

City of Hickory

Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report

July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021



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City of Hickory
PO Box 398
Hickory, NC 28603
www.hickorync.gov

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 City of Hickory's program year 2020-2021 highlights include:

1. Preservation of the City's Housing Stock: \$100,197.10 was provided to low and moderate income homeowners to assist with repairs to their homes. Five projects were completed during the program year through the City of Hickory's Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program. Habitat for Humanity used \$21,457.95 to assist eight additional homeowners.
2. Administration of Housing Rehabilitation Program: \$16,872.02 funded staff costs related to the implementation of the City's Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program.
3. Public Services Initiative: \$7,000 was provided to Exodus Homes to fund employment and transportation coordination services for homeless, formerly incarcerated individuals, and those coming from treatment programs. Exodus Homes provides employment assistance and transportation for all residents. 57 residents were supported through this funding.
4. Public Services Initiative: \$10,000 was allocated to AIDS Leadership Foothills Area Alliance (ALFA) to provide case management services to people living with HIV/AIDS. ALFA also offers HIV prevention education programs to the community at large. They have 85 city residents in care through their program.
5. Public Services Initiative: \$10,000 was provided to the Hickory Soup Kitchen, which enabled the organization to serve approximately 350 meals per day to 235 residents of Hickory needing a hot meal.
6. Public Services Initiative: \$7,000 was provided to Family Care Center to support for a transitional housing program for homeless or potentially homeless families. 127 individuals were supported through this funding.
7. Public Services Initiative: \$10,000 was provided to Family Guidance Center to assist their financial and housing counseling program. This organization assists in foreclosure avoidance and establishing homeownership in the city. 46 homeowners were assisted.
8. Increase Entrepreneurship Opportunities: A \$4,000 grant was provided to assist a small business owned by low/moderate income individual. The business develops and distributes a unique diffuser/infuser for multiple therapeutic modalities including aroma and sound therapies.
9. Public Infrastructure Improvements: \$55,730.50 was used to resurface a neighborhood street located within a low and moderate income neighborhood. Approximately 1,515 linear feet of two lane neighborhood street was resurfaced. 2,475 low/mod individuals and 4,170

individuals overall benefited from this project. At Taft Broome Park/Ridgeview Library , \$99,987.50 was used for develop a parking lot on three city owned lots adjacent to the library, recreation center and playground and will serve as overflow parking for the library expansion and new park amenities. This project was completed in August of 2021. 1,410 low/mod individuals benefited from this project and 2,130 persons overall.

- 10. Promote Fair Housing: \$1,785.00 was used to purchase newspaper ads and social media advertising to inform residents of their fair housing rights.
- 11. Program Administration: \$60,068.20 was used to provide program administration and planning.
- 12. Public Service Activities for CDBG-CV: \$224,650.76 was provided to Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministries to support citizens who are in need of emergency rental/mortgage and utility assistance. To date, approximately 556 households have been assisted.
- 13. Administration of CDBG-CV Program: \$6292.98 was used to provide program administration and planning for the CDBG-CV funding.

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
Demolish Dilapidated Structures	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Buildings Demolished	Buildings	4	0	0.00%			

Homeless Services and Prevention	Homeless	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	0	0				
Homeless Services and Prevention	Homeless	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	1500	419	27.93%	400	419	104.75%
Increase Entrepreneurship Opportunities	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Jobs created/retained	Jobs	5	0	0.00%	1	0	0.00%
Increase Entrepreneurship Opportunities	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Businesses assisted	Businesses Assisted	10	1	10.00%	2	1	50.00%
Increase Fair Housing Outreach and Awareness	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	0	0				
Increase Fair Housing Outreach and Awareness	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	250	46	18.40%	150	46	30.67%

Preserve the City's Housing Stock	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	20	13	65.00%	4	13	325.00%
Provide Services to Persons Living with HIV/AIDS	Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	750	85	11.33%	160	85	53.13%
Public Infrastructure and Facility Improvements	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	5500	4170	75.82%	5000	4170	83.40%
Support Homeownership	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	250	46	18.40%	50	46	92.00%
Youth Services	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	150	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 City of Hickory was able to address significant portions of its goals. Projects helped protect the City's housing stock by providing urgent repairs and housing rehabilitation assistance to thirteen (13) households during the program year. Significant numbers of citizens benefited from street resurfacing projects and public facility improvements. Construction on a parking lot to give expanded access to park, recreation center, and library patrons began at Taft Broome Park/Ridgeview Library in 2020. This location is in low/mod Census Tract 109, with a benefit to 2,130 individuals overall and 1,410 low/mod individuals. In 2020, the City resurfaced one street in a low/mod census tract in the northeast portion of the city and benefited 2,475 low/mod individuals and 4,170 persons overall.

