These leveraged funds were from various cities within our consortium.

The Homebuyer Assistance Program, utilized \$137,178.20 of HOME funds to assist five (5) units for this reporting period. These five (5) units also has an IDIS reported \$480,327.36 in leveraged dollars. These monies are leveraged from other federal sources, the majority of which derive from the Office of Rural Development. Funds are used for acquisition and new construction of single-family homes for qualified buyers. Furthermore, the reported amount of leveraged funds used to develop projects through the CHDO Program (which spent \$786,492.16 in HOME and recaptured funds), which completed thirty-seven (37) units, totaled \$2,521,357.27. These funds are also used for the development, including acquisition and new construction, of single-family homes for qualified buyers. Other funding resources used by CHDO's included other federal & state funds as well as private loans, CHDO proceeds, and CHDO revolving funds. The combined amount of additional resources and investments utilized in the HOME Program was \$3,001,684.63.

ESG Leveraged matching funds used \$589,427.94. These leveraged funds were from in-kind contributions, volunteer work, rental space, cash donations and fundraisers.

Fiscal Year Summary – HOME Match	
1. Excess match from prior Federal fiscal year	0
2. Match contributed during current Federal fiscal year	0
3. Total match available for current Federal fiscal year (Line 1 plus Line 2)	0
4. Match liability for current Federal fiscal year	0
5. Excess match carried over to next Federal fiscal year (Line 3 minus Line 4)	0

Table 5 – Fiscal Year Summary - HOME Match Report

Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year								
Project No. or Other ID	Date of Contribution	Cash (non-Federal sources)	Foregone Taxes, Fees, Charges	Appraised Land/Real Property	Required Infrastructure	Site Preparation, Construction Materials, Donated labor	Bond Financing	Total Match
N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 6 – Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year

HOME MBE/WBE report

Program Income – Enter the program amounts for the reporting period				
Balance on hand at beginning of reporting period \$	Amount received during reporting period \$	Total amount expended during reporting period \$	Amount expended for TBRA \$	Balance on hand at end of reporting period \$
0	131,512	131,512	0	0

Table 7 – Program Income

Minority Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises – Indicate the number and dollar value of contracts for HOME projects completed during the reporting period						
	Total	Minority Business Enterprises				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Contracts						
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub-Contracts						
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	Women Business Enterprises	Male			
Contracts						
Dollar Amount	0	0	0			
Number	0	0	0			
Sub-Contracts						
Number	0	0	0			
Dollar Amount	0	0	0			

Table 8 – Minority Business and Women Business Enterprises

Minority Owners of Rental Property – Indicate the number of HOME assisted rental property owners and the total amount of HOME funds in these rental properties assisted						
	Total	Minority Property Owners				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 9 – Minority Owners of Rental Property

Relocation and Real Property Acquisition – Indicate the number of persons displaced, the cost of relocation payments, the number of parcels acquired, and the cost of acquisition

Parcels Acquired		0	0			
Businesses Displaced		0	0			
Nonprofit Organizations Displaced		0	0			
Households Temporarily Relocated, not Displaced		0	0			
Households Displaced	Total	Minority Property Enterprises				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cost	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 10 – Relocation and Real Property Acquisition

CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

Evaluation of the jurisdiction's progress in providing affordable housing, including the number and types of families served, the number of extremely low-income, low-income, moderate-income, and middle-income persons served.

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	33	42
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	12	14
Total	45	56

Table 11 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	0	0
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	20	42
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	25	19
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
Total	45	61

Table 12 – Number of Households Supported

Discuss the difference between goals and outcomes and problems encountered in meeting these goals.

Due to continuous and significant annual funding cuts to the HOME Program, the Hidalgo County – Urban County Program did not anticipate assisting any Homebuyer Program clients. However, there was a total of five (5) applicants in the eligibility phase at the beginning of the program year that ultimately received assistance. Additionally, the UCP projected completion of twenty (20) Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Program projects. The proposed number of units was exceeded as well, resulting in a total of thirty-seven (37) completed units. Finally, the UCP expected to complete a total of twenty-five (25) projects within the in-house Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program. The final amount of units completed totaled nineteen (19). Our agency acknowledges that the proposed completions of twenty-five (25) for Rehab projects was not met. However, as of the first quarter of the current fiscal year however, there are eighteen (18) units under construction and twenty-two (22) in the eligibility phase. The UCP anticipates exceeding the current year's projections for the Rehab Program.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

The UCP does not anticipate any deviation from the HOME 2013 5 Year Consolidated Plan regarding the anticipated outcomes.

