

## Executive Summary

Delaware County is pleased to present its Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. The purpose of this CAPER is threefold:

- To provide the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) with necessary information to assess the County's ability to carry out its housing and community development programs in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations; and
- To provide HUD with information necessary for its annual report to Congress; and
- To inform County residents of housing and community development activities undertaken on their behalf

This report has been prepared in accordance with the HUD memorandum dated March 25, 1998. It contains (1) a summary of resources available and complete listing of accomplishments; (2) general and program specific narratives; and (3) a self-evaluation of progress made during the year in addressing identified priority needs and objectives. Progress is measured by how well the County addressed the priorities set forth in its Five-Year (2018-2023) Consolidated Plan and Fiscal Year 2020 Action Plan.

The Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) is responsible for the planning, implementation and reporting of the County's housing and community development programs in accordance with federal requirements. As such, staff prepares the Consolidated Plan, Action Plan and CAPER documents. In FY 20 there were 28 subrecipients of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding. OHCD staff is responsible for developing and enforcing established program operating procedures to ensure that subrecipients are carrying out projects in accordance with HUD regulations.

Delaware County implemented its Housing and Community Development goals and priorities as set forth in its Five-Year Consolidated Plan, expending \$6,119,023 in federal entitlement and local funding to meet the most pressing needs of the County's low- and moderate income residents.

The County's strengths in meeting its goals are in the area of public infrastructure and facility improvements serving low- and moderate-income areas, homeownership for first-time homebuyers; shelter for the homeless population, preventing homelessness and rapidly rehousing homeless households.

### **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.**

During FY 20, Delaware County made significant progress in accomplishing its Housing and Community Development goals and priorities as set forth in its Five-Year Consolidated Plan. Several activities stand out as having a particularly positive impact on improving the quality of life for Delaware County's low- and moderate-income residents. The following objectives were advanced through federal and local resources.

## **Housing Priority**

The objective of the housing continuum, in which all segments of the low- and moderate-income population have the opportunity to secure safe, decent and affordable housing, was significantly furthered through success of the following activities:

- Through the Homeownership First Program, 7 households received pre-purchase counseling and down payment and/or closing cost assistance;
- Through the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program, 11 existing homeowners received deferred loans to rehabilitate their homes;
- HOME funding allocated in Program Year 2019 for construction of rental units to be occupied by extremely low- to moderate-income households at Simpson Gardens II in Lansdowne Borough. Construction of 41 units was completed, including 7 HOME funded units. Occupation of 5 of the 7 HOME units was achieved, the additional 2 units are expected to be occupied by August 2021;
- A County Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO), Chester Community Improvement Project, completed construction of four residences for purchase by eligible households. All 4 units were sold to eligible households (below 80 MFI).

## **Community Development Priority**

The following public facility and infrastructure improvement projects demonstrate our commitment to removing blight and improving communities for low- and moderate-income persons. More than 35,000 low- and moderate-income persons benefitted from public improvement activities:

- 3 neighborhood facilities, two community centers and a library, were provided access improvements and upgrades to HVAC equipment to better serve the general public;
- 4 neighborhood parks were improved creating improved access to recreational facilities and safer play spaces for surrounding children;
- Critical water/sewer improvements were completed in 8 neighborhoods;
- 5 neighborhoods were improved through reconstruction of 12 residential streets, 2 of which included installation of pedestrian lighting;
- 1 neighborhood was improved through the installation of pedestrian lighting increasing resident access and safety and;
- 1 historic resource was preserved with structural improvements eliminating a safety hazard to the general public.