STATE OF NEBRASKA

2016

Proposed

Annual Action Plan

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DIVISION OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Housing, Community Development, & Economic Development Programs

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Homeless Services & HOPWA Services Programs

Effective July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

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Executive Summary

AP-05 Executive Summary - 24 CFR 91.200(c), 91.220(b)

1. Introduction

The 2016 Annual Action Plan (AAP) is the second annual plan and update to the *Nebraska Housing and Community Development Program's Consolidated Plan* (Consolidated Plan), a five-year plan (2015-2019) addressing the State's housing and community development needs. Federal resources provided by HUD that are discussed within the Plan include: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG); the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME); Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program; and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program (HOPWA).

HUD Standard Form 424 (Application for Federal Assistance) is submitted as part of the plan to request federal funding for the State of Nebraska.

In addition, where appropriate, information on two State Programs will also be discussed within the Consolidated Plan that includes the Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund (NAHTF) and the Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund (HSATF). The CDBG, HOME, and NAHTF Programs are administered through the State of Nebraska, Department of Economic Development (DED) and DED is the lead agency responsible for coordinating the development of the Consolidated Plan. The ESG, HOPWA, and HSATF Programs are administered through the State of Nebraska, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and DHHS works in conjunction with DED in developing the Consolidated Plan. ESG and HSATF resources are utilized by DHHS and administered under the Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program.

The Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program is a grant program that is comprised of the Nebraska's Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund (HSAFT) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). The Department of Housing and Urban Development's Emergency Solutions Grant program funds are matched with HSATF. The HSATF is state funding that is based on a twenty-five cent set-aside on each $1,000.00 of the value of real estate sold in Nebraska and collected via the documentary tax stamp on real estate sales. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services funds all areas of the state with the Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund dollars. The ESG funds received by HUD for the state exclude the entitlement cities Omaha and Lincoln; these cities are responsible for distribution and administration of their own ESG award. Allocations are based on a formula. The formula is determined using a minimum funding amount for all regions, population base, poverty data, and pro-rata percent. The formal and funding process emphasizes equitable distribution as well as quality projects and programs.

The Nebraska 2016 Annual Action Plan affirms the goals and objectives of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended, which relate to major commitments and priorities of DED and DHHS. This complex set of goals can be compressed into three main areas that include:

Provide Decent Housing

- Assist homeless persons to obtain appropriate housing
- Assist those threatened with homelessness
- Retain affordable housing stock
- Make available permanent housing that is affordable to low-income persons without discrimination
- Increase the supply of supportive housing for persons with special needs

Provide a Suitable Living Environment

- Improve safety and livability of neighborhoods
- Increase access to quality facilities and services
- Reduce isolation of income groups within an area through decentralization of housing opportunities and revitalization of deteriorating neighborhoods
- Restore and preserve properties of special value for historic, architectural, or aesthetic reasons
- Conserve energy resources

Expand Economic Opportunity

- Create and retain jobs accessible to low income persons
- Empower low income persons to achieve self-sufficiency to reduce generations of poverty in federally assisted public housing

The State views this mandate as an opportunity to extend and strengthen partnerships among organizations in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Through this collaboration, DED and DHHS hope to streamline approaches to meet these goals and effectively use limited resources. Nebraska anticipates receiving the following amounts in FY 2016.

CDBG: $10,000,000
HOME: $3,000,000
ESG: $948,440
HOPWA: $360,000

In addition, the State anticipates receiving the following amounts for two State-funded programs which supplement and are utilized as match for the federal HOME and ESG programs. Below are the anticipated amounts for FY 2016 as well as the estimated projections for the five year period within parentheses:

NAHTF: $9 million
HSATF: $3 million

Covering all areas of the State, except metropolitan Omaha, Lincoln and Bellevue, the Annual Action Plan identifies a one-year action plan for program implementation. As CDBG Entitlement Areas,

Omaha, Lincoln, and Bellevue receive funds for these programs directly, and are required to prepare and submit their own Annual Action Plans.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

The State of Nebraska identified five priorities, which summarize the goals of the five-year Consolidated Plan.

The main priorities and objectives within the 2016 AAP include:

- Housing Priority Need
- Community Development Priority Need
- Economic Development Priority Need
- Homeless Services Priority Need
- HOPWA Services Priority Need

Through the development of the Consolidated Plan it was determined that there were three overarching objectives guiding the proposed activities that include:

- Provide Decent Housing
- Provide a Suitable Living Environment
- Expand Economic Opportunity

Outcomes were developed to show how programs and activities would benefit a community or the persons within a community served. The three outcomes that will illustrate the benefits of each activity funded by the CDBG, HOME, ESG, or HOPWA Programs are:

- Improved availability/accessibility
- Improved affordability
- Improved sustainability

The future activities funded within the next five years will support at least one objective and one outcome as described above. The statutes for CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA covered by the Consolidated Plan Rule include a number of basic goals discussed in the Housing and Community Development Act, as amended, and the National Affordable Housing Act, as amended. The framework for realizing these objectives and outcomes will be associated with the specific priorities, as noted above.

Nebraska Performance Measures are established to monitor the State's progress on outcomes and objectives for each Program, including CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA. While each Program has successfully provided services in the past, these new measures should enhance the State's ability to quantify the results for those activities and to convey a complete picture of housing and community development activities.

In regard to the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program, the purpose of the Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (NHAP) is to provide an overall "Continuum of Care" approach to address the

needs of people who are homeless and near homeless in Nebraska by: Assisting in the alleviation of homelessness; providing temporary and/or permanent housing for persons who are homeless; and encouraging the development of projects that link housing assistance with efforts to promote self-sufficiency.

The intent of the DHHS is to award funds through a regional and programmatic (i.e. activity specific) allocation process. Organizations are encouraged to seek other sources of funding and collaborate and coordinate programs and services with other organizations to optimize the use of NHAP funds. Program outcomes for NHAP are to provide decent affordable housing, establish and maintain a suitable living environment, and expand economic opportunity for individuals and families in Nebraska, particularly for low- and very-low-income persons. Strategies employed within the NHAP which are used to help reach each of these outcomes include:

- promoting self-sufficiency for persons who are homeless;
- involving a Continuum of Care approach by providing shelter and services in collaboration with other agencies;
- providing services and programs that fill an identified gap in the regional/local Continuum of Care;
- providing services and programs that if discontinued would create a substantial gap in the regional/local Continuum of Care; and
- Providing services and programs designed to prevent homelessness in the regional/local Continuum of Care.

Within the framework of reaching the NHAP outcomes, funding is focused on program activities which help to improve availability/accessibility, affordability, and sustainability.

3. Evaluation of past performance

The State of Nebraska has been successful in its efforts to address the priority needs identified in the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan. The State has worked hard to further the primary national CDBG objective of developing viable urban communities by providing decent housing, suitable living environments, and expanding economic opportunities, principally for low-and moderate-income persons (LMI). The projects selected by the State in FY 2015 address the priority needs identified in the State's 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan.

Specific details about past performance by the State on priorities covered by the 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan and strategies contained in Annual Action Plans are available through the State's Annual Performance Reports that are submitted to HUD each year. The 2014 Annual Performance Report was submitted to HUD in September of 2015 and is the most recent report submitted. The Report contains information regarding significant achievements in meeting the needs of Nebraskans. The State began utilizing its Outcome Performance Measurement System in 2006. This measurement system allows the State to better measure the accomplishments of activities funded with CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

The State of Nebraska conducted two public hearings on housing and community development issues in order to allow citizens the opportunity to provide input for the 2016 Annual Action Plan. The public hearings included presentations which focused on housing and community development strategies to address housing and community development needs throughout the state. The public hearings were held in Lincoln, with satellite sites throughout the state that included: Chadron, Columbus, Grand Island, Norfolk, North Platte, and Wayne.

Prior to the public hearings, public notices were published in newspapers throughout the state. Public hearing notices via email were also posted on the DED website; distributed to local officials; developers; non-profit organizations; Development Districts; the NCHH; and the CoCs throughout the state.

Additional information regarding the public hearings and comments will be available within the Final 2016 Annual Action Plan.

5. Summary of public comments

Three public comments were received during the January 14, 2016 Lincoln, NE public meeting.

Comment 1: The following is a summary of an oral comment given by Southeast Nebraska Development District Executive Director Dave Taladay:

Mr. Taladay commended the staff of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development for setting logical application due dates.

Thank you for your comments. We appreciate your participation in the 2016 Annual Action Plan process and will take your comments into consideration.

Comment 2: The following is a summary of an oral comment given by Southeast Nebraska Economic Development District (SENDD) Executive Director Dave Taladay:

In the Economic Development program category scoring criteria, there are points given for being an Economic Development Certified community, but not for being a DED Leadership Community. SENDD would like the Department to consider giving points in this program category for communities that are DED Leadership Communities.

Thank you for your comments regarding DED Leadership Communities and making them eligible for scoring additional points in the Economic Development Category. We appreciate your participation in the 2016 Annual Action Plan process. The Department will add DED Leadership Communities as eligible to receive 5 points in the scoring process for Economic Development applications.

Comment 3: The following is a summary of an oral comment given by Central Nebraska Economic Development District (CNEDD) Executive Director Judy Petersen:

In the Economic Development program category scoring criteria, there are points given for being an Economic Development Certified community, but not for being a DED Leadership Community. CNEDD would like the Department to consider giving points in this program category for communities that are DED Leadership Communities.

Thank you for your comments regarding DED Leadership Communities and making them eligible for scoring additional points in the Economic Development Category. We appreciate your participation in the 2016 Annual Action Plan process. The Department will add DED Leadership Communities as eligible to receive 5 points in the scoring process for Economic Development applications.

6. Summary of comments or views not accepted and the reasons for not accepting them

There were no comments that were not accepted.

7. Summary

The Nebraska Department of Economic Development will be the lead agency and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services will be the partner agency for the 2016 Annual Action Plan.

PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies - 91.300(b)

1. Agency/entity responsible for preparing/administering the Consolidated Plan

The following are the agencies/entities responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source.