In the 2020 Program year, the City of Hickory continued its small business assistance programs which provide funding to businesses to create jobs and purchase equipment necessary to take their business to the next level. In 2020, the City awarded one microenterprise grant. The City has awarded three small business loans and seven microenterprise grants since beginning the programs.

The City's public services initiative continued to assist the community's most vulnerable populations, including the homeless, persons living with HIV and AIDS, persons with substance abuse issues, and persons needed financial and housing counseling.

Fair housing activities are undertaken through the City's program administration funds and will not show specific accomplishments in IDIS. This year's fair housing outreach included ads in the Hickory Daily Record and Hola Noticias Spanish language newspaper as well as the City Snippets that are included in resident water bills. Additional ads on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter greatly increased the reach of the City's advertising efforts.

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
White	456
Black or African American	611
Asian	9
American Indian or American Native	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0
Total	1,076
Hispanic	15
Not Hispanic	1,061

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

Narrative

This table indicates the racial and ethnic breakdown of families assisted through CDBG public service funds including CDBG-CV funding to assist citizens with emergency rent and utility payments. This does not include the racial and ethnic breakdown of area benefit activities that benefit all residents of a census tract or block group. Please note that there are 44 multi-racial individuals that do not appear in the table above due to lack of category listing within the required software.

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	public - federal	618,487	304,111

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

The funds available include \$178,925.01 in unexpended funds at the beginning of the program year. The City received \$330,758.00 in its annual allocation from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. The City also received 108,803.87 in program income during the fiscal year. There is also an additional \$468,830 in CDBG-CV funds that were allocated to 2019 Action Plan that were expended in PY 2020 and PY 2021.

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
CDBG ELIGIBLE AREA	70	70	Low Mod Census Tracts
City-Wide	30	30	Eligibility Area

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

The majority of funds expended during program year 2020 were spent in low and moderate income census tracts. \$55,730.50 was spent on infrastructure and facility projects in CDBG eligible areas. The City improved a neighborhood street in a low/mod census tract which benefited 2,475 low mod income residents and 4,170 residents overall. In addition, the City also created/expanded a parking lot for overflow parking adjacent to the Ridgeview Library and Taft Broome park. This project was started in PY 2020 but was not invoiced before end of program year as work was not completed. This project will ultimately benefit 1,410 low/mod individuals and 2,130 individuals overall in a low/mod census tract. Three of five public services agencies are located in low to moderate income census tracts. Three of five homeowners assisted through the City of Hickory Housing Rehabilitation Program are located in low and moderate income census tracts. The percentages shown above are based on the estimated percentage of non-program administration expenses spent in low and moderate income census tracts. In PY 2020, the City partnered with Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry to assist low/mod income households affected by coronavirus with emergency rental/mortgage and utility assistance. 556 households have been assisted with \$230,944 to date. The program aimed to alleviate the threat of losing a home or have utilities disconnected due to the effects of the coronavirus.

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.

These federal funds were leveraged through the use of donated roofing shingles from Habitat for Humanity. The organization is able to receive donated shingles to assist low income households including those with City rehabilitation projects. This helps the City provide roof repair services to additional households. For loan recipients, the reduced cost of the roof repairs is passed on the homeowners in the form of lower deferred loan amounts. The City also receives funds from the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency for their Urgent Repair Program to assist homeowners with their needs. This funding, allows the City to assist more individuals in the community. In PY 2020, the City of Hickory assisted eight (8) homeowners with repairs through the Urgent Repair Program.

In PY 2020, the City constructed two affordable houses. This process began In 2019, when the City of Hickory partnered with the Unifour HOME Consortium to construct two homes on city-owned lots. These houses were completed in October 2020 and were sold in the spring of 2021 to two homebuyers with household incomes at or below 80% of AMI (\$48,250 for a family of four in the Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton metropolitan statistical area). The homebuyers received additional down payment assistance through the NC Housing Finance Agency Community Partners Loan Pool and the Western Piedmont Council of Governments. One of these homes was sold to a Housing Choice Voucher recipient who received additional assistance through its homeownership program. The City is currently working with several developers to continue building affordable housing on city owned lots with the hopes of creating at least a dozen if not more affordable houses for those families that qualify. In addition to the City built homes, Habitat for Humanity is continuing their effort to construct affordable housing in several neighborhoods in the City of Hickory.