Include the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income persons served by each activity where information on income by family size is required to determine the eligibility of the activity.

Number of Persons Served	CDBG Actual	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income	0	26
Low-income	0	14
Moderate-income	0	21
Total	0	61

Table 13 – Number of Persons Served

Narrative Information

The Hidalgo County Urban County Program administers a very successful affordable housing initiative utilizing several HOME eligible programs. Within the last fiscal year, the County successfully assisted a total of five (5) low and moderate-income families by providing closing cost/down payment assistance for acquisition of new single-family units made possible by the UCP Homebuyer Assistance Program. The County projected assisting twenty-five (25) families through the HOME Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program however the County assisted nineteen (19) low-moderate income families. These families now live in affordable single family homes that are safe for habitation and provide a much needed sense of stability. In addition, the County, in conjunction with local non-profit organizations, constructed a total of thirty-seven (37) new single-family homes, above the projected 20, for eligible low and moderate-income families with Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO) funding.

CR-25 - Homeless and Other Special Needs 91.220(d, e); 91.320(d, e); 91.520(c)

Evaluate the jurisdiction's progress in meeting its specific objectives for reducing and ending homelessness through:

Reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs

Hidalgo County funds (4) subrecipients under the HESG program who build trusting relationships with homeless persons living on the streets and in shelters. There are several outreach workers who perform street outreach throughout the Hidalgo County and respond to requests for assistance from citizens, local businesses, neighborhood groups and legislative offices to homeless persons residing on the streets. The subrecipients perform assessments for homeless persons in the field and link them to shelter and supportive services that are appropriate to meet their needs. Additionally, all the subrecipients funded through Hidalgo County participate with the Texas Homeless Network-Continuum of Care, whereas all information is entered in the HMIS clienttrack software system. These organizations provide outreach, emergency shelter, health care and behavior health care, rental and utility assistance, food and clothing, and other homeless services to individuals, families with children, veterans unaccompanied youth, and including persons with HIV. Other services being provided are overnight emergency shelter, meals, and bathroom/shower facilities and attempts to engage homeless persons in case management to assess their homeless history and current needs and work to place them in appropriate longer emergency shelter or transitional housing programs so that they can work towards regaining their permanent housing.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Hidalgo County currently funds the operations of emergency shelters and homeless prevention programs serving individuals and families. Emergency shelters and homeless prevention programs are designed to focus their services to the needs of specific populations such as chronically homeless persons, victims of domestic violence, persons being evicted, persons with severe mental health disorders or substance abuse histories or those suffering from dual or multiple co-occurring disorders.

In response to the HEALTH Act and ESG guidelines, Hidalgo County, in collaboration with the subrecipients, work closely together to prevent homelessness by assisting these persons remain within their communities. This approach aids in maintaining their current non-shelter housing and deflect persons to other available housing options that are not homeless shelters. Step one in this process is to streamline the intake of homeless persons seeking motel vouchers during the winter months. The enhanced coordination results in more families being redirected away from homelessness and more persons exiting homelessness into rapidly re-housed in permanent housing.

The continuous communication with other government agencies including non-profit partners provides a coordinated entry assessment, housing and supportive services interventions to homeless persons and

families at-risk of becoming homeless across the various regions of Hidalgo County. In combination with mainstream resource and targeted homeless resources Hidalgo County and subrecipients will deliver the appropriate level of services and housing needs to each participant. The ultimate goals are to reroute persons from becoming homeless and to end homelessness as expeditious as possible.