Table 1 Responsible Agencies		
Agency Role	**Name**	**Department/Agency**
Lead Agency **CDBG and HOME**	State of Nebraska, Department of Economic Development	Nebraska Department of Economic Development/Housing and Community Development Division
ESG Program	State of Nebraska, Department of Health and	Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services/Division of Children and Family
HOPWA Program	State of Nebraska, Department of Health and	Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services/Division of Public Health

Narrative

The Annual Action Plan was developed in partnership between the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The CDBG and HOME Programs are administered by DED within the Housing and Community Development Division. The ESG Program is administered by DHHS within the Division of Children and Family Services. The HOPWA Program is administered by DHHS within the Division of Public Health.

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AP-10 Consultation - 91.110, 91.300(b); 91.315(l)

1. Introduction

DED and DHHS consulted with local governments, State agencies, non-profit organizations, and other members of the public on the preparation of the 2016 Annual Action Plan.

Provide a concise summary of the state's activities to enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers and private and governmental health, mental health and service agencies

The State worked at enhancing coordination between housing and service providers throughout the state. This was completed through consultation efforts made by DED and DHHS throughout the development of the Annual Action Plan. Some efforts for coordination included meeting with housing providers that included for-profit developers, members of the regional Development Districts; non-profit organizations; and community members throughout the state. In addition, consultation with the behavioral health and mental health advisory committee was conducted. DED routinely attends the regularly scheduled meetings of this organization in order to obtain a better understanding of what some of the issues and needs are of the mental health and substance abuse service providers.

The Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness (NCHH) was created in 1994 and serves to promote public and private coordination and collaboration, develop policies and program recommendations that address affordable housing and homelessness and at risk of homeless issues, perform as the advisory body for the DED and the Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (NHAP). The NHAP includes funding from both ESG and the State's Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund (HSATF). The NCHH, in coordination with DED and DHHS, support a statewide Continuum of Care (CoC), evaluate unmet needs, and provide effective solutions to build the services and affordable housing needed for healthy viable Nebraskan communities.

Membership for the advisory body is comprised of governor-appointed representatives from public and assisted housing providers, local, regional and state officials, housing and homeless providers, community leaders, and other interested service agencies. CDBG, HOME, ESG and HOPWA program staff are actively engaged in Commission meetings. Other associations, public and private agencies and business in the state related to low income populations and services, housing, and development are also invited to attend and report at NCHH meetings. The Commission meets regularly to discuss, plan, and make recommendations for coordination and cooperation of the supports and services needed to service homeless persons and persons at risk of homelessness.

In addition, the state's updated 10 Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness was unveiled in January of 2015. This plan serves as a roadmap for achieving four overarching goals which include:

end chronic homelessness; end veteran homelessness; end child, family, and youth homelessness; and finally, set a path to reducing overall homelessness. The Plan will drive increased leadership, collaboration and civic engagement across multiple agencies, groups, and organizations such as public and private housing, disability, health, financial, employment, elderly, child welfare, victims of domestic violence, and other for profit and nonprofit service agencies.

Additional efforts at consultation are noted below.

Describe coordination with the Continuum of Care and efforts to address the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth) and persons at risk of homelessness

The purpose of the NHAP is to provide an overall "Continuum of Care" approach to address the needs of people who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness. To support the "Continuum of Care" approach, the Continuum of Care System is utilized. Nebraska has 2 ESG entitlement cities, which comprise the Region 6 Lincoln CoC and the Region 7 Omaha CoC, with the remaining local 5 regions collectively forming the Balance of State (BoS) CoC, whereas the entire state is referred to as the Continuum of Care System. As NHAP provides federal funds to the BoS CoC and HSATF dollars statewide, NHAP coordinates with the entire Continuum of Care System. The State coordinates directly with the Continuum of Care System on an ongoing basis by participating in Continuum meetings, leading strategic planning efforts, and supporting the Homeless Management Information system (HMIS) and CoC funding priorities.

To effectively help facilitate a cohesive statewide CoC network, NCHH established a State Continuum of Care Committee which includes representation from governmental, public, and private entities. All seven local CoC regions have representation on the State CoC Committee. The purpose of the State CoC Committee is to support the objectives in addressing the issues of the NCHH. To accomplish this, the following objectives are observed:

1) Focus attention of the need of persons who are homeless and persons at risk of homelessness;

2) Propose solutions to the needs of persons who are homeless and persons at risk of homelessness;

3) Encourage and support continuity, coordination, and cooperation at the State level among the State agencies that deliver programs and services to persons who are homeless and persons at risk of homelessness;

4) Coordinate the development of a statewide comprehensive plan;

5) Coordinate with the NCHH in developing recommendations for programs and/or services that involve housing the persons who are homeless persons at risk of homelessness;

6) Serve as an advisory body to the NHAP.

The State CoC Committee is intricately involved in the ongoing planning, coordination and implementation of program and/or services that involve housing and people who are homeless and at risk of homelessness. To accomplish these ongoing effects, quarterly meetings via conference call are conducted. Although NHAP is not a member of the NCHH or its State Continuum of Care Committee NHAP is attend the meetings to share information and seek input in effort to coordinate in meeting the needs of the populations served by ESG.

Under the guidance and direction of NCHH, the State Continuum of Care Committee is charged with implementing the Opening Doors: Nebraska – 10 Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. The State Continuum of Care Committee will host regularly scheduled quarterly meetings in which diverse stakeholders will be represented, including but not limited to: State partners, Federal partners, CoC providers, consumers, and advocates. The 10 Year Plan is considered a living document and it will reflect the actual and evolving reality of funding, economics, and society.

As previously mentioned, two of the local 7 CoC regions are classified as entitlement regions. The remaining five CoC regions are identified as rural, and in 2010 were collectively grouped as a representative body for regions 1-5, defined as the Balance of State (BoS) CoC. The goal of the BoS CoC is to coordinate the efforts to prevent and end homelessness in rural Nebraska and does not include the entitlement cities of Omaha and Lincoln. For the BoS CoC Governing Board membership, each region elects two representatives. The BoS CoC, in conjunction with NHAP, meet monthly via conference call to discuss the planning, coordinating, and prioritization for the supports and services needed to serve and support the homeless and at risk of homelessness population in rural Nebraska.

The BoS CoC is comprised of five distinct local regional CoCs which include: Region 1, Panhandle, (Sioux, Dawes, Sheridan, Box Butte, Scotts Bluff, Morrill, Garden, Banner, Kimball, Cheyenne, Deuel counties); Region 2, North Central, (Cherry, Keya Paha, Boyd, Brown, Rick, Holt, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Boone, Platte, Colfax, Custer, valley, Greeley, Sherman, Howard, Nance, Hall, Merrick, Hamilton counties); Region 3, Southwest, (Grant, Hooker, Thomas, Arthur, McPherson, Logan, Keith, Lincoln, Perkins, Dawson, Buffalo, Chase, Hayes, Frontier, Gosper, Phelps, Kearney, Dundy, Hitchcock, Red Willow, Furnas, Harlan, Franklin counties); Region 4, Southeast, (Polk, Butler, Saunders, Sarpy, York, Seward, Lancaster, [The City of Lincoln excluded], Cass, Otoe, Fillmore, Saline, Adams, Clay, Webster, Nuckolls, Thayer, Jefferson, Gage, Johnson, Nemaha, Pawnee, Richardson counties); Region 5, Northeast, (Knox, Cedar, Dixon, Dakota, Antelope, pierce, Wayne, Thurston, Madison, Stanton, Cuming, Burt, Dodge, Washington, Douglas counties [The City of Omaha excluded].

At the regional CoC level, in order to ensure that the CoC enables widespread participation and collaboration, the BoS CoC serves as the Governing Board for the five CoC regions in rural Nebraska. Each of the five rural regions host a monthly in person regional meeting to coordinate and plan how services and resources can best meet the needs of the homeless and at risk of homelessness within the region.

Describe consultation with the Continuum(s) of Care that serves the State in determining how to allocate ESG funds, develop performance standards for and evaluate outcomes of projects and activities assisted by ESG funds, and develop funding, policies and procedures for the operation and administration of HMIS

State ESG funds are allocated through the State's unified funding process. The funding process helps ensure an equitable distribution of funds throughout the entire state. The allocation formula was developed through input from the NCHH, and is periodically reviewed and revised as appropriate. ESG funding distribution occurs through a competitive grant process in which allocation recommendations from the grant review team are provided. The review team is composed of representatives from the CoC regions, the NCHH, and the Department of Health and Human Services, and other collaborating departments.

The NHAP works to involve input with the Continuum of Care System in the NHAP funding process. The application process for ESG and HSATF dollars requires applicants obtain approval by their respective local regional CoC group to verify the CoC has determined the proposed applicant's services are congruent with gaps in services and/or the needs of the homeless and those at risk of homeless in that region of the state. NHAP also actively seeks input from the CoC System in pursuing different approaches to allocating funds across the state. An example of this input was NHAP consulting with the BoS in looking at options to best utilize funds for Rapid Rehousing and Homeless Prevention services. NHAP had proposed having one main provider for such services in each local region but the BoS, through each local regional CoC did not support the idea so NHAP did not pursue such change at that time. NHAP will continue to consult with the NCHH, the State CoC Committee and the CoC System related to NHAP allocations of funds across the state.

The State consults with the BoS CoC on performance standards and outcome evaluations through monthly conference calls which NHAP regularly participates in. During the calls, the focus is to work on gathering and analyzing information to determine the needs of Nebraskans experiencing homelessness, plan and implement strategic responses, develop performance standards as well as evaluating outcomes, and identify and implement endeavors to improve the quality and effectiveness of strategies to prevent and end homelessness. Various work groups developed by the BoS CoC address current and future needs, including the HEARTH Implementation Committee, HMIS subcommittee, the New/Project Renewal Performance Evaluation subcommittee and the Most Vulnerable Review Team.

The HEARTH Implementation Committee was created to: assist the BoS CoC in moving forward with updating the ESG Written Standards for the BoS CoC; address, develop, and implement the Coordinated Assessment System; and respond to HUD's policies on prioritization of chronic homeless. On June 10, 2015, an updated Written Standards for ESG/CoC Service Delivery was adopted. A copy is posted on the NHAP website at:

http://dhhs.ne.gov/children_family_services/Documents/NHAP (ESG and HSATF) Program Standards.pdf. The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) subcommittee is a standing committee under the BoS CoC designed to address training, technical support, and data quality.