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	2	2
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Total	2	2

Table 5 – 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	2	2
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	8	13
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
Total	10	15

Table 6 – Number of Households Supported

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

Hickory is a participating jurisdiction in the Unifour HOME Consortium to help meet the affordable housing needs of its citizens. The HOME Consortium provides downpayment assistance to eligible households and provides additional funding to support affordable housing. Households continue to be served through the City's Housing Rehabilitation Loan program and the Habitat Repairs! Single Family Rehabilitation program. The City's program assisted five low and moderate income households with home repairs. Habitat funded repairs to eight households in the 2020 program year with their allocation.

In PY 2020, the City constructed two affordable houses. This process began In 2019, when the City of Hickory partnered with the Unifour HOME Consortium to construct two homes on city-owned lots. These houses were completed in October 2020 and were sold in the spring of 2021 to two homebuyers with household incomes at or below 80% of AMI. The homebuyers received additional down payment assistance through the NC Housing Finance Agency Community Partners Loan Pool and the Western Piedmont Council of Governments. One of these homes was sold to a Housing Choice Voucher recipient who received additional assistance through its homeownership program. The City is currently working with several developers to continue building affordable housing on city owned lots with the hopes of creating at least a dozen if not more affordable houses for those families that qualify. In addition to the City built homes, Habitat for Humanity is continuing their effort to construct affordable housing in several neighborhoods in the City of Hickory.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

The City plans to continue funding its Housing Rehabilitation program in future action plans. The City plans to support the reconstruction of homes through Habitat for Humanity with CDBG funding. The City will continue applying for funding from the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency Urgent Repair Program to fund urgently needed home repairs for households below 50% of Statewide Area Median Income.

The City will continue to work to increase the number of families served through housing rehabilitation. Its deferred loan program has begun to gain popularity, and the expectation is for it to continue to grow. Since it does not require the owner to make monthly payments, it is easier for homeowners to qualify. In recent years, fewer applicants have been able to meet loan criteria, which led to the creation of the program for households earning less than 50% of the area median income. In 2019, the City moved all rehab housing loans to a deferred program, doing away with a previous version that allowed for amortized loans for homeowners with household incomes between 50% and 80%. The City has implemented an advertising process to increase awareness of these programs to those that most need the assistance. The City has seen an increase in the number of rehab applications. For example, in PY 2019 we completed two rehabilitations but in 2020 we completed five. For PY2021, they City Has seven rehabilitation projects underway.

The City continues to work to increase the number of families served by the housing counseling program offered by a local non-profit. The Family Guidance Center program assists in housing counseling, foreclosure avoidance, and encouraging homeownership in our community. The Family Guidance Center is a local HUD Housing Counseling Agency.

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 Households Served	CDBG Actual	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income	2	0
Low-income	3	0
Moderate-income	8	0
Total	13	0

Table 7 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

Thirteen (13) families were assisted with funding during the 2020-2021 program year. Thirty-eight percent were low and extremely low income families. In PY 2020, more than half (54%) were under the age of 65 and more than half (54%) were Black or African American. The City works to assist those with the greatest financial needs with the funding that is available. The number of families assisted in 2020 is more than in the past due to the impact of the Coronavirus at the end of PY 2019. Also in PY 2020, the City partnered with Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry to assist low/mod income households that have been affected by the coronavirus with emergency rental/mortgage and utility assistance. 556 households have been assisted with \$230,944 to date. The program aimed to alleviate the threat of losing a home or having utilities disconnected due to the effects of the coronavirus.

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

Community Development Division staff continues to serve on the Catawba County Continuum of Care. This organization brings together homeless serving agencies from across the county to determine funding options, raise awareness about important issues, and reduce duplication of services. The City funded the Hickory Soup Kitchen in the amount of \$10,000. This organization provides a hot meal and showers to homeless individuals five days per week. The City supported the Family Care Center with a grant of \$7,000 to provide support for a transitional housing program for homeless or potentially homeless families. The City also supported Exodus Homes with a \$7,000 grant. This organization provides a residential treatment program for homeless and previously incarcerated individuals with substance abuse issues.

Additionally, in the summer of 2019, the City hired a Community Navigator to work specifically with our homeless population. This position is responsible for case management and ensuring that homeless persons reach the proper agency in order to receive services. This coordinated effort by multiple agencies has helped to ensure that our community is reaching as many of our homeless neighbors as possible. In PY 2020, the Community Navigator received 108 referrals for assistance to the homeless. He has been able to assist approximately 62 individuals with services needed and has secured housing for 23 individuals to help them transition from homelessness to sheltered.