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again

Diversion to housing and services outside of the traditional homeless services system is an integral part of the Coordinated Access and Assessment program. One of the first interventions will be to determine if there are other housing options or resources available to the household rather than accessing shelter through the homeless system. For example, family or friends that the client may be able to stay with while stabilizing their housing situation; which may be more beneficial for the household and simultaneously reserves homeless shelter resources for those with no other options. Additionally, for those households with low to moderate barriers to housing, rapid re-housing assistance in the form of move-in assistance and short term rental subsidies may be all that the household needs to regain and maintain their permanent housing. By using a standardized assessment that identifies the level of barriers to housing and targets the type of service intervention that best addresses those barriers, we are able to reduce the amount of time that an individual or family is homeless and increase their ability to maintain their permanent housing. Hidalgo County works up front with the ESG subrecipients who meet with the participants every three (3) months or earlier if needed to assist them with services that help address housing needs, health, social services, employment, education or youth needs.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: likely to become homeless after being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections programs and institutions); and, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs

Hidalgo County is focused on designing and implementing significant changes to our homeless delivery system. Presently, Hidalgo County funds four (4) subrecipients: The Salvation Army, Mujeres Unidas, Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley and Advocacy Resource Center for Housing. The Salvation Army provides Emergency Shelter to the Homeless. Mujeres Unidas also provides emergency shelter to the homeless persons whom are victims of domestic violence. The Advocacy Resource Center for Housing and Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley provide assistance under the Homeless

Prevention and Rapid Re-housing categories. Follow-ups with families or individuals in person, by home or home visits are conducted by all subrecipients staff to better assist the participants.

CR-30 - Public Housing 91.220(h); 91.320(j)

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

Based on the Hidalgo County - Urban County Program consultations with public housing agencies (PHAs) in the South Texas region, many of them are working successfully with public agencies and community organizations to benefit low- and moderate-income residents in public housing. Several PHAs are coordinating their renovation activities with their local jurisdictions, reconstructing public housing properties to meet the most up-to-date living and design standards. Most of the local police and fire departments are working with PHAs to ensure the safety and security of public housing residents. And many PHAs are linking residents to family self-sufficiency programs, including on-site learning centers, job training programs, and opportunities for homeownership.

Actions taken to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership

After our consultation with the PHA's, we understand that some of them conduct activities to increase resident involvement. One approach to this issue is having managers meet with the residents and talked about the program. Other PHA's rather meet with Council members and the Advisory Board to develop and implement initiatives for resident participation such as "Pathway to Homeownership and Family Self Sufficiency Program." However, the Hidalgo Housing Authority has another strategy they partnered with fifteen non-profit agencies to provide tenants with information such as counseling, consumer credit, job training among many others.

Hidalgo County Urban County Program (UCP) staff completes public outreach throughout each fiscal year. One of the many outlets for this marketing is through our partnership with the Housing Authorities throughout the County. UCP staff members provide on-site presentations to Housing Authority (HA) residents regarding homeownership opportunities offered in-house, and in conjunction with local non-profit organizations. These non-profits are also invited to present to HA residents pertaining to the process of becoming a homeowner; from credit counseling to the construction process, purchasing the home and finally maintenance and sustainability. In addition to receiving this invaluable information and counseling regarding homeownership, the families are also exposed to other presenters and subjects such as Workforce Solutions for job opportunities, Texas Rural Legal Aid for assistance with legal issues and their rights, Alamo Police Department and Hurricane Preparedness for safety and awareness as well as classes on health and nutrition. Our partnership with local HA's is valued immensely, as we are able to reach out to families in a small group setting and if requested, one-on-one sessions. The UCP is also extremely confident that the HA residents attending these sessions throughout the year are receiving a well-rounded concept of healthy, happy and independent living. Our mission is to assist the residents in becoming better informed in an effort to promote homeownership through our partnership with the HA's and other local agencies.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

There has been no action taken this reporting period.

CR-35 - Other Actions 91.220(j)-(k); 91.320(i)-(j)

Actions taken to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment. 91.220 (j); 91.320 (i)

The County continues to analyze its local policies, standards and ordinances yearly in order to identify any item that may adversely affect the access or availability of affordable housing opportunities. This is accomplished by UCP personnel meeting with County Planning staff to review local ordinances and policies that have been instituted each year. This method of evaluation was chosen because the County Planning Department is responsible for the enforcement of housing related ordinances and any complaints or grievances resulting from these ordinances are handled administratively by Planning. As such, planning staff is well positioned to provide insight into any problem area. In addition, a review public policies of cities within UCP's jurisdiction is also performed. No areas of concern were identified in this year's evaluation.