The New Project/Renewal Performance Evaluation subcommittee is another subcommittee under the BoS CoC. The focus of the New Project/Renewal Performance Evaluation subcommittee is to establish priorities and develop a process for the use of new CoC resources, assess the performance of funded programs, and make recommendations to the CoC on the reallocation of CoC resources.

The State also consults CoC System of Care on the development of HMIS policies and procedures as well as funding though multiple avenues. In August of 2014, a two day HMIS training was conducted, to bring together home and housing service providers, housing and homeless service funders, and HMIS providers from across the state to discuss and learn about the development of Nebraska's Coordinated Access System for the homeless. One of the significant outcomes from the training lead to adopting the Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-

2. Agencies, groups, organizations and others who participated in the process and consultations

Table 2 Agencies, groups, organizations who participated			
Agency/Group/ Organization	**Agency/Group/ Organization Type**	**What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?**	**How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?**
Region 1 Panhandle	Continuum of Care	Homelessness Strategy	Consulted through E-mail and Phone Calls
Region 2 North Central	Continuum of Care	Homelessness Strategy	Consulted through E-mail and Phone Calls
Region 3 Southwest	Continuum of Care	Homelessness Strategy	Consulted through E-mail and Phone Calls
Region 4 Southeast	Continuum of Care	Homelessness Strategy	Consulted through E-mail and Phone Calls

Region 5 Northeast	Continuum of Care	Homelessness Strategy Homelessness Strategy Homelessness Strategy	Consulted through E-mail and Phone Calls
PATH	DHHS Behavior Health		Consulted through Meeting in-person, E-mail and Phone Calls
State CoC	CoC Stakeholders and Human Services Professionals		Consulted through Phone calls
Association of Home Builders	Non-Profit Organization	All Sections	Consulted through Email
CDBG Certified Administrators	Various	All Sections	Consulted through Email, through phone calls, and in person
Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness	Commission	All Sections	Consulted through Email, through phone calls, and in person.
Nebraska Community Action Agencies	Social Services and Non-Profit Organizations	All Sections	Consulted through Email
Nebraska County Clerks	Government	All Sections	Consulted through Email
Nebraska Economic Developers Association	Professional Association	All Sections	Consulted through Email, through phone calls, and in person
Nebraska Housing Authorities	Housing Authorities	All Sections	Consulted through Email
Nebraska Housing Developers Association	Professional Association	All Sections	Consulted through Email, through phone calls, and in person.
Nebraska League of Municipalities	Non-Profit Organization	All Sections	Consulted through Email
Nebraska Regional Officials Council (NROC)	Council	All Sections	Consulted through Email
First Class Nebraska Cities	Government	All Sections	Consulted through Email, through phone calls, and in person

Second Class Nebraska Cities	Government	All Sections	Consulted through Email, through phone calls, and in person.
Nebraska Villages	Government	All Sections	Consulted through Email, through phone calls, and in person.
Non-Profit organizations	Various	All Sections	Consulted through Email, through phone calls, and in person.
For Profit Developers	Various	All Sections	Consulted through Email, through phone calls, and in person.
Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA)	Quasi-Government	All Sections	Consulted through Email, through phone calls, and in person.
Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs)	Various	All Sections	Consulted through Email, through phone calls, and in person.

Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting

When developing the Consolidated Plan, the State consulted with all agencies that the State felt would provide relevant information for the Plan. The state of Nebraska has over 100 public housing agencies and does not have one agency that oversees all of these agencies. Contacting each agency individually would not have been feasible, but the State attempted to provide as broad an outreach as possible through the distribution of information through multiple methods.

Other local/regional/state/federal planning efforts considered when preparing the Plan

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Opening Doors: 10 Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in the State of Nebraska, 2015-2025	Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness	Various homeless assistance providers, in consultation with CoCs; consultants; federal and state partners; housing developers; and other interested parties developed the 10 Year Plan than can be utilized in coordination with the State's Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan in helping coordinate efforts, funding, and priorities among different programs aimed at ending homelessness.
City of Omaha—Comprehensive Plan	City of Omaha	Having a better understanding of the planning efforts within the largest cities within Nebraska will aid at ensuring a coordinated effort is made through the utilization of resources.
City of Lincoln—Comprehensive Plan	City of Lincoln	Having a better understanding of the planning efforts within the largest cities within Nebraska will aid at ensuring a coordinated effort is made through the utilization of resources.
City of Bellevue—Comprehensive Plan	City of Bellevue	Having a better understanding of the planning efforts within the largest cities within Nebraska will aid at ensuring a coordinated effort is made through the utilization of resources.

Table 1 - Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative

The information above provides a description of the coordination and consultation efforts made by the State.

AP-12 Participation - 91.115, 91.300(c)

1. Summary of citizen participation process/Efforts made to broaden citizen participation Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal-setting

Citizen participation is an essential component of a statewide planning effort. Nebraska strongly encourages public participation throughout the consolidated planning process.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The importance of public participation (including consultation with advisory groups) in the development of the AAP cannot be overstated. Each year DED must update objectives and describe the State's method of distribution of funds to effectively utilize HUD assistance. Public hearings are held to obtain citizen comments on the AAP. The hearings are held at times and locations considered convenient to potential and actual beneficiaries, and with accommodations for persons with disabilities. Opinions from the public regarding the best time and date for such hearings are welcome.

Citizens and other interested parties are given an opportunity for reasonable and timely access to information and records relating to the AAP, and the use of assistance under the programs it covers. Copies of the 2016 Annual Action Plan, the State's 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan, and other related information may be obtained by accessing the Department's website at: http://www.neded.org or by contacting a staff member at one of the numbers listed at the beginning of this document.

Citizen Participation Outreach

1. Public Meeting

   Target of Outreach: Non-Targeted/broad community

   Summary of response/attendance: Public meetings, covering geographic areas throughout the state were conducted at the following locations: January 14, 2016; Lincoln, NE: 8 in attendance; Columbus, NE: 4 in attendance; Wayne, NE: 5 in attendance. January 19, 2016; Lincoln, NE: 6 in attendance; Grand Island, NE: 5 in attendance; Norfolk, NE: 5 in attendance.

   Summary of Comments Received: 3 public comments were received during the January 14, 2016 Lincoln, NE public meeting. Comment 1: The following is a summary of an oral comment given by Southeast Nebraska Development District Executive Director Dave Taladay:

   Mr. Taladay commended the staff of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development for setting logical application due dates.

Thank you for your comments. We appreciate your participation in the 2016 Annual Action Plan process and will take your comments into consideration.

Comment 2: The following is a summary of an oral comment given by Southeast Nebraska Economic Development District (SENDD) Executive Director Dave Taladay:

In the Economic Development program category scoring criteria, there are points given for being an Economic Development Certified community, but not for being a DED Leadership Community. SENDD would like the Department to consider giving points in this program category for communities that are DED Leadership Communities.

Thank you for your comments regarding DED Leadership Communities and making them eligible for scoring additional points in the Economic Development Category. We appreciate your participation in the 2016 Annual Action Plan process. The Department will add DED Leadership Communities as eligible to receive 5 points in the scoring process for Economic Development applications.

Comment 3: The following is a summary of an oral comment given by Central Nebraska Economic Development District (CNEDD) Executive Director Judy Petersen:

In the Economic Development program category scoring criteria, there are points given for being an Economic Development Certified community, but not for being a DED Leadership Community. CNEDD would like the Department to consider giving points in this program category for communities that are DED Leadership Communities.

Thank you for your comments regarding DED Leadership Communities and making them eligible for scoring additional points in the Economic Development Category. We appreciate your participation in the 2016 Annual Action Plan process. The Department will add DED Leadership Communities as eligible to receive 5 points in the scoring process for Economic Development applications.

Summary of comments not accepted and reasons: No comments were received that were not accepted.

URL (if applicable): www.neded.org/aap

2. Newspaper Ad
   Target of Outreach: Non-targeted/broad community

   Summary of response/attendance: Public notices of the public comment period were placed in the following Nebraska publications: Grand Island Independent (Grand Island, NE), Star Herald (Scottsbluff, NE), Kearney HUB (Kearney, NE), Lincoln Journal Star (Lincoln, NE), Norfolk Daily News (Norfolk, NE), Chadron Record (Chadron, NE), North Platte Telegraph (North Platte, NE), Beatrice Daily Sun (Beatrice, NE).

Summary of comments received: No comments were received via this mode of outreach.

Summary of comments not accepted and reasons: No comments were received that were not accepted.

3. Internet Outreach

Target of Outreach: Non-targeted/broad community

Summary of response/attendance: The Notice of Public Comment Period was posted on NEDED's website, and sent out to the following groups via email: Housing Authorities, Housing Developers, Nebraska Economic Developers Association, Nebraska County Clerks, Nebraska First Class Cities, Nebraska Second Class Cities, Nebraska Villages, Nebraska State Government Officials, Community Action Agencies, CDBG Certified Administrators, the Association of Home Builders, and the League of Municipalities.

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received via this mode of outreach.

Summary of Comments not accepted and reasons: No comments were received via this mode of outreach.

4. Library Outreach

Target of Outreach: Non-targeted/broad community

Summary of Response/attendance: To increase opportunities for public participation and public comment, the Proposed Plans were sent to 16 libraries throughout Nebraska that included: Alliance Public Library (Alliance, NE), Auburn Memorial Library (Auburn, NE), Bennett Martin Public Library (Lincoln, NE), Central City Public Library (Central City, NE), Chadron Public Library (Chadron, NE), Garfield County Library (Burwell, NE), Goodall City Library (Ogallala, NE), Jensen Memorial Library (Minden, NE), Lexington Public Library (Lexington, NE), McCook Public Library (McCook, NE), Scottsbluff Public Library (Scottsbluff, NE), Sidney Public Library (Sidney, NE), Thomas County Library (Thedford, NE), Valentine Public Library (Valentine, NE), Wayne Public Library (Wayne, NE), W. Dale Clark Library (Omaha, NE).

Summary of Comments Received: No comments were received via this mode of outreach.

Summary of Comments not accepted and reasons: No comments were received via this mode of outreach.

SP-10 Geographic Priorities – 91.315(a)(1)

Geographic Area

The State of Nebraska distributes HUD resources on a competitive basis rather than on an entitlement/formulaic basis. CDBG funding is only available within the non-entitlement areas of the state (which do not include Omaha, Lincoln, and Bellevue, but include all other areas of the state). HOME, ESG, and HOPWA resources are made available throughout the state.