Also in PY 2020, the City partnered with Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry to assist low/mod income households that have been affected by the coronavirus with emergency rental/mortgage and utility assistance. 556 households have been assisted with \$230,944 to date. The program aims to alleviate the threat of losing a home or having utilities disconnected due to the effects of the coronavirus.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City continues to fund Exodus Homes, which provides transitional housing to homeless and previously incarcerated individuals with substance abuse issues. The organization was funded with an \$7,000 grant in 2020-2021. These funds were used to support the salary of the Employment Coordinator who directs the entire vocational training program and assists residents in determining a path to employment. Approximately 57 individuals received assistance during the PY 2020. The City also supported the Family Care Center with a grant of \$7,000 to provide support for a transitional housing

program for homeless or potentially homeless families. Approximately 127 individuals received assistance through the program during PY 2020.

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

The City's grants to public service agencies assist low income individuals by providing free or low cost services such as healthcare, food assistance and job training. These services can enable families to make their incomes go further and reduce the likelihood of homelessness. The Hickory Soup Kitchen provides meals and food assistance to individuals in need with the City's grant of \$10,000. In PY 2020, they assisted 235 individuals. ALFA, also with a grant of \$10,000, provides case management services to persons living with HIV and AIDS to help them stay in care, which should reduce healthcare costs and help reduce the risk of becoming homeless. ALFA assisted 85 individuals who are residents in the City of Hickory. The Family Care Center assists families that are homeless or are in danger of becoming homeless with transitional housing and counseling to help provide a path towards self sufficiency and greater economic opportunity. They were supported with a grant of \$7,000 in PY 2020 and assisted 127 individuals. The City also supported Exodus Homes with a \$7,000 grant. This organization provides a residential treatment program for homeless and previously incarcerated individuals with substance abuse issues.

The City's Community Navigator works specifically with our homeless population including youth. This position is responsible for case management and ensuring that homeless persons reach the proper agency in order to receive services. This coordinated effort by multiple agencies has helped to ensure that our community is reaching as many of our homeless neighbors as possible. In PY 2020, the Community Navigator received 108 referrals for assistance to the homeless. He has been able to assist approximately 62 individuals with services needed and has secured housing for 23 individuals to help them transition from homelessness to sheltered.

Also in PY 2020, the City partnered with Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry to assist low/mod income households that have been affected by the coronavirus with emergency rental/mortgage and utility assistance. 556 households have been assisted with \$230,944 to date. The program aims to alleviate the threat of losing a home or having utilities disconnected due to the effects of the coronavirus.

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

Exodus Homes helps homeless individuals with substance abuse issues make the transition from homelessness to employment and permanent housing. The Family Care Center assists families in need by providing transitional housing program and counseling for those that are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless. Also, the City continues to work with the Continuum of Care to coordinate services and work with other service providers to identify gaps in services, and assist agencies in serving as many individuals in need as possible.

Additionally, for the last two years, the City has had a Community Navigator to work specifically with our homeless population. This position is responsible for case management and ensuring that homeless persons reach the proper agency in order to receive services. This coordinated effort by multiple agencies has helped to ensure that our community is reaching as many of our homeless neighbors as possible. The Community Navigator received 108 referrals for assistance to the homeless. He has been able to assist approximately 62 individuals with services needed and has secured housing for 23 individuals to help them transition from homelessness to sheltered.

Also in PY 2020, the City partnered with Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry to assist low/mod income households that have been affected by the coronavirus with emergency rental/mortgage and utility assistance. 556 households have been assisted with \$230,944 to date. The program aims to alleviate the threat of losing a home or having utilities disconnected due to the effects of the coronavirus.

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

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

Staff continues to work with Hickory Housing Authority staff on planning issues related to housing authority properties. The Housing Authority recently received funding to remodel most of their units through the RAD program. This will improve the quality of the units as well as the longevity.

Also, the City is still in the process of constructing a multi-modal path for bikes and pedestrians called the Historic Ridgeview Walk. This path will be located in the Ridgeview Community, in close proximity to the majority of Hickory Public Housing Authority units. This will give community members easier and safer access to the downtown area, as well necessary amenities such as a grocery store.