Actions taken to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

Given the range of competing needs, the priorities were established from public comments and these units of local governments. As always the most overwhelming obstacles to meeting the underserved needs is the lack of funding availability but also the lack of a concentrated focus of available resources working in unison towards a common goal, a general sense of apathy or detachment that is obvious from the lack of public participation during public hearings. As such, Hidalgo County will continue to fund projects that provide the most benefit to the most people.

Actions taken to reduce lead-based paint hazards. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

This is a duplicate question. The relative question "Actions Taken to reduce the lead-based paint hazards. 91.220(k); 91.320(j) -

The County continues to inform each applicant in its Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program about the hazards that lead-based paint present. This is accomplished through the dissemination of literature concerning the hazards of lead-based paint. All housing units that the County rehabilitates or reconstructs are done so in accordance with the standards set under 24 CFR Part 91 and 24 CFR 570.608. Similar, housing units acquired under the Home Buyer Assistance Program are also inspected for the presence of lead. All housing units assisted with HUD funds are free from lead-based paint. UCP Administration has increased training efforts in this area by sending housing rehabilitation staff to HUD-

sponsored training in this field.

As a matter of internal policy, all contractors that work under the Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program must be certified to work with lead-based paint.

Actions taken to reduce the number of poverty-level families. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The County's anti-poverty strategy continues to concentrate on the very-low and low-income population. In recognition that the most effective manner in which to address the conditions that perpetuate and foster poverty-like conditions, we acknowledge the need to coordinate resources among several service providers. The County actively supports and participates in programs that aspire to address these conditions. As noted in previous CAPER's, the County continues to participate with the local Workforce Development Board to provide training opportunities for participants under Welfare to Work Programs and the Workforce Investment Act. The use of HUD funds is restricted for use in identified low and moderate-income areas or where the benefit can be clearly documented to serve a low or moderate-income person. The County also recognizes the need to develop more economic development projects that will stimulate job creation and induce business creation or relocation as means to combat poverty.

Actions taken to develop institutional structure. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The County continues to make a concerted effort to identify weak or non-existent delivery systems that comprise the institutional structure for the County. Building on efforts laid in previous years, the County leadership has forged multiple partnerships with other entities endeavoring to improve the quality of life for our residents. Some examples of these partnerships include the leveraging of federal and state transportation dollars for infrastructure projects in and around the County. The County also continues to address the poverty like conditions in areas known as colonias. Low and very-low income persons historically populate these substandard developments. The County's effort in this respect focuses on coordinating grant writing and project implementation efforts through the UCP administrative office for colonia initiatives. This effort is responsible for the Texas Department of Rural Affairs and the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) Self-Help Program and Texas Department of Agriculture grant agreements to assist colonia residents with water/sewer and housing projects.

Actions taken to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The County continues to develop coordination efforts by providing technical assistance and supportive services to other entities undertaking community development efforts. While not always providing direct funding towards these efforts, the County does provide support in terms of technical assistance. Some examples of which are:

- Technical assistance for the preparation of State grant applications for parks
- Coordination efforts with the Secretary of State's office to address living conditions in colonia areas

- Membership in the Border Infrastructure Committee
 - The formation of regional meetings to address and identify water, drainage and wastewater needs
- The formulation of a regional consolidated plan and strategy that included all entitlement communities in Hidalgo and Cameron counties was to be the catalyst for a regional type approach to our common needs. Like last year, we had hoped to report some regional projects completed this year but, unfortunately, none have come to fruition this reporting period.

Identify actions taken to overcome the effects of any impediments identified in the jurisdictions analysis of impediments to fair housing choice. 91.520(a)

The County's comprehensive Analysis of Impediments to fair housing resulted in the identification of several barriers the County's low and moderate-income populace face in their efforts to acquire housing. Listed below are some of the primary impediments identified:

- Deterioration of the local housing stock,
- Lack of knowledge about the traditional mortgage loan process,
- Lack of homeownership opportunities for low and moderate-income families,
- Lack of down payment/closing cost assistance
-

The County continues to address these issues through the UCP's HOME Division. The Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program serves to ameliorate the deterioration of the present housing stock. Given the large number of the County's housing stock in need of rehabilitation, this need remains a high priority for present and future funding resources.