In regard to the Homeless Services Priority Need, ESG funds are allocated through a funding formula and the application process is competitive. A two-year funding cycles is utilized; year one involves a competitive application process; year two involves a renewal application process, only open to current award recipients who are in good standing. The formula helps ensure an equitable distribution of funds throughout the entire state. The formula is calculated using a $50,000 base "hold harmless" funding amount per geographic Region (See CoC Map Attachment); the HUD annual Continuum of Care NOFA pro rata amounts; and consideration of statewide service continuity.

There are also no geographic priorities under the HOPWA Program. However, there are geographical differences in how services are delivered by program staff. For example, case managers in the rural areas of Nebraska find it more appropriate to meet with the client at their home or at a location where the client is most comfortable due to high stigma associated with HIV/AIDS. Limited housing options in rural areas (affordability/habitability) encourage individuals to work with their local housing authority. However, barriers such as severe mental illness, undocumented/displaced individuals, criminal history, low or no income, etc., can result in individuals being ineligible for Section 8 programs. This is when HOPWA case management becomes a vital service in ensuring individuals are not homeless. The HOPWA Program works closely with the Ryan White Part B and Part C Programs to assist HIV/AIDS clients in obtaining medical services, housing and supportive services that meet the identified needs.

SP-25 Priority Needs – 91.315(a)(2)

Priority Needs

The following table shows priority needs for the State of Nebraska.

The needs identified as "high" that could be addressed with federal funding are identified below.

1	Priority Need Name	Housing Priority Need
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low, Low, Moderate, Middle, Large Families Families with Children Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions
	Geographic Areas Affected	Statewide
	Associated Goals	Housing Program

	Description	The State's Housing Priority Need includes the need to respond to regional needs for affordable, decent, safe, and appropriate housing as part of balanced economic development in Nebraska. This Priority Need includes 4 Objectives that have been developed in order to meet the Housing Priority and include: • Promote additional affordable rental housing and preservation of affordable rental housing in selected markets. • Promote housing preservation by improving the quality of Nebraska's existing affordable housing. • Promote additional households into homeownership by expanding affordable homeownership opportunities. • Enhance statewide understanding of fair housing law through outreach and education. The housing objectives will be accomplished through the use of CDBG, HOME, and NAHTF resources. A portion of CDBG funds will be used for owner occupied rehabilitation activities and will be aimed at serving persons at or below 80% of the Area Median Income. HOME funds will be utilized for rental housing development through projects developed in conjunction with LIHTCs and acquisition, rehabilitation, and resale activities, also known as Purchase, Rehab, Resale (PRR), for those persons at or below 80% developed in through Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) projects. Additional objectives will also be accomplished through the utilization of NAHTF resources in which rental; homebuyer; owner occupied rehabilitation; non-profit operating assistance; and education and outreach programs will serve persons throughout the state.
	Basis for Relative Priority	Nebraska has a significant need for affordable housing throughout the state. This need has been identified by communities, developers, non-profit organizations, and other members of the public as a vital resource that helps communities and neighborhoods improve economic opportunities. Adequate housing, is vital to the viability of communities and improves economic development opportunities.

2	Priority Need Name	Community Development Priority Need
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Low Moderate Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Statewide
	Associated Goals	Community Development Program
	Description	The Community Development Program is intended to strengthen Nebraska communities through community development programs and services in order to provide a stable platform for economic development. These programs include: Planning; Public Works; Water/Waste Water; Comprehensive Revitalization; Comprehensive Investment & Stabilization; and Downtown Revitalization. CDBG funds will be utilized for projects within the program categories.
	Basis for Relative Priority	Community development activities, particularly street improvements and water and sewer projects, are consistently needed throughout the state in both the urban and rural areas. These activities are generally completed in collaboration with local matching resources and partnerships with other local, state, and federal agencies.
3	Priority Need Name	Economic Development Priority Need
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Low Moderate Other
	Geographic Areas Affected	Statewide
	Associated Goals	Economic Development Program

	Description	The Economic Development Priority need is intended to foster the competitiveness of Nebraska's business and industrial sector, and as a result, assist in economic development of Nebraska's communities and people. The objectives that have been created to meet this priority include: promote retention and expansion of existing businesses in Nebraska; investing in public facilities and improvement activities; invest in effective and affordable tourist attractions; and undertake planning activities related to economic development projects. These objectives will be accomplished through CDBG resources that will be utilized for a number of activities that include: • Loans to for-profit businesses • Public facilities (infrastructure) projects • Job training grants to for-profit businesses • Speculative building projects or speculative industrial park projects • Short-term interim financing
	Basis for Relative Priority	Economic development and job creation have been identified as vital parts to ensuring the viability of Nebraska communities.
4	Priority Need Name	Homeless Services Priority Need
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Rural Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse Veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth
	Geographic Areas Affected	Balance of State (BoS) Continuum of Care (CoC)

	Associated Goals	Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (NHAP)
	Description	The Homeless Services Priority Need is intended to ensure appropriate emergency shelter and/or transitional housing and services for people who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless by distributing Emergency Solutions Grant Program funds and Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Funds. The main objectives that have developed for the Homeless Services Priority include providing appropriate shelter and/or housing to people who are homeless and/or at imminent risk of becoming homeless and providing needed services to people who are homeless and/or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. These objectives will be accomplished through ESG and HSATF resources provided to DHHS. ESG and HSATF resources will be used for a variety of activities that include: • Rapid Re-Housing • Homelessness Prevention • HMIS • Emergency Shelter • Street Outreach Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program priorities include strategies that promote self-sufficiency; strategies that address a CoC approach to providing shelter and services; coordination of operations, services and programs; and prevention and rapid re-housing activities.
	Basis for Relative Priority	Addressing homelessness in Nebraska is an important issue in order to improve the lives of persons throughout the state. Ending chronic homelessness is a state and federal priority.
5	Priority Need Name	**HOPWA Services Priority Need**
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families
	Geographic Areas Affected	Statewide

	Associated Goals	HOPWA Program
	Description	The HOPWA Services Priority Need is intended to ensure appropriate emergency and/or permanent housing and services for people who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless by distributing funds to a project sponsor in order to meet the needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS. The main objective that has been developed for the HOPWA Priority is to provide housing assistance, and related supportive services, to low income persons with HIV/AIDS and their families to enable those persons to achieve stability in housing, reduce the risks of homelessness, and increase access to healthcare. The HOPWA objective will be accomplished through HOPWA resources provided to the Department of Health and Human Services. The HOPWA Program will coordinate with the Nebraska AIDS Project (NAP), who serves as the primary project sponsor and has offices throughout the state in order to serve persons living with HIV/AIDS. HOPWA resources will be used for a variety of activities that include: • Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) • Short-Term Rent and Mortgage Assistance • Supportive Services • Permanent Housing Placement • Housing Information Services • Resource Identification HOPWA services are prioritized to provide outreach to chronically homeless and homeless persons, and their families, living with HIV/AIDS in order to help address those persons housing and supportive/medical needs.
	Basis for Relative Priority	HOPWA formula funding has provided statewide housing resources for persons living with HIV/AIDS in Nebraska for several years and will continue within the coming years.

Narrative (Optional)

In regard to ESG, the State and CoCs are committed to moving to a unified coordinated assessment process which includes prioritization of serving first those most in need. The BoS CoC uses the "Housing First" approach to ending homelessness, which focuses the priority on providing people experiencing homelessness with housing as quickly as possible – and then providing services as needed. Through the HMIS, homeless people benefit from improved coordination in and between agencies, informed advocacy efforts, and policies that result in targeted services.

In addition, the State worked with a wide range of homeless service providers; CoCs; and other interested parties, in coordination with the Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness, in the development of "Opening Doors: 10 Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in the State of Nebraska" (For a complete copy see also the Appendix). The Plan allows for collaboration between federal, state, and local partners who are assisting homeless populations throughout the state and includes: an evaluation of past performance; goal setting for the next 10 years; and developing a comprehensive strategy for ending homelessness, particularly in areas such as chronic homelessness, Veterans homelessness, and homelessness for families, youth, and children. It is the goal of the State to review the Plan, and utilize elements of it, in order for the State to move forward with a coordinated effort to address homelessness.

SP-45 Goals Summary – 91.315(a)(4)
Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding (1 year amounts in parentheses)	Goal Outcome Indicator (1 year numbers in parentheses)
1	Housing Program	2015	2019	Affordable Housing	Statewide	Housing Priority Need	CDBG: $9,500,000 ($1,900,000) HOME: $15,010,835 ($3,002,167) Housing Trust Fund: $45,000,000 ($9,000,000)	Rental units constructed: 2 50 Household Housing Units (50 Units) Homeowner Housing Added: 125 Household Housing Units (25 Units) Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 250 Household Housing Units (50 Units)
2	Community Development Program	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	Statewide	Community Development Priority Need	CDBG: $29,463,270 ($5,892,654)	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 277,500 Persons Assisted (55,500 Persons) Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation: 175 Businesses Assisted (25 Businesses)
3	Economic Development Program	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	Statewide	Economic Development Priority Need	CDBG: $18,187,140 ($3,637,428)	Jobs created/retained: 500 Jobs (100 Jobs) Businesses assisted: 35 Businesses Assisted (7 Businesses)
4	Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (NHAP)	2015	2019	Homeless	BoS CoC	Homeless Services Priority Need	ESG: $4,742,200 ($948,440) HSATF: $9,500,000 ($1,900,000)	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 2,260 Households (4 5 2 Households) Number of individuals provided emergency or transitional shelter: Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 36,120 persons (7,224 persons) Number of individuals provided homeless prevention services: Homelessness Prevention: 7,415 persons (1,483 persons)
5	HOPWA Program	2015	2019	Persons with HIV/AIDS	Statewide	HOPWA Services Priority Need	HOPWA: $1,811,820 ($362,364)	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 60 Households Assisted (12 households) Other: 225 Other (45 Other)

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Housing Program
	Goal Description	Within the Nebraska Affordable Housing Program resources will be provided that primarily benefit low to moderate income persons through affordable housing activities. These activities are completed through resources from CDBG, HOME, and the NAHTF.
2	Goal Name	Community Development Program
	Goal Description	This Program includes planning; public works; water/waste water; comprehensive revitalization; the Comprehensive Investment & Stabilization Program; and downtown revitalization activities. A wide variety of activities are funded that primarily serve LMI persons throughout the state.
3	Goal Name	Economic Development Program
	Goal Description	The primary goals of the Program include: job creation and expansion; and tourism development. A wide variety of activities are funded that primarily serve LMI persons throughout the state.
4	Goal Name	Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (NHAP)
	Goal Description	For Rapid Rehousing-Work toward securing permanent housing options for persons who are homeless. For Homeless Services-Plan on ending homelessness for Nebraskans by providing appropriate shelter and/or housing to people who are homeless and/or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. For Homelessness Prevention-Assure needed services are provided to people who are at imminent risk of becoming homeless.
5	Goal Name	HOPWA Program
	Goal Description	The primary goals of the Program help to provide activities that serve persons with HIV/AIDS throughout Nebraska.

