



First Program Year Action Plan – 2015-2016

The CPMP Annual Action Plan includes the and Narrative Responses to Action Plan questions that CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, and ESG grantees must respond to each year in order to be compliant with the Consolidated Planning Regulations. The Executive Summary narratives are optional.

Narrative Responses

GENERAL

Executive Summary

The Town of Paradise, through its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, has developed a strategy that focuses on cultivating Paradise as a viable community by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low and moderate income persons.

This year, the Town will continue to support low and moderate income homeowners who need repairs to their home, and low income first-time homebuyers who are seeking down payment assistance to purchase a home as well as offering lateral sewer/water hookups to eligible residents.. The Town will continue funding public services through our subrecipient funding process and allocate funds for the program’s planning and administrative activities.

2015-2016 Staff Recommended Funding Breakdown:

Program Administration	\$35,140
Housing Assistance	\$74,209
Code Enforcement	\$40,000
Public Services	\$26,355
TOTAL:	\$175,704

The increased budget for Housing Assistance will support our need for First Time Home Buyer Assistance and Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Assistance as well as support a new program for low/moderate income fire safety and code enforcement assistance. The new program will be made available to low/moderate households who need assistance with removal of fire hazards on their property such as trees, brush, etc. The Town of Paradise faces a very high fire danger, especially with the recent drought, and many times residents cannot afford the removal of dangerous fuels. The program would also assist low/moderate income households with addressing code enforcement violations on their property that would otherwise be unaffordable to fix. A portion of the budget will also go towards a Code

Enforcement Officer to provide inspections to homeowners who may utilize the housing rehabilitation program to address code violations.

General Questions

1. Describe the geographic areas of the jurisdiction (including areas of low income families and/or racial/minority concentration) in which assistance will be directed during the next year. Where appropriate, the jurisdiction should estimate the percentage of funds the jurisdiction plans to dedicate to target areas.

The Town of Paradise is a small mountain community with a mixture of uses and socioeconomic levels. Racial/minority and economic concentrations are not found in Paradise, as families tend to locate socio-economically, rather than racially. Affordability sets the pattern for population concentrations in Paradise. Primarily the two canyons bounding Paradise on the east and west contain the higher income constituents while low-to-moderate income families are located throughout Town.

Funds in the Town's housing programs are spent Town-wide and serve low-to-moderate income families. The sluggish housing economy has created a need in all aspects of the housing industry. Homeowners, homebuyers, contractors, lenders, realtors, etc. will benefit by the investment in housing repairs and mortgage assistance programs.

The two commercial corridors which follow the two main arterials through Town contain mainly micro-businesses. Historically, the Town's economic base has been low and extremely underserved. Over the past few years, the Town proposed investing CDBG dollars for commercial rehabilitation, as building infrastructure is very old, unsafe, and not environmentally sound.

2. Describe the basis for allocating investments geographically within the jurisdiction (or within the EMSA for HOPWA) (91.215(a)(1)) during the next year and the rationale for assigning the priorities.

The Town of Paradise is a very eclectic community. The assorted housing types and conditions scattered throughout the community make it difficult and counter-productive to concentrate efforts into one or two specific neighborhoods. The Town's neighborhoods are not well defined and therefore providing housing funds on a town-wide basis is the best approach.

Community groups that receive subrecipient funding, operate throughout the Town; as such their funding must also be available to serve client needs on a Town-wide basis. The Ridge Family Resource Center, which is the location of many of our past subrecipients, is centrally located on the Town's main street. It's location is such that most residents drive by there on their way to or from almost any destination.

3. Describe actions that will take place during the next year to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs.

Although the Town has been receiving CDBG funds since 1994, there is still a need for affordable housing, better jobs, and a support system that can help underserved needs of residents from a position of need to one of self-sufficiency. There are still unmet needs in Paradise especially related to elder care, affordable housing, and support for at-risk youth. Another obstacle facing this area is the lack of a sewer system, especially in the downtown commercial district. The local community will also experience a cut in services from local non-profit agencies, as they are dealing with major reductions from the state and other sources in their budgets).

4. Identify the federal, state, and local resources expected to be made available to address the needs identified in the plan. Federal resources should include Section 8 funds made available to the jurisdiction, Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, and competitive McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act funds expected to be available to address priority needs and specific objectives identified in the strategic plan.