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

In PY 2020, the City constructed two affordable houses. This process began in 2019, when the City of Hickory partnered with the Unifour HOME Consortium to construct two homes on city-owned lots. These homes were promoted throughout the community including public housing. These homes were also promoted through the local Section 8 representatives as well. These houses were completed in October, 2020 and were sold in the spring of 2021 to two homebuyers whose household income was at or below 80% of AMI (\$48,250 for a family of four in the Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton metropolitan statistical area). Financing was layered for down payment assistance through the NC Housing Finance Agency Community Partners Loan Pool and the Western Piedmont Council of Governments. One of these homes was sold to a Housing Choice Voucher recipient who received additional assistance through its homeownership program. The City is currently working with several developers to continue building affordable housing on city owned lots with the hopes of creating at least a dozen if not more affordable houses for those families that qualify. Promotion of these new homes to public housing will continue into the next few years. In addition to the City built homes, Habitat for Humanity is continuing their effort to construct affordable housing in several neighborhoods in the City of Hickory. These homes will be promoted to residents of the Housing Authority through the Section 8 homeownership program.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

The Hickory Housing Authority does not have a troubled housing authority designation.

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)

City of Hickory staff continues to review its ordinances annually to ensure there are not unnecessary barriers to affordable housing. Recent actions taken in 2019 to address affordable housing needs include rezoning of an area in NE Hickory to high-density residential (R-4). The area had been zoned as Medium-Density Residential (R-2) and Community Center Commercial (CC-1) for the last few decades, but the City has rezoned it to High-Density Residential. In order to reduce barriers to multi-family and affordable housing, City ordinances allow multi-family homes or duplexes to be permitted by right within all commercial zoning districts and within all but one residential zoning district. It is the hope of staff and City Council that this helps spur residential multi-family development in the area with the help of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) projects. Since 2015, the City of Hickory has partnered with the NCHFA to create approximately 230 Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) apartments, with another 72 units planned for 2021. Also in spring of 2021 four applications for additional LIHTC projects were submitted to the NCHFA and are currently being reviewed. Now that the 2020 census data has been published, City Planning Staff will work to update the Hickory By Choice 2030 plan that will include efforts to support all housing development including affordable housing efforts.

Additionally, City Staff completed two affordable homes on City owned property that is adjacent to Hickory Public Housing. These homes were promoted to residents of the Housing Authority through the Section 8 homeownership program and one sold to a citizen who was receiving Section 8 for rental but was able to convert it to Section 8 for homeownership.

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

The City continues to use CDBG funding to provide public infrastructure and facility improvements in low and moderate income areas. Infrastructure projects this year included resurfacing more than a quarter mile of a city street in the northeast portion of the City. This resurfacing benefits approximately 2,475 low and moderate individuals and 4,170 persons overall. CDBG funding enables the City to provide additional resurfacing beyond its normal resurfacing schedule.

CDBG funds are used to provide additional facility improvements that would not be possible without federal funding. In 2021, Facility and infrastructure improvements began for Taft Broome Park/Ridgeview Library with the addition of a new parking facility. This parking lot benefits 1,410 low/mod individuals and 2,130 individuals overall in Census Tract 109 in a historically minority community. This project was completed in August 2021, just after the close of the program year.

Also, the City of Hickory has partnered with the NCHFA to create approximately 230 Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) apartments in recent years, with another 72 units planned for 2021. Also in spring of 2021 four applications for additional LIHTC projects were submitted to the NCHFA and are currently being reviewed. Now that the 2020 census data has been published, City Planning Staff will work to update the Hickory By Choice 2030 plan that will include efforts to support all housing development including affordable housing efforts. Additionally, City Staff completed and sold two affordable homes on City owned property and is continuing to pursue additional affordable housing development partnerships.

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

The City has also taken actions to reduce lead paint hazards. The City follows the lead safe housing rule when conducting housing rehabilitation activities. All of the City's rehabilitation projects are under \$25,000 in hard costs, which means that the City must identify and address lead hazards when paint is disturbed by renovation activities. This includes conducting a lead hazard risk assessment on the home and addressing all of the hazards identified in the report. All lead hazards are addressed at no cost to the homeowner.

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

Numerous public service activities are funded each year with the aim of reducing poverty in the City of Hickory. \$10,000 was provided to the Hickory Soup Kitchen to provide meals and food assistance to very low income families. The families that received assistance were able to stretch their income further to fund additional needs. ALFA received \$10,000 to assist its housing case management program, which provides housing assistance to persons with HIV and AIDS to ensure that they stay in treatment. Exodus Homes received \$7,000 to provide job and transportation coordination services for residents in its substance abuse treatment programs. The goal of the program is to assist residents in finding employment and move towards self sufficiency. The Family Care Center received \$7,000 for its transitional housing program that assists families living that are homeless or are in danger of becoming homeless. This program also offer counseling and aimed at providing them a pathway to economic self-sufficiency. Also in 2020, the City supported families in need because of the coronavirus with an emergency rental and utility assistance payment program through Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry. As of the end of June, we had assisted 556 households with emergency payments totaling \$230,944 through the CDBG-CV funding.