Estimate the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families to whom the jurisdiction will provide affordable housing as defined by HOME 91.315(b)(2)

Based on the information above, the number of LMI persons whom the State will provide affordable housing will be significant. Within the Housing Program, approximately 125 LMI persons will be served annually utilizing both CDBG and HOME resources. In addition, a significant number of LMI persons will be served with NAHTF resources. Through the Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program, approximately 1,120 LMI persons will be assisted utilizing ESG and HSATF resources for TBRA and Rapid-Rehousing. In addition, approximately 8,000 LMI persons will utilize emergency, transitional, and overnight shelter funded with ESG and HSATF resources.
HOPWA plans to serve 57 households. In FY 2014, 100% of those served had incomes at or below 30% of the area median. The majority of Nebraska's HIV/AIDS households are in the low income category which makes tenant-based housing assistance an ideal option to meet the identified housing need. Unfortunately, the funding is very limited. However, for households renting their homes, the HOPWA program works closely with the Ryan White Part B program and other agencies in coordinating housing assistance.

Expected Resources

AP-15 Expected Resources – 91.320(c)(1,2)

Introduction

The following table describes the anticipated resources to be allocated throughout Nebraska broken down by program type. These anticipated resource projections are made for FY 2016 and the remaining three years of the Consolidated Plan.
Nebraska anticipates receiving the following amount in FY 2016:
CDBG: $10 million
HOME: $3 million
ESG: $948,440
HOPWA: $360,000

In addition, Nebraska anticipates utilizing the following additional State resources in FY 2016:
NAHTF: $9 million
HSATF: $3 million

Additional information will be identified within the Annual Action Plan as well as supplemental information will be provided regarding the annual allocation of resources. This additional information will be provided within the Appendix (www.neded.org/aap).

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Reminder of ConPlan $	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: $	Program Income: $	Prior Year Resources: $	Total: $		

CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	10,400,000	2,000,000	0	12,400,000	37,200,000	CDBG resources are provided to units of local government for CDBG-eligible activities. A portion of resources is reserved for state administration and technical assistance funds that may not exceed 3% of the total base allocation plus $100,000 as per 24 CFR 570.489(a). State recipients and sub-recipients may also receive administration funds. Additional funds will be provided by DED as match to the CDBG allocation. This amount will fulfill the one to one matching requirement of the CDBG Program.

HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	3,000,000	0	0	3,000,000	9,000,000	HOME resources are primarily used for rental development and acquisition, rehab, and resale activities. State sub-recipients of resources may also receive administrative funds. A portion of NAHTF resources will be committed as HOME Match in order to meet the 25% HOME Match requirement for non-administrative funds. No less than 15% of resources will be utilized for CHDO-eligible activities as is required.
HOPWA	public - federal	Permanent housing in facilities Permanent housing placement Short term or transitional housing facilities STRMU Supportive services TBRA	360,000	0	0	360,000	1,080,000	The majority of HOPWA resources are matched with resources from the Ryan White Part B Program and from Community Action Agencies.A portion of HOPWA funds will be used for administrative expenses provided to the Nebraska AIDS Project, the HOPWA Program Sponsor.

ESG	public - federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	948,440	0	0	948,440	2,845,320	Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (NHAP) funding consists of ESG funds and HSATF. HSATF dollars serve as the HUD-required one-to-one match for ESG dollars at the state level, so activates funded with HSATF dollars must also meet federal ESG requirements.
Housing Trust Fund	public - state	Acquisition Admin and Planning Homebuyer assistance Housing Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	9,000,000	0	0	9,000,000	27,000,000	Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund (NAHTF)resources will be utilized to further housing programs throughout the state. A portion of the NAHTF resources will be used as match for the HOME Program funds.

Other	public - state	Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Permanent housing in facilities Permanent housing placement Public Services Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Short term or transitional housing facilities Supportive services Transitional housing	3,000,000	0	0	3,000,000	12,000,000	Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund (HSATF) resources will be utilized to supplement ESG activities. A portion of these funds will be utilized as match for the ESG Program.

Table 2 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

Explain how federal funds will leverage those additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements will be satisfied

CDBG funds will be leveraged with other local resources within the Comprehensive Development, Public Works, Planning, and Downtown Revitalization categories. DED funds will be utilized in order to meet the matching requirements of the CDBG Program, and this will include matching funds for the CDBG administration allocation which will fulfill the one for one matching requirements of the CDBG Program.
HOME funds will be leveraged with other resources including private mortgages, low income housing tax credits, private equity, and local resources. NAHTF resources will be committed as HOME Match in order to meet the 25% HOME Match requirement for non-administration funds.
In regard to the ESG Program, the Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program is a grant program that is comprised of the Nebraska Homeless Assistance Trust Fund (HSATF) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). The HSATF is state

funding that is based on a twenty-five cent set-aside on each $1,000.00 of the value of real estate sold in Nebraska and collected via the documentary tax stamp on real estate sales. Annually HSATF provides approximately 1.9 million dollars to the Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program. HSATF dollars serve as the HUD-required one-to-one match for ESG dollars, which well exceeds the match requirement. Another resource utilized by some ESG subrecipients who provide transitional housing and/or supportive services is through the CoC Program (SHP). Lastly, a significant amount of local NHAP subrecipients contribute additional resources such as Community Services Block Grant, local foundations, and United Way to the homeless program they operate.
For the HOPWA Program, The majority of leveraging of funds for HOPWA is from the Ryan White Part B program and from Community Action Agencies across the state. It is not known whether the funds from the Community Action Agencies are private, state or local. Assistance that HOPWA clients receive from outside resources are entered into the Provide Case Management software program to support completion of the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

If appropriate, describe publically owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that may be used to address the needs identified in the plan

Not applicable.

Discussion

See above for additional information.

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives – 91.320(c)(3)&(e)

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Housing Program	2015	2019	Affordable Housing	Statewide	Housing Priority Need	CDBG: $2,000,000 HOME: $3,000,000 Housing Trust Fund: $9,000,000	Rental units constructed: 50 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Added: 25 Household Housing Unit Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 50 Household Housing Unit
2	Community Development Program	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	Statewide	Community Development Priority Need	CDBG: $6,000,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 55500 Persons Assisted Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation: 35 Business
3	Economic Development Program	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	Statewide	Economic Development Priority Need	CDBG: $2,000,000	Jobs created/retained: 100 Jobs Businesses assisted: 7 Businesses Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
4	Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (NHAP)	2015	2019	Homeless	Statewide	Homeless Services Priority Need	ESG: $948,440 HSATF: $3,000,000	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 452 Households Assisted Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 8,500 Persons Assisted Homelessness Prevention: 3,000 Persons Assisted
5	HOPWA Program	2015	2019	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs	Statewide	HOPWA Services Priority Need	HOPWA: $360,000	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 12 Households Assisted Other: 45 Other

Table 3 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	**Goal Name**	Housing Program
	Goal Description	Within the Nebraska Affordable Housing Program resources will be provided that primarily benefit low to moderate income persons through affordable housing activities. These activities are completed through resources from CDBG, HOME, and the NAHTF.
2	**Goal Name**	Community Development Program
	Goal Description	This Program includes planning; public works; water/waste water; comprehensive development; and downtown revitalization activities. A wide variety of activities are funded that primarily serve LMI persons throughout the state.

3	**Goal Name**	Economic Development Program
	Goal Description	The primary goals of the Program include: job creation and expansion; and tourism development. A wide variety of activities are funded that primarily serve LMI persons throughout the state.
4	**Goal Name**	Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (NHAP)
	Goal Description	For Rapid Rehousing-Work toward securing permanent housing options for persons who are homeless. For Homeless Services-Plan on ending homelessness for Nebraskans by providing appropriate shelter and/or housing to people who are homeless and/or at risk of becoming homeless. For Homelessness Prevention-Assure needed services are provided to people who are at risk of becoming homeless.
5	**Goal Name**	HOPWA Program
	Goal Description	The primary goals of the Program help to provide activities that serve persons with HIV/AIDS throughout Nebraska.

Table 4 – Goal Descriptions

AP-25 Allocation Priorities – 91.320(d)

Introduction

Introduction

Funding Allocation Priorities

	Housing Program (%)	Community Development Program (%)	Economic Development Program (%)	Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (NHAP) (%)	HOPWA Program (%)	Total (%)
CDBG	20	60	20	0	0	**100**
HOME	100	0	0	0	0	**100**
HOPWA	0	0	0	0	100	**100**
ESG	0	0	0	100	0	**100**
Housing Trust Fund	100	0	0	0	0	**100**
Other HSATF	0	0	0	100	0	**100**

Table 5 – Funding Allocation Priorities

Reason for Allocation Priorities

Through experience and consultation, the allocation priorities for CDBG and HOME have been identified as noted above. The above amounts are approximations based on the percentages of resources that are used for various programs. Note that the above table does not reflect admin expenses, but does include the $2 million in CDBG program income that is expected to be used during the 2016 Program Year.

In regard to the ESG Program, the NHAP does not currently allocate funds based on priority needs but rather focuses on allocating funds, in consultation with the BoS CoC and regional CoC to ensure the statewide provision of ESG services statewide so all homeless and near homeless Nebraskans have access in or near their communities. NHAP hopes to gather enough valid and reliable data in the coming years to start incorporating priority needs in to the application and funding allocation process.