The Business & Housing Services department has responded attentively to the needs of its low-income residents by providing Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation and First-Time Homebuyer assistance. During the fiscal year 2013/2014, the Town of Paradise completed ten rehabilitation projects, extending \$180,428.86 in loans/grants, and assisted nine households in purchasing their first home, extending \$360,000 in loans. In addition, four more rehabilitation projects have been completed and seven more homes have been purchased since the start of the 2014/2015 fiscal year and ten rehabilitation projects are in verification or under construction and eight more FTHB households are in verification or out shopping for a home. Lastly, the Town was awarded a 2014 HOME grant for \$1,000,000 to fund its Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation program and to pilot a Tenant-Based Rental Assistance program.

Managing the Process

1. Identify the lead agency, entity, and agencies responsible for administering programs covered by the consolidated plan.

The Town of Paradise is the lead agency responsible for administering the programs covered by the consolidated plan.

2. Identify the significant aspects of the process by which the plan was developed, and the agencies, groups, organizations, and others who participated in the process.

The annual plan process is a public process coordinated by the Town staff. The Town follows the prescribed citizen participation process when developing the Annual Plan. Town staff held stakeholder meetings, public hearings, conducted surveys and met with individuals and groups to collaborate and coordinate efforts and resources. As a relatively small community, it is easy to stay connected with other groups and citizens.

3. Describe actions that will take place during the next year to enhance coordination between public and private housing, health, and social service agencies.

The Town will focus on collaboration between government agencies; local non-profits; community needs organizations, and local businesses. The town will continue to work with stakeholder and other community service agencies, and organizations.

Town staff also partnered with several agencies on the development of Paradise Community Village, Phase 1 – an affordable housing apartment complex with 36 units available to low and very low income residents. The Town of Paradise made a financial commitment to the wastewater treatment facility as part of the overall affordable housing development. The apartment complex was completed in the summer and was fully rented by October 2013. The Town of Paradise is currently working with the agencies involved with Phase 1 on the next Phase of the Development which will include more affordable housing units.

The Town of Paradise holds an annual forum for lenders/realtors to promote and educate community stakeholders regarding the first time homebuyers program. This ensures that all agencies and individuals involved with the Town’s housing programs follow the guidelines set forth by HUD and Housing and Community Development (HCD).

The Town collaborates with the Chamber of Commerce in many ways to share information, provide services and support, and initiates programs and policies that benefit the local business community.

Citizen Participation

1. Provide a summary of the citizen participation process.

A public notice was published in the Paradise Post on December 27, 2014 outlining the noticing requirements of the Citizen Participation Plan and Annual Plan. The public notice announced the two public hearings that allowed citizens the opportunity to comment and make suggestions on the development of the 2015-2016 Annual Action Plan.

- **1st Public Hearing:** Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. This public hearing was used to solicit suggestions and/or comments from the public regarding the 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan and 2015-2016 Annual Plan funding priorities.

- **2nd Public Hearing:** Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 6:00 p.m., in the Town Hall Council Chambers at 5555 Skyway, Paradise, California. The Draft Consolidated Plan and Draft Annual Action plan was available for review by the Council and the public. This public hearing initiated a 30-day public comment period.
- **30-Day Public Comment Period:** March 10th-April 10th, 2015. The Draft Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan was available for public review at the following locations, Paradise Public Library, Senior Center, Family Resource Center, Paradise Chamber of Commerce, Town Hall and could be downloaded via the Town's website.
- **Council Meeting:** Tuesday, April 14, 2015, at 6:00 p.m., in the Town Hall Council Chambers at 5555 Skyway, Paradise, California. The Council reviewed the final draft of the 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan and 2015-2016 Annual Plan. Council adopted the drafts and approved submission of the documents to HUD.

2. Provide a summary of citizen comments or views on the plan.

No public comments were received on the 2015-2016 Annual Plan.

3. Provide a summary of efforts made to broaden public participation in the development of the consolidated plan, including outreach to minorities and non-English speaking persons, as well as persons with disabilities.

The Town posted the public hearing notice in the Paradise Post and made it available on the Town's website. Community Service organizations were given information about the Annual Plan process and were encouraged to discuss these projects with individuals who visit their organizations. The draft plan was made available for review at the above mentioned locations, all of which are accessible to persons with disabilities.

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

No public comments were received on the 2015-2016 Annual Plan.