In its efforts to address the remaining three impediments, the County again utilizes the HOME Division to overcome these barriers. Under the Home Buyer Assistance Program, applicants are given an overview of the traditional loan application process during the application interview. Among some of the items discussed are: required loan documentation, payback capability, loan processing and applicable fees and the underwriting process including debt to income ratio calculations. The County also provided up to \$10,000 in down payment and closing cost assistance for eligible County residents.

The County also continues to process fair housing complaints through the Urban County Program structure. Similarly, outreach and educational initiatives continue to be imparted through the Urban County Program even though grant funds that established the Fair Housing Center have long since been expended. This continued effort on the County's behalf is done so in recognition of the importance the County places on fair housing issues.

In terms of community outreach to promote fair housing and disseminate information about the Count's housing programs, the following activities were undertaken:

- The HOME Coordinator, over the course of the program year, made presentations at various Housing Authorities to approximately 75 residents of these complexes who were interested in transitioning into home ownership.
- The HOME Division mailed letters to all Hidalgo County City Mayors, within its jurisdictions, and offered

to make a presentation to all city staff in an effort to provide Homebuyer Program information. Attachments to letter included program guidelines and contact information to post in their City Hall bulletin boards.

- In June of 2014, the Urban County Program participated in a housing fair sponsored by Affordable Homes of South Texas, Inc. Housing information was provided to well over 500 attendees.
- In June of 2014, the HOME Coordinator attended an orientation seminar for future homeowners and conducted a presentation regarding the in-house Homebuyer Program. The UCP will continue attending these seminars throughout the year in order to provide continued education to any interested residents of the County.

CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230

Describe the standards and procedures used to monitor activities carried out in furtherance of the plan and used to ensure long-term compliance with requirements of the programs involved, including minority business outreach and the comprehensive planning requirements

The Hidalgo County Urban County Program utilizes the Risk Analysis Model to evaluate grant performance and determine the level of monitoring. The assessment criteria utilized in the Risk Assessment includes the program capacity, project complexity, level of funding, recipient capacity, staff capacity, quality of reporting and documentation, past compliance problems. The assessment scale is used to evaluate risks and subsequently rank projects in categories ranging from High to Low risk. The monitoring level may be increased if we identify performance problems during our review of progress reports, financial drawdowns or site inspections.

The program year 2014 monitored projects are provided in the following section:

Name/Score/Report Date

Camp University 350-July 2014, La Joya Senior/Youth, Fire Station 350- Jan. 2015, Casa of Hidalgo County 300-April 2015, Children's Advocacy 200-April 2015, Mercedes Library, Rec Center, Fire Station 200-June 2015, Amigos del Valle 150-Aug. 2015, Boys & Girls Club of Mission 150-Sept. 2015, LUPE 150-Oct. 2014, Mujeres Unidas CDBG 150- ESG 250 March 2015, Advocacy Resouce 360-Nov. 2014, Salvation Army 260-April 2015, Catholic Charities 250-March 2015.

Citizen Participation Plan 91.105(d); 91.115(d)

Describe the efforts to provide citizens with reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on performance reports.

During our public hearing, citizens were asked to comment, express concerns, reveal latest needs or trends in their communities that can be impacted by the use of CDBG, HOME, and HESG funds. Citizens were afforded an opportunity to provide written comments to various plans, reports, initiatives and council directives that involved the use of HUD funds.

CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

Specify the nature of, and reasons for, any changes in the jurisdiction’s program objectives and indications of how the jurisdiction would change its programs as a result of its experiences.

No changes to program objectives this program year. However, should there be any project changes, they would be based on priority needs. Should there be changes required, there is a Citizens Participation Plan in place that includes a budget and program amendment and procurement process that will be implemented.