In regard to HOPWA, Nebraska's HOPWA Program budget has funds allocated to budget categories needed in order to serve priority populations (homeless/chronically homeless). The HOPWA Program continues to seek additional funds to expand tenant-based rental assistance and to increase client's hands-on access to employment/job training services. Intensive case management

is an important component when serving the priority populations.

How will the proposed distribution of funds will address the priority needs and specific objectives described in the Consolidated Plan?

The State's Housing Priority Need includes the need to respond to regional needs for affordable, decent, safe, and appropriate housing as part of balanced economic development in Nebraska. This Priority Need includes 4 Objectives that have been developed in order to meet the Housing Priority and include:

- Promote additional affordable rental housing and preservation of affordable rental housing in selected markets.
- Promote housing preservation by improving the quality of Nebraska's existing affordable housing.
- Promote additional households into homeownership by expanding affordable homeownership opportunities.
- Enhance statewide understanding of fair housing law through outreach and education.

The Nebraska Affordable Housing Program will utilize CDBG, HOME, and NAHTF resources in order to address the Priority Need mentioned above as well as in order to address those specific objectives associated with the priority need.

The Community Development Priority Need has been developed in order to strengthen Nebraska communities through community development programs and services in order to provide a stable platform for economic development. This Priority Need includes 3 primary objectives that include:

- Improve the quality of water and wastewater in Nebraska and assist in developing and financing appropriate infrastructure and facilities for communities and counties that have planned and set priorities for long-term development;
- Invest in quality projects that are identified in a formal community development plan; compliment or support related community investments; leverage maximum private and/or other investment; and have reasonable plans for long-term operation and maintenance; and
- Increase capacity, efficiency, and effectiveness of local planning efforts resulting in longterm development.

The Community Development Program will utilize CDBG resources in order to address the Priority Need mentioned above and to address those specific objectives associated with the priority need.

The Economic Development Priority Need includes the need to foster the competitiveness of Nebraska’s business and industrial sector, and as a result, assist in the economic development of Nebraska’s communities and people. This Priority Need includes 3 primary objectives that include:

- Promote the retention and expansion of existing businesses in Nebraska, and the startup of new businesses in Nebraska, and the immigration of out-of-state businesses relocating or expanding into Nebraska.

- Invest in public facilities and improvement activities that make economic opportunities available to low and moderate income persons.
- Invest in effective and affordable tourist attractions (for profit or nonprofit) in quality communities that will result in visitor spending, generate jobs, and promote long-term economic development.

The Economic Development Program will utilize CDBG resources in order to address the Priority Needs mentioned above and to address those specific objectives associated with the priority need.

The Homeless Services Priority Need has been developed in order to ensure appropriate emergency shelter and/or transitional housing and services for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless by distributing Emergency Solutions Grant funds and Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund resources. This Priority Need includes 2 primary objectives that include:

- Provide appropriate shelter and/or housing to people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless; and
- Provide needed services to people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless

The Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program will utilize ESG funds and HSATF resources in order to address the Priority Need mentioned above and to address those specific objectives associated with the priority need.

In addition, addressing homelessness in Nebraska is a critical issue. NHAP funds are allocated as described above in the "Reason for Allocation Priorities". The Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program combines Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund Resource with Emergency Solutions Grant funding. NHAP will use the combined resources through HSATF and ESG for all eligible services within the limitations set by ESG regulations and guided by local CoC direction, to include the following services: Street Outreach, Emergency Shelters, Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Re-Housing, HMIS, and administrative activates.

The HOPWA Services Priority Need is intended to ensure appropriate emergency and/or permanent housing and services for people who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless by distributing funds to a project sponsor in order to meet the needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS. This Priority Need includes one primary objective that includes:
Provide housing assistance and related supportive services to low income persons with HIV/AIDS and their families and enable low income persons with HIV/AIDS to achieve stability in housing, reduce risks of homelessness, and increase access to health care.

The HOPWA Services Program will utilize HOPWA resources in order to address the Priority Need mentioned above and to address those specific objectives associated with the priority need. In addition, Nebraska's HOPWA Program has identified the majority of homeless/chronically homeless clients have medical concerns and/or are not employed. Placing individuals into housing and connecting them to healthcare are the first steps when services have been established. Utilizing Permanent Housing Placement and Tenant-Based Rental Assistance has proven to be the best use of HOPWA resources if the person is not eligible for other assistance.

AP-30 Methods of Distribution – 91.320(d)&(k)

Introduction

The Methods of Distribution will be identified for four federal resources which include CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA. In addition, a brief discussion will be provided regarding two State programs related to the Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund (NAHTF) and the Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund (HSATF).

Within the IDIS eCon Planning Suite System, the Distribution Methods by State Program Table has been generated (See below). For purposes of providing more detailed information the following table has been supplemented and reformatted in order to provide the public with a clearer picture on the State's methods of distribution.

Distribution Methods

Table 6 - Distribution Methods by State Program

1	**State Program Name:**	
	Funding Sources:	
	Describe the state program addressed by the Method of Distribution.	
	Describe all of the criteria that will be used to select applications and the relative importance of these criteria.	
	If only summary criteria were described, how can potential applicants access application manuals or other **state publications describing the application criteria? (CDBG only)**	
	Describe the process for awarding funds to state recipients and how the state will make its allocation available **to units of general local government, and non-profit organizations, including community and faith-based organizations. (ESG only)**	
	Identify the method of selecting project sponsors (including providing full access to grassroots faith-based and other community-based organizations). (HOPWA only)	

	Describe how resources will be allocated among funding categories.	
	Describe threshold factors and grant size limits.	
	What are the outcome measures expected as a result of the method of distribution?	

Discussion

Federal Programs

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

CDBG funds will be used for several activities authorized in Section 105(a) of the amended 1974 Housing and Community Development Act that meet national CDBG objectives. Projects are funded in order to meet at least one of three CDBG National Objectives that include: (1) benefit low- and moderate-income persons; (2) prevent or eliminate slums or blight; and (3) meet urgent community development needs. The State annually certifies that not less than 70% of the aggregate funds received during a 3 year period (as identified to HUD) shall be used for activities benefitting low and moderate income (LMI) persons.

CDBG funds are not specifically targeted to areas of minority concentration, but are distributed throughout the state's non-entitlement areas (all areas outside of Omaha, Lincoln, and Bellevue) targeted for activities that serve LMI persons. Since projects funded with CDBG resources typically provide a community-wide benefit, it can be assumed that minority groups benefit equally in the same proportion as they occur in the general population.

The State Programs set forth within this Method of Distribution of the current CDBG allocation attempt to balance the need for providing jobs and suitable places to live. Funds are reserved in each category based on a percent of the total funds available for distribution to local governments. The State is allowed $100,000 plus 3% of the State grant for administration and technical assistance in accordance with HUD regulations. The State is also allowed 3% of the program income received by units of general local government (whether retained by the unit of general local government or paid to the State) and funds reallocated by HUD to the State.

To achieve the most effective and efficient use of CDBG funds, DED may, at its discretion, use categorical adjustments. A categorical adjustment allows DED to reserve up to 10% of the total CDBG allocation for use as needed among categories. An adjustment of more than 10% of the total allocation, or the creation or elimination of a category, will be considered a substantial amendment to the AAP, and would require further steps as identified within the Citizen Participation Plan section of the Consolidated Plan. Adjustments may be made for remaining balances within a Category within the last 3 months following a 12 month Program Year in order to meet the HUD Timely Distribution requirement which requires the CDBG grant amount for a given Federal Fiscal Year to be distributed within a HUD required 15-month time frame.

For purposes of the Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plan, the overall CDBG Program includes activities within the Housing Priority Need, the Community Development Priority Need, and the Economic Development Priority Need.

A description and details of each State Program will be identified below.

State Program Name: CDBG Owner Occupied Rehabilitation (CDBG OOR)

Funding Sources: CDBG funds

Describe the state program addressed by the Method of Distribution.

Within the Housing Priority Need, CDBG funds will be utilized for owner occupied rehabilitation activities and made available to LMI persons at or below 80% of the Area Median Income.

Describe all of the criteria that will be used to select applications and the relative importance of these criteria.

The CDBG OOR Program will be implemented by the Nebraska Affordable Housing Program (NAHP) within DED. The NAHP will utilize a separate application cycle titled the "NAHP CDBG Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Cycle". CDBG funds will only be available for applicants that are CDBG-eligible units of general local government.

Specific application questions will be developed for the CDBG OOR Cycle and will include a section for project need; project impact; project readiness; community support; and match. In addition, a section for the Municipal Equalization Fund (MEF) score which will be calculated for each applicant and added to the total application score and an additional section for bonus points.

The total points available for any given application will be 1,000 points. Applicants will be required to obtain a minimum score within designated sections, and must meet all the threshold requirements, in order to be scored and considered for an award recommendation. In addition, failure of the Applicant to score a minimum number of total points on the application will result in the Application not being funded during the 2016 CDBG OOR Cycle.

General Administration activities may not exceed 10% of the amount of CDBG funds awarded. The Housing Management activity cannot exceed 10% of the amount of CDBG funds awarded.

Below is the Scoring Criteria Matrix that will be utilized within the CDBG OOR Program Category for applications.

Additional information is available within the Appendix.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
Project Need	Project Impact	Project Readiness	Community Support	Match	MEF	Bonus Points	**TOTAL**
250	250	200	100	50	100	50	**1,000 points**
100 min	100 min	100 min	50 min	0	0	NA	**350 minimum**

Specific Questions regarding the application criteria will be made available within the CDBG OOR Cycle Application Guidelines.

Overall, the information provided above is a summary of the criteria that will be utilized within the CDBG OOR Cycle.

If only summary criteria were described, how can potential applicants access application manuals or other state publications describing the application criteria? (CDBG only)

As noted above within the description of the criteria used to select applications, this information was a summary of the criteria. Complete information regarding the application criteria will be made available within the CDBG OOR Cycle Application Guidelines. The Guidelines will provide specific details on the Application questions, deadlines for completing applications, threshold requirements, and any other necessary items. This information will be available on the DED website at: http://www.neded.org/community/grants/applications/cdbg-forms.

Describe how resources will be allocated among funding categories.

$2,000,000 million in CDBG resources will be available for the CDBG OOR Program.