Institutional Structure

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

The Town Institutional Structure is as follows:

Five member Town Council

- Holds public hearings on Consolidated Plan, Annual Plans and CAPER reports and approves submittal to HUD.
- Approves funding for Public Service Agencies

The Town of Paradise, Business and Housing Services staff provides the main administrative and project management duties over the CDBG program. The

BHS Staff is under the management of the Town Manager. Staff prepares the Consolidated Plan, Annual Plans and Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Reports (CAPER) for each CDBG program year. The oversight of the CDBG program is provided by the five-member Town Council whom are elected officials voted in by the citizens of Paradise. All reports and plans are reviewed by Council before they are submitted to HUD.

The Paradise Community Village rental housing project united several organizations that are working cooperatively for the betterment of the community. The degree of commitment and cooperation needed to move this project forward establishes a new paradigm in institutional structure and brings community resources together in a whole new way.

The Town works closely with non-profit organizations in the area that provide specific programs to the citizens of Paradise. These organizations provide services to very low-, low- and moderate-income residents, including the frail and elderly, mentally disabled, physically disabled, homeless, and at-risk youth. These organizations submit funding requests to the Town to qualify for money that comes out of the Community Needs Category. Up to 15% of annual funding is set-aside for these organizations. Once applications for grant funding are received and reviewed by staff, they go through a competitive review process and recommendations are decided by a funding committee and forwarded to the Town Council for final approval.

Once funding decisions are made, organizations are required to sign a contract with the Town outlining the rules and regulations of public service funds. They are required to submit the required documents and reference material related to grant funding. After the contract is signed, the organizations submit quarterly and year end reports for staff review. Organizations are audited and staff performs site visits on a yearly basis. If organizations are not submitting reports on-time or are unable to follow through with program requirements, staff will monitor the organizations to make sure that HUD regulations are being met, or funding is withdrawn.

Monitoring

1. Describe actions that will take place during the next year to monitor its housing and community development projects and ensure long-term compliance with program requirements and comprehensive planning requirements.

Staff works closely with sub-grantees to ensure program compliance. Town staff checks in with sub-grantees on a quarterly basis and performs an annual review to work through the performance measurement requirements and to ensure their compliance with program regulations.

The Town also cooperates in annual independent audits and receives monitoring visits from the State. These audits and monitoring visits educate and inform the Town on its processes and procedures and help to ensure long term compliance with program requirements.

Lead-based Paint

1. Describe the actions that will take place during the next year to evaluate and reduce the number of housing units containing lead-based paint hazards in order to increase the inventory of lead-safe housing available to extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families, and how the plan for the reduction of lead-based hazards is related to the extent of lead poisoning and hazards.

The Town's mortgage subsidy program and residential rehabilitation program comply with federal regulations regarding lead testing, containment, and abatement.

HOUSING

Specific Housing Objectives

*Please also refer to the Housing Needs Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Describe the priorities and specific objectives the jurisdiction hopes to achieve during the next year.
2. Describe how Federal, State, and local public and private sector resources that are reasonably expected to be available will be used to address identified needs for the period covered by this Action Plan.

Although the housing prices have fallen over the past four years, affordability for low income persons is still an issue.

The decline in property values will prevent many low income persons from being able to afford major home repairs. Deferred maintenance becomes an issue, especially in the Town's older housing stock which tends to need more attention. The Town will continue to fund home repair programs for low and moderate income families. These funds benefit homeowners as well as local contractors, building suppliers and others related to the housing industry.

The Town will also continue to fund a mortgage assistance program for low-to-moderate income home buyers. These funds benefit those involved in the housing industry, including lenders, realtors, etc.

Needs of Public Housing

1. Describe the manner in which the plan of the jurisdiction will help address the needs of public housing and activities it will undertake during the next year to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership.
2. If the public housing agency is designated as "troubled" by HUD or otherwise is performing poorly, the jurisdiction shall describe the manner in which it will provide financial or other assistance in improving its operations to remove such designation during the next year.

The Butte County Housing Authority provides Section 8 vouchers and public housing assistance to the residents of Butte County. At this time the Town has one public housing apartment building. This public housing complex is supported by Housing Authority funds.

The Town and Housing Authority share information on needs and works collaboratively, when needed, to address the needs of the community. The Housing Authority holds public meetings for their clients. These meetings are well attended and comments and needs are recorded and prioritized.

Barriers to Affordable Housing

1. Describe the actions that will take place during the next year to remove barriers to affordable housing.

The Town of Paradise updated its Housing Element, which was completed in 2014 and submitted to the California Housing and Community Development Department. As a part of that process, the Town identified both barriers and deficiencies in the Town’s housing efforts. The Town also looked at current policies, available land, citizen needs and demands to assist the Town in addressing any barriers to affordable housing that may exist.