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

Staff is always striving to review policies and procedures to ensure that programs are run according to appropriate federal guidelines. Improvements in the previous program year included gaining new knowledge of the environmental review process through the process of completing a full Environmental Assessment. In the last program year, staff attended an online course on managing subrecipients. Staff have worked to streamline the continual review of nonprofit subrecipients. This review includes regular updates on required documentation and regular meetings with nonprofit subrecipients to ensure that they are aware of federal requirements including any procurement and lead based paint regulations and processes that may need to be followed.

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

City of Hickory staff continues to attend Catawba County Continuum of Care meetings. These meetings provide a forum for local public and private housing providers along with public and private social service agencies to address issues confronting the homeless and poverty level families in the community.

In 2019, the City hired a Community Navigator to work specifically with our homeless population. This position is responsible for case management and ensuring that homeless persons reach the proper agency in order to receive services. This coordinated effort by multiple agencies has helped to ensure that our community is reaching as many of our homeless neighbors as possible. In 2020, the Community Navigator received 108 referrals for assistance to the homeless. He has been able to assist approximately 62 individuals with services needed and has secured housing for 23 individuals to help them transition from homelessness to sheltered.

The City of Hickory and Habitat for Humanity have also enhanced their partnership to provide housing rehabilitation assistance within the City of Hickory. The City has provided additional assistance to Habitat for Humanity as they increase the amount of housing rehabilitation services they provide in the community. In addition, for the next program year, the City will enter into a partnership to assist in funding the reconstruction of affordable housing built by Habitat.

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

City of Hickory Staff continues to advertise and educate citizens regarding their rights to fair housing. Advertisements informing residents of their fair housing rights ran in the Hickory Daily Record, and the Spanish newspaper Hola Noticias. This year's advertising included a Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter marketing campaign that increased the reach of the City's advertising efforts. Staff continues to serve on the Catawba Valley Association of Realtors Equal Housing Opportunity Committee. This committee provides education and outreach to local realtors regarding fair housing laws. Every April, City staff makes a presentation on fair housing at the bi-monthly luncheon that for the association. Unfortunately, the bi-monthly luncheon was cancelled due to the coronavirus in both 2020 and 2021.

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 City of Hickory Community Development Division conducts file audits of all city-initiated CDBG activities to ensure compliance with relevant federal requirements. Staff maintains file checklists for each of the types of activities normally undertaken each year. In addition, all nonprofit subrecipients are monitored by City staff at least once per year to ensure compliance with applicable requirements. Also, the City hires an independent auditor to review its finances each year. This audit includes an in-depth review of CDBG program activities.

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.

All reports are made available for review on the City's website and in the Office of Business Development at City Hall. The City advertises the availability of the report through its legal notice on the website and those placed in the local newspaper. The City also holds a public hearing to receive comments on the report prior to its consideration by the Hickory City Council.

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.

This is the first year of the City's 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. The overall aspects of our Consolidated Plan for 2020-2024 did not change drastically as the programs seem to be assisting those most in need. The City allocates a good portion of its funding to housing rehabilitation as well as public infrastructure and park projects for low and moderate income areas. The City also allocates funds to increase entrepreneurial activities through its Small Business Loan program and Micro-Enterprise Grant Program. This has allowed the City to support entrepreneurial activities and economic development by assisting businesses in job creation. The City will continue to support economic and entrepreneurial activities through the course of the next four years.

In 2019, the City made the decision to move all rehab housing loans to a deferred program, doing away with a previous version that allowed for amortized loans for homeowners with household incomes between 50% and 80% of area median income. City loans no longer require homeowners to make monthly payments. This makes it easier for homeowners to qualify while reducing the cost burden to households already in need. This has increased the use of the program by low and moderate income homeowners – from a total of two projects completed in 2019 to a total of five completed in 2020. In addition the City has another seven at some stage of the qualification, approval or rehabilitation process for the 2021 program year.

Does this Jurisdiction have any open Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) grants?

No

[BEDI grantees] Describe accomplishments and program outcomes during the last year.