Does this Jurisdiction have any open Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) grants?	No
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[BEDI grantees] Describe accomplishments and program outcomes during the last year.

CR-50 - HOME 91.520(d)

Include the results of on-site inspections of affordable rental housing assisted under the program to determine compliance with housing codes and other applicable regulations

Please list those projects that should have been inspected on-site this program year based upon the schedule in §92.504(d). Indicate which of these were inspected and a summary of issues that were detected during the inspection. For those that were not inspected, please indicate the reason and how you will remedy the situation.

The Casa Messina project involved the acquisition and construction of a 74 multifamily rental housing units. Construction was completed in March of 2010. Based on the amount of HOME assistance, the project included 2 HOME Fixed Units. Even though the HOME Program requires an inspection every 3 years for projects that have 1-4 units, the County of Hidalgo Urban County Program performs annual inspections on both HOME units. The HOME units were last inspected in November 2014. The inspection reports did not have any items needing resolution or requiring correction action.

Provide an assessment of the jurisdiction's affirmative marketing actions for HOME units. 92.351(b)

The County's effort towards affirmative marketing utilizes the HOME Division to ensure that eligible households have access and opportunity to participate in its programs and services. The Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program serves to ameliorate the deterioration of the present housing stock. Given the large number of the County's housing stock in need of rehabilitation, this need remains a high priority for present and future funding resources. Under the Home Buyer Assistance Program, applicants are given an overview of the traditional loan application process during the application interview.

Among some of the items discussed are: credit rating/reports, required loan documentation, payback capability, loan processing and applicable fees. The County also provided up to \$10,000 in down payment and closing cost assistance for eligible County residents. The County also continues to process fair housing complaints through the Urban County Program structure. Similarly, outreach and educational initiatives continue to be imparted through the Urban County Program even though grant funds that established the Fair Housing Center have long since been expended. Homebuyer, Renter Assistance, and Homeowner Assistance programs and services are marketed to residents in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods and those with limited English proficiency. Also, the HOME Division has three full-time equivalent (FTE) employees that are bilingual and offer assistance with clients with limited English proficiency. This continued effort on the County's behalf is done so in recognition of the importance the County places on fair housing issues.

In terms of community outreach to promote fair housing and disseminate information about the County's housing programs, the following activities were undertaken:

- The HOME Coordinator, over the course of the program year, made presentations at various Housing Authorities to approximately 50 residents of these complexes who were interested in transitioning into home ownership.
- The HOME Division mailed letters to all Hidalgo County City Mayors, within its jurisdictions, and offered to make a presentation to all city staff in an effort to provide Homebuyer Program information. Attachments to letter included program guidelines and contact information to post in their City Hall bulletin boards.
- In June of 2015, the Urban County Program participated in a housing fair sponsored by Affordable Homes of South Texas, Inc. Housing information was provided to well over 1,200 attendees.
- In June of 2015, the HOME Coordinator attended an orientation seminar for future homeowners and conducted a presentation regarding the in-house Homebuyer Program. The UCP will continue attending these seminars throughout the year in order to provide continued education to any interested residents of the County.

Refer to IDIS reports to describe the amount and use of program income for projects, including the number of projects and owner and tenant characteristics

A total of \$152,947.62 of program income was expended this reporting period. A total of \$133,253.13 was spent on fourteen (14) of the nineteen (19) Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation projects assisted during this reporting period. The remaining balance of \$19,694.49 was spent on project delivery costs.

The following are the characteristics of the fourteen (14) projects assisted with program income:

30% AMI	60% AMI	80% AMI	Ethnicity	Elderly	Disabled
8	5	1	14-Hispanic	10	1

Describe other actions taken to foster and maintain affordable housing. 91.220(k) (STATES ONLY: Including the coordination of LIHTC with the development of affordable housing). 91.320(j)

The County of Hidalgo continues to seek opportunities that could potentially increase and expand funding availability for both its Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation (Rehab) and Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Programs. The County’s continual funding for these, and other programs, allows for a revolving cash flow that fosters and maintains the affordable housing mechanism throughout our communities.