Describe threshold factors and grant size limits.

The threshold factors within the CDBG OOR Program are noted below. The maximum amount of CDBG funds that may be obtained will be $500,000.

Each project funded must meet the CDBG National Objective of benefiting low to moderate (LMI) income persons.

Additional threshold factors include: Whether the Pre-Application was submitted by the application due date; whether the applicant is an eligible unit of general local government classified as a municipality (i.e. City or Village); and whether the applicant has achieved the expenditures of previous grant funds for other projects.

What are the outcome measures expected as a result of the method of distribution?

Through the CDBG OOR Program additional owner-occupied rehabilitation will occur for housing units occupied by LMI persons throughout the state. The additional number of units rehabilitated will be quantified within the Annual Performance Report under the "Housing Program" Goal that is completed after the conclusion of the previous Program Year.

State Program Name: Comprehensive Development (CD) (Comprehensive Revitalization and Comprehensive Investment and Stabilization)

Describe the state program addressed by the Method of Distribution.
Within the Community Development Priority Need, CDBG funds will be utilized for CDBG Eligible activities that include those identified as State Priorities in the Housing, Public Works, Planning, and Downtown Revitalization categories and made available to LMI persons or in areas that are defined under the Slum and Blight National Objective criteria. A complete list will be identified within the Appendix (located: www.neded.org/aap).

Describe all of the criteria that will be used to select applications and the relative importance of these criteria.
Projects will be carried out in two phases, first a pre-development phase which will result in the completion of a pre-development study that defines a comprehensive strategy of revitalization to stabilize, support, and enhance clearly defined residential neighborhoods with concentrations of persons with lower incomes.

The second phase will be awarded, after the successful completion and DED approval of the pre-development study; to implement physical projects identified in the CD pre-development study. The pre-development study must be submitted with the required application to receive an award for Phase II activities. CDBG funds for Phase II are reserved for communities that were selected to complete Phase I for Comprehensive Development Projects.

The CDBG entitlement communities of Omaha, Lincoln, Bellevue, and Grand Island are not eligible nor are any other communities whose populations are less than 5,000 persons. See the "Threshold Requirements" within the Appendix (www.neded.org/aap) for specific thresholds that are also considered in determining eligibility.

Pre-development activities undertaken to complete Phase I CD project activities require 25% match

and 25% leverage. Proposed leverage must be from CDBG eligible activities directly related to the proposed project(s) in the same neighborhood or directly benefiting a substantial majority of the LMI persons or families residing within the neighborhood during the grant award period. Consideration for leverage will be given for such sources as public/private cash, loans and program income from prior awards. Match may include public and private funds, or in-kind services, such as materials, labor, or other items that are directly related to the project. The amount of match must be calculated in dollars.

General Administration activities during the pre-development phase (Phase I) may not exceed $3,000 or 10% of the amount of CDBG funds awarded (whichever is greater).

Below is a scoring matrix that will be utilized in the CD program category for Phase I.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
Project Need	Project Impact	Project Readiness	Community Support	Match and Leverage	MEF	Bonus Points	**TOTAL**
200	200	200	200	50	100	50	**1,000 points**
100 min	100 min	100 min	100 min	0	0	NA	**400 minimum**

All activities in Phase II, except general administration and housing management, require 1:1 leverage. Proposed leverage must be from CDBG eligible activities directly related to the proposed project(s) in the same neighborhood or directly benefiting a substantial majority of the LMI persons or families residing within the neighborhood during the grant award period. Consideration for leverage will be given for such sources as public/private cash, loans and program income from prior awards.

All activities in Phase II, except General Administration, also require 1:1 match. Match may include public and private funds, or in-kind services, such as materials, labor, or other items that are directly related to the project. The amount of match must be calculated in dollars.

General Administration activities during the project implementation phase (Phase II) may not exceed 10% of the amount of CDBG funds awarded. The Housing Management activity cannot exceed 10% of the grantee's allocation. These amounts are taken out of the CDBG CD funds allocation for each community. General Administration and Housing Management activities require no matching funds.

Grantees with open Comprehensive Development awards cannot apply within the Public Works and Water Wastewater Program Categories.

Below is a scoring matrix that will be utilized in the CD program category for Phase II:

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)		(7)	
Project Design	Project Readiness	Community Support	Match & Leverage	MEF	Bonus Points	**SUBTOTAL**	Onsite Review	**TOTAL**
200	200	200	150	100	50	**950 points**	100	**1,000 points**
100 min	100 min	100 min	100 min	0	0	**400 minimum**	NA	**400 minimum**

Additional information regarding threshold requirements and eligible activities can be found within the Appendix (www.neded.org/aap) and also within the CD Program Guidelines.

If only summary criteria were described, how can potential applicants access application manuals or other state publications describing the application criteria? (CDBG only)

As noted above within the description of the criteria used to select applications, this information was a summary of the criteria. Complete information regarding the application criteria will be made available within the CDBG Comprehensive Development Application Guidelines. The Guidelines will provide specific details on the Application questions, deadlines for completing applications, threshold requirements, and any other necessary items. This information will be available in the Appendix and the DED website at: http://www.neded.org/community/grants/applications/cdbg-forms

Describe how resources will be allocated among funding categories.

It is estimated that $2,400,000 in CDBG funds will be utilized for planning activities (Phase I) and for project implementation (Phase II).

Describe threshold factors and grant size limits.
All activities proposed in applications for CDBG funding in the CD category must meet one of the national objectives of (1) benefitting low-and moderate income persons (through the subcategories LMI Area Benefit, LMI Limited Clientele, or LMI Housing); or (2) aiding in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight. A project or project activity that fails to meet one of these specified national objectives is ineligible.

The maximum grant amount for Phase I (pre-development) activities will be $30,000 per community. The maximum grant amount for project implementation activities will be $350,000 per year of implementation, $700,000 total for Phase II.

Only up to 25% of each community's allocation can be used for activities eligible for assistance under the Downtown Revitalization (DTR) Program; provided that such activities were identified as needs in the comprehensive needs assessment, and provide a benefit to low/moderate income residents of the community. If the CD grantee is awarded funds within the DTR Program, 0% of the

CD allocation may be used for activities eligible for assistance under the DTR except for housing activities. No more than $3,000 in CDBG funds per beneficiary of record can be invested in the described project area on public works eligible activities.

What are the outcome measures expected as a result of the method of distribution?

Additional comprehensive development efforts will improve communities throughout the state.

State Program Name: Public Works (PW)

Funding Sources: CDBG funds

Describe the state program addressed by the Method of Distribution.

Within the Community Development Priority Need, CDBG funds will be utilized for public works projects. Within the PW Program CDBG funds will be utilized for and made available under the LMI-National Objective measures. Funds are awarded for: community centers; senior centers exclusively for persons aged 62 and over; nonprofit centers for day care, primary health and mental health clinics; remodel shelter facilities for the homeless (excludes costs for operation); accredited public libraries; fire and/or rescue buildings, including fire trucks; removal of architectural barriers from city/village halls or county courthouses for accessibility; parks (a new facility/improvement or a quantifiable increase of an existing facility/improvement); street, curb, gutter, sidewalk, or storm sewer; flood control and drainage; and tornado-safe shelters in manufactured home parks.

For more information see the PW Application Guidelines.

Describe all of the criteria that will be used to select applications and the relative importance of these criteria.

Full applications are scored with pre-set categorical criterion as noted below. A scoring team will review the applications independently and then come together to prepare a consensus tabulation.

Below is the Scoring Criteria Matrix that will be utilized within the Public Works Program Category.

(1)	**(2)**	**(3)**	**(4)**	**(5)**	**(6)**	**(7)**	**(8)**	
Project Need	Project Impact	Project Readiness	Citizen Participation	Matching Funds	LMI Benefit	MEF	Bonus Points	**TOTAL**
200	150	250	150	50	50	100	50	**1,000 points**
75 min	75 min	100 min	50 min	0	0	0	NA	**300 minimum**

Items 1 through 4 include minimum threshold criteria and minimum points must be earned in order to obtain threshold.

A new tool will be utilized which replaces the Community Needs Factor (CNF) score that is called the Municipal Equalization Fund (MEF) evaluation criteria. MEF was created in 1996 as a needs-based method of providing state aid to cities. The program is administered by the Nebraska Department of Revenue, with data provided by the Department of Revenue's Property Assessment and Research Divisions, and the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts. Final aid calculations for Nebraska communities are posted in June of each year.

This aid formula provides a way of looking at needs and resources while at the same time ensuring that local governments provide a level of local resources. DED will incorporate the MEF calculation as one of the scoring categories used to produce points towards the total score of a PW application.

Each city's population is multiplied by the average per capita property tax levy for the relevant population group. Then each city's property tax valuation is multiplied by the state average property tax levy. These numbers are used to make the preliminary determination for state aid under the MEF formula. If a city's population multiplied by the average per capita property tax levy is greater than the state-wide average levy multiplied by its valuation, the community qualifies for points towards their CDBG Public Works application. If the difference is negative, no points will be awarded under MEF category used for scoring CDBG Public Works applications. Populations, used in the MEF are based on the last decennial census including those modified by annexations that have taken place since the last census and any special censuses completed by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Overall, the information provided above is a summary of the criteria that will be utilized within the PW Program. Further information will be provided within the Appendix (www.neded.org/aap) and within the CDBG Program Guidelines for this Program.

If only summary criteria were described, how can potential applicants access application manuals or other state publications describing the application criteria? (CDBG only)

As noted above within the description of the criteria used to select applications, this information was a summary of the criteria. Complete information regarding the application criteria will be made available within the CDBG Public Works Application Guidelines. The Guidelines will provide specific details on the Application questions, deadlines for completing applications, threshold requirements, and any other necessary items. This information will be available on the DED website at: http://www.neded.org/community/grants/applications/cdbg-forms

Describe how resources will be allocated among funding categories.

For the 2016 Program Year, DED is considering funding public works infrastructure activities/projects with an anticipated $1,000,000 in CDBG resources. The Public Works award amount is based on beneficiary data of the project area as well as the feasibility and need for the project.

Describe threshold factors and grant size limits.