The development of the Paradise Community Village, Phase I project has been a marked step towards providing affordable housing for residents of the Town of Paradise. The next Phases of the Paradise Community Village will offer more affordable housing options for residents. Plans for the next phases are currently being developed.

HOMELESS

Specific Homeless Prevention Elements

*Please also refer to the Homeless Needs Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

Sources of Funds—Identify the private and public resources that the jurisdiction expects to receive during the next year to address homeless needs and to prevent homelessness. These include the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act programs, other special federal, state and local and private funds targeted to homeless individuals and families with children, especially the chronically homeless, the HUD formula programs, and any publicly-owned land or property. Please describe, briefly, the jurisdiction’s plan for the investment and use of funds directed toward homelessness.

1. Homelessness—In a narrative, describe how the action plan will address the specific objectives of the Strategic Plan and, ultimately, the priority needs identified. Please also identify potential obstacles to completing these action steps.

2. Chronic homelessness—The jurisdiction must describe the specific planned action steps it will take over the next year aimed at eliminating chronic homelessness by 2012. Again, please identify barriers to achieving this.
3. Homelessness Prevention—The jurisdiction must describe its planned action steps over the next year to address the individual and families with children at imminent risk of becoming homeless.
4. Discharge Coordination Policy—Explain planned activities to implement a cohesive, community-wide Discharge Coordination Policy, and how, in the coming year, the community will move toward such a policy.

The Butte County Continuum of Care receives funding from the County and local agencies to support a coordinator position that coordinates the efforts to serve homelessness in the County. A yearly homeless survey is completed and results are submitted to each city within the County.

The Town will continue to support the efforts of the Butte County Continuum of Care. The Continuum of Care program works with the local homeless population and facilitates the coordination of services to these individuals. They identify the gaps in services and apply for additional funding resources to meet these needs. The Town also utilizes the Community Housing Improvement Program's Credit Counseling Program which provides residents of Paradise with information about improving credit and finding ways to insure that those who may be losing their home- find a means to help them stay in their home.

Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG)

(States only) Describe the process for awarding grants to State recipients, and a description of how the allocation will be made available to units of local government.

N/A

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development

*Please also refer to the Community Development Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Identify the jurisdiction's priority non-housing community development needs eligible for assistance by CDBG eligibility category specified in the Community Development Needs Table (formerly Table 2B), public facilities, public improvements, public services and economic development.

2. Identify specific long-term and short-term community development objectives (including economic development activities that create jobs), developed in accordance with the statutory goals described in section 24 CFR 91.1 and the primary objective of the CDBG program to provide decent housing and a suitable living environment and expand economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.

*Note: Each specific objective developed to address a priority need, must be identified by number and contain proposed accomplishments, the time period (i.e., one, two, three, or more years), and annual program year numeric goals the jurisdiction hopes to achieve in quantitative terms, or in other measurable terms as identified and defined by the jurisdiction.

The town's non-housing community development needs are as follows:

1. Economic development
2. Public facilities
3. Public services
4. Public improvements

The Town of Paradise has adopted program objectives that mirror HUD's primary objectives of decent housing, expanded economic opportunities, and achieving a suitable living environment. The Town will focus funding towards needed infrastructure in the downtown area, which will go a long way towards business growth and job creation. Needed infrastructure includes a wastewater treatment facility, improved streets, pedestrian improvements, parking and other amenities conducive to a successful downtown.

Antipoverty Strategy

1. Describe the actions that will take place during the next year to reduce the number of poverty level families.

The Town's non-profits work with social service agencies to address needs of low and very low income individuals and families. The Town collaborates with these groups to provide assistance in the form of subrecipient funding and to ensure that services are available to help reduce poverty and the effects of poverty.

NON-HOMELESS SPECIAL NEEDS HOUSING

Non-homeless Special Needs (91.220 (c) and (e))

*Please also refer to the Non-homeless Special Needs Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Describe the priorities and specific objectives the jurisdiction hopes to achieve for the period covered by the Action Plan.
2. Describe how Federal, State, and local public and private sector resources that are reasonably expected to be available will be used to address identified needs for the period covered by this Action Plan.

The Town intends to continue to work with local care providers, to provide social, employment, recreational and health care opportunity for our special

needs population. The Town will also support local efforts to obtain other funds that support the special needs community.