In this past reporting year, the County’s Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation (Rehab) Program generated \$238,230.33 which was utilized for other eligible program activities. As such, the County anticipates increasing the Rehab Program’s annual allocation in an effort to continue to generate capital as well as increase the amount produced. Additionally, the County’s CHDO Program allows non-profits to retain CHDO Proceeds generated, with the stipulation that they are used for HOME-eligible or other

housing activities that will benefit low-income families. During this reporting period, Proyecto Azteca utilized \$118,450 in CHDO proceeds with 20 single-family housing units.

The County acknowledges the importance of a stable and consistent affordable housing system, as many of the homes in our jurisdiction are in grave need of rehabilitation, not to mention the numerous families that could benefit from housing assistance. The County's highest, most critical priorities are exactly these and we will continue to utilize this device to ensure that assistance is offered to as many families as possible.

CR-60 - ESG 91.520(g) (ESG Recipients only)

ESG Supplement to the CAPER in *e-snaps*

For Paperwork Reduction Act

1. Recipient Information—All Recipients Complete

Basic Grant Information

Recipient Name	HIDALGO COUNTY
Organizational DUNS Number	103110834
EIN/TIN Number	746000717
Identify the Field Office	SAN ANTONIO
Identify CoC(s) in which the recipient or subrecipient(s) will provide ESG assistance	Texas Balance of State CoC

ESG Contact Name

Prefix	0
First Name	Diana
Middle Name	R
Last Name	Serna
Suffix	0
Title	Director

ESG Contact Address

Street Address 1	427 E. Duranta Avenue, Suite 107
Street Address 2	0
City	Alamo
State	TX
ZIP Code	-
Phone Number	9567878127
Extension	0
Fax Number	9563182988
Email Address	diana.serna@co.hidalgo.tx.us

ESG Secondary Contact

Prefix	0
First Name	Antonio
Last Name	Barco
Suffix	0
Title	Deputy Director
Phone Number	9567878127
Extension	0
Email Address	antonio.barco@co.hidalgo.tx.us

2. Reporting Period—All Recipients Complete

Program Year Start Date	07/01/2014
Program Year End Date	06/30/2015

3a. Subrecipient Form – Complete one form for each subrecipient

Subrecipient or Contractor Name
City
State
Zip Code
DUNS Number
Is subrecipient a victim services provider
Subrecipient Organization Type
ESG Subgrant or Contract Award Amount

CR-65 - Persons Assisted

4. Persons Served

4a. Complete for Homelessness Prevention Activities

Number of Persons in Households	Total
Adults	313
Children	460
Don't Know/Refused/Other	0
Missing Information	0
Total	773

Table 14 – Household Information for Homeless Prevention Activities

4b. Complete for Rapid Re-Housing Activities

Number of Persons in Households	Total
Adults	51
Children	62
Don't Know/Refused/Other	0
Missing Information	0
Total	113

Table 15 – Household Information for Rapid Re-Housing Activities

4c. Complete for Shelter

Number of Persons in Households	Total
Adults	850
Children	370
Don't Know/Refused/Other	0
Missing Information	0
Total	1,220

Table 16 – Shelter Information

4d. Street Outreach

Number of Persons in Households	Total
Adults	0
Children	0
Don't Know/Refused/Other	0
Missing Information	0
Total	0

Table 17 – Household Information for Street Outreach

4e. Totals for all Persons Served with ESG

Number of Persons in Households	Total
Adults	1,214
Children	892
Don't Know/Refused/Other	0
Missing Information	0
Total	2,106

Table 18 – Household Information for Persons Served with ESG

5. Gender—Complete for All Activities

	Total
Male	1,078
Female	1,013
Transgender	0
Don't Know/Refused/Other	15
Missing Information	0
Total	2,106

Table 19 – Gender Information

6. Age—Complete for All Activities

	Total
Under 18	885
18-24	241
25 and over	965
Don't Know/Refused/Other	15
Missing Information	0
Total	2,106

Table 20 – Age Information

7. Special Populations Served—Complete for All Activities

Number of Persons in Households

Subpopulation	Total	Total Persons Served – Prevention	Total Persons Served – RRH	Total Persons Served in Emergency Shelters
Veterans	67	14	0	53
Victims of Domestic Violence	521	66	7	448
Elderly	79	6	4	69
HIV/AIDS	0	0	0	0
Chronically Homeless	32	0	3	26
Persons with Disabilities:				
Severely Mentally Ill	32	0	0	0
Chronic Substance Abuse	5	1	0	4
Other Disability	76	50	7	19
Total (Unduplicated if possible)	812	154	23	635

Table 21 – Special Population Served

CR-70 – ESG 91.520(g) - Assistance Provided and Outcomes

10. Shelter Utilization

Number of New Units - Rehabbed	0
Number of New Units - Conversion	0
Total Number of bed-nights available	105
Total Number of bed-nights provided	105
Capacity Utilization	100.00%

Table 22 – Shelter Capacity

11. Project Outcomes Data measured under the performance standards developed in consultation with the CoC(s)

Hidalgo County Program used the HMIS software to obtain the outcomes data measured under the performance standards developed in consultation with the Continuum of Care - Homeless Network. Mujeres Unidas (victim service provider) used a comparable system to HMIS and submitted their report to Hidalgo County. Both reports were then combined and the numbers were then entered in report CR 70.

As a result, the UCP utilized the HMIS report that showed 773 persons were assisted with Homeless Prevention, 113 persons were assisted with Rapid Re-Housing and 1,220 persons were assisted with Shelter funds. A total of 2,106 persons were assisted with Homeless Emergency Solutions Grant funds.

CR-75 – Expenditures

11. Expenditures

11a. ESG Expenditures for Homelessness Prevention

	Dollar Amount of Expenditures in Program Year		
	2012	2013	2014
Expenditures for Rental Assistance	241,355	80,889	122,539
Expenditures for Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services - Financial Assistance	20,661	15,470	16,079
Expenditures for Housing Relocation & Stabilization Services - Services	106,991	121,520	86,127
Expenditures for Homeless Prevention under Emergency Shelter Grants Program	0	0	0
Subtotal Homelessness Prevention	369,007	217,879	224,745

Table 23 – ESG Expenditures for Homelessness Prevention

11b. ESG Expenditures for Rapid Re-Housing

	Dollar Amount of Expenditures in Program Year		
	2012	2013	2014
Expenditures for Rental Assistance	18,315	0	5,091
Expenditures for Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services - Financial Assistance	5,282	0	1,150
Expenditures for Housing Relocation & Stabilization Services - Services	21,155	0	1,478
Expenditures for Homeless Assistance under Emergency Shelter Grants Program	32,767	0	0
Subtotal Rapid Re-Housing	77,519	0	7,719

Table 24 – ESG Expenditures for Rapid Re-Housing

11c. ESG Expenditures for Emergency Shelter

	Dollar Amount of Expenditures in Program Year		
	2012	2013	2014
Essential Services	40,729	59,391	40,352
Operations	197,571	249,266	251,787
Renovation	0	0	0
Major Rehab	0	0	0
Conversion	0	0	0
Subtotal	238,300	308,657	292,139

Table 25 – ESG Expenditures for Emergency Shelter

11d. Other Grant Expenditures

	Dollar Amount of Expenditures in Program Year		
	2012	2013	2014
HMIS	13,846	32,071	29,359
Administration	53,141	54,946	35,468
Street Outreach	0	0	0

Table 26 - Other Grant Expenditures

11e. Total ESG Grant Funds

Total ESG Funds Expended	2012	2013	2014
	1,954,796	751,813	613,553
			589,430

Table 27 - Total ESG Funds Expended

11f. Match Source

	2012	2013	2014
Other Non-ESG HUD Funds	26,588	50,670	35,468
Other Federal Funds	0	0	0
State Government	0	0	0
Local Government	0	0	0
Private Funds	725,225	562,884	170,321
Other	0	0	383,641
Fees	0	0	0
Program Income	0	0	0
Total Match Amount	751,813	613,554	589,430

Table 28 - Other Funds Expended on Eligible ESG Activities

11g. Total

Total Amount of Funds Expended on ESG Activities	2012	2013	2014
	3,909,593	1,503,626	1,227,107
			1,178,860

Table 29 - Total Amount of Funds Expended on ESG Activities