Each project funded must meet the CDBG National Objective of benefiting low to moderate (LMI) income persons. Up to $250,000 in CDBG funds may be awarded per project for project activity and general administration combined; no more than $20,000.00 may be used for general administration. The cost per resident beneficiary cannot exceed $3,000, except for daycare facility projects where the cost per resident beneficiary cannot exceed $5,000.

What are the outcome measures expected as a result of the method of distribution?

The State will be able to identify qualified projects in areas that are economically distressed in order to appropriately invest CDBG funds for public works projects that meet the National Objectives described in 24 CFR Part 570.

State Program Name: Water Wastewater (WW)

Funding Sources: CDBG funds

Describe the state program addressed by the Method of Distribution.

Within the Community Development Priority Need, CDBG funds will be utilized for and made available to LMI persons on an area basis. Eligible applicants may submit one of two types of applications:

1. Individual: Except as provided in the DED application guidelines in § 1.03, an eligible municipality may apply only for projects within its corporate limits, and an eligible county may apply only for such projects or activities in unincorporated areas.

2. Joint: Eligible applicants may jointly apply for projects when it can be clearly documented that mutual action by the applicants is required. The applicant local government in a multi-jurisdictional application must also be a direct participant in the study/project. The applicant local government cannot serve only as a pass through for CDBG funds or only as the general administrator of the study/ project.

Funds are awarded to publicly-owned systems. The fundable activities include: final engineering design, water source, treatment, storage, distribution; sanitary sewer treatment or collection.

Describe all of the criteria that will be used to select applications and the relative importance of these criteria.

Applicants anticipating the use of federal and/or state administered funds in order to finance water or sanitary sewer improvements must apply with the Water Wastewater Advisory Committee (WWAC). WWAC is made up of several state and federal agencies that include: the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, and

the Nebraska

Department of Health & Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The application process includes submitting the application and pre-application with information regarding a facility plan (FP) or Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) to one of the WWAC agency partners.

WWAC reviews the project pre-application then advises the applicant which assistance provider(s) can best meet the project funding needs. Project owners may also contact the individual agencies directly without going to the WWAC. It is important to note that the DED relies on the ranking systems in this Intended Use Plan (IUP) as their initial step for determining the eligibility of a community for their grants. Drinking water projects must score a minimum of 85 points and clean water projects must meet a minimum of 55 points as described in the IUP. The community, at that time, is also reviewed to determine whether a CDBG National Objective has been met for the State's CDBG program. If, after a WWAC review, it has been determined that CDBG funds are an appropriate funding source for a community, DED will invite the community to apply for a CDBG WW award.

Priority ranking will be utilized for projects when two or more projects are similar within the following areas that include: a) each project has an equivalent SRF priority ranking, b) each project proposes appropriate solutions, c) each community is ready to promptly start and complete activities, and d) adequate CDBG funding for all projects is not available. In this instance, the community with the highest percent of low- and moderate-income persons shall have priority.

The invitee's application is reviewed for CDBG thresholds and requirements as outlined in the Water/Wastewater Program Guidelines. Awards will be reserved until December 31, 2016 for communities scoring 85 or more points on the Drinking Water Revolving Fund Intended Use Priority (IUP) and 55 or more IUP points on the Clean Water Revolving Fund priority system. If funds remain available thereafter, CDBG reserves will be considered for the next highest ranked and eligible community determined by WWAC as an appropriate source for funding.

If only summary criteria were described, how can potential applicants access application manuals or other state publications describing the application criteria? (CDBG only)

As noted above within the description of the criteria used to select applications, this information was a summary of the criteria. Complete information regarding the application criteria will be made available within the CDBG Water Wastewater Application Guidelines. The Guidelines will provide specific details on the Application questions, deadlines for completing applications, threshold requirements, and any other necessary items. This information will be available on the DED website at: http://www.neded.org/community/grants/applications/cdbg-forms.

Describe how resources will be allocated among funding categories.

For the 2016 Program Year, DED anticipates utilizing $1,000,000 of funding allocated to this Program.

Describe threshold factors and grant size limits.

Each project funded must meet the CDBG National Objective of benefiting low to moderate (LMI) income persons.

Once a community is invited to apply for a Water/Wastewater CDBG award, all applications are reviewed and held to the same criterion as all of the other State's WW projects appraised. There is a 25% match requirement for CDBG Water/Wastewater awarded activities.

Up to $250,000 in CDBG funds are available per project. No more than $2,000 in CDBG funds per beneficiary of record can be invested in the described project area.

What are the outcome measures expected as a result of the method of distribution?

DED will be able to identify those water/wastewater project areas that meet a CDBG National Objective and target those projects that are impacting the safety of our citizens. Through a collaborative effort with other funding agencies, DED is better able to leverage CDBG resources in order to obtain maximum impact.

State Program Name: Planning (PP)

Funding Sources: CDBG funds

Describe the state program addressed by the Method of Distribution.

Within the Community Development Priority Need, CDBG funds will be utilized by a local unit of government to provide community planning, fair housing studies, strategic planning, and functional or special studies, related to: housing, infrastructure, economic development, land use/regulatory measures, main street improvement district, energy conservation, transportation planning, environmental planning, heritage tourism studies, historic preservation studies, etc. and made available under the LMI or Slum and Blight National Objective criteria.

Describe all of the criteria that will be used to select applications and the relative importance of these criteria.

CDBG funds will only be available for applicants that are CDBG-eligible units of general local government. Specific application questions have been developed, which include: problem statement, impact, strategy/work plan, National Objective, leverage, and bonus points are available for sustainability. The total points available for any given application will be 1,000 points; a minimum of 400 points is required in order to be considered for funding. In addition, applicants will be required to obtain a minimum score within the problem statement, impact, and strategy/work plan sections, and must meet all the threshold requirements, in order to be scored and considered for an award recommendation. In addition, failure of the Applicant to score a minimum number of total points on the application will result in the Application not being funded.

Below is the Selection Criteria Matrix that will be used for the Planning Program.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
Project Need	Project Impact	Project Readiness (Local Effort)	Matching Funds	LMI Benefit	MEF	Bonus Points	**TOTAL**
250	250	250	50	50	100	50	**1,000 points**
150 min	125 min	125 min	0	0	0	NA	**400 minimum**

The above mentioned information is a summary. Additional information on the Planning Program will be made available within the Appendix.

If only summary criteria were described, how can potential applicants access application manuals or other state publications describing the application criteria? (CDBG only)

As noted above within the description of the criteria used to select applications, this information was a summary of the criteria. Complete information regarding the application criteria will be made available within the CDBG Planning Application Guidelines. The Guidelines will provide specific details on the Application questions, deadlines for completing applications, threshold requirements, and any other necessary items. This information will be available on the DED website at: http://www.neded.org/community/grants/applications/cdbg-forms

Technical assistance is available from the State during preparation of the application to ensure that the application will meet threshold requirements. Application guidelines are available as a downloadable document on the Department website or may be acquired by contacting the program representative.

Describe how resources will be allocated among funding categories.

$250,000 in CDBG resources will be available for the CDBG Planning Category.

Describe threshold factors and grant size limits.

Eligible local governments may individually or jointly apply and receive more than one grant per cycle in the Planning Category. The applicant local government in multi-jurisdictional application must also be a direct participant in the study/project. The applicant local government cannot serve only as a pass through for CDBG funds or only as the general administrator of the study/project. All municipalities must be involved with the same project, which addresses a common issue. The product can, however, be packaged to meet individual municipal or county needs. There must be a product for the regional study and each municipality or county may have its own product that addresses local recommendations, strategies, or needs as an example. Projects are to be completed within twenty-four (24) months following award. Funds are available in 2016 in two cycles, including one in the spring and an open- cycle throughout the remainder of the Program

Year.

For 2016, no Preliminary Engineering Reports (PERs) that are prepared in anticipation of WWAC funding will be funded through the CDBG Planning Program. PERs that are needed outside of the WWAC process may be funded.

No more than 60% of CDBG funds allocated will be awarded from the first application cycle. The maximum grant is $30,000 per community/unincorporated county. The maximum grant for multi-community, countywide, or regional planning projects may not exceed $50,000. There is an estimated $250,000 reserved for planning projects out of the 2016 CDBG allocation.

All planning activities require a 25% match (minimum 12.5% non-CDBG cash, in-kind services, contributions) of the total project cost. General administration activities require no matching funds. General administration activities shall not exceed 10% of the CDBG funds awarded or $3,000, whichever is greater.

Additional threshold factors are required within the Planning Program. This information will be available within the Appendix (www.neded.org/aap).

What are the outcome measures expected as a result of the method of distribution?

Through additional planning, communities and counties will be able to better prepare for potential projects throughout the state. These planning efforts will help provide communities the opportunity to solve problems and meet citizen needs through a community planning process that assesses community development needs, develops options for meeting those needs, and packages work plans or carries out processes that lead to successful projects.

State Program Name: Downtown Revitalization (DTR)

Funding Sources: CDBG funds

Describe the state program addressed by the Method of Distribution.

Within the Community Development Priority Need, CDBG funds will be utilized within the Downtown Revitalization Program for activities that will contribute to the revitalization or redevelopment of downtown infrastructure, health and safety concerns, and develop a greater capacity for growth. This provides a sound basis for fostering local economic development. This recognizes the importance of the condition and viability of a downtown to increase the community's tax base and create a center for community activity which is directly related to business expansion and location decisions. Activities will assist communities to carry out a comprehensive downtown revitalization pre-development study to stabilize and enhance clearly defined downtown areas that will provide a benefit to low/moderate income residents of the community or aid in the elimination of substandard or blighted structures and areas in the downtown as part of meeting CDBG National Objective criteria.

Describe all of the criteria that will be used to select applications and the relative importance of these criteria.

Projects will be carried out in two phases, first a pre-development phase which will result in the completion of a well-defined, comprehensive pre-development study that defines a series of specific desired outcomes with goals and action steps for improvements to a defined downtown business district.

The second phase will be awarded, after the successful completion and approval by DED of the downtown revitalization pre- development study; to implement physical projects or loan programs identified in the downtown revitalization pre-development study. The pre-development study must be submitted with the required application to receive an award for Phase II activities.

CDBG funds for Phase II are reserved for communities that were selected to complete Phase I for Downtown Revitalization Projects. This includes previous Phase I award recipients that were not successful in obtaining Phase II resources.

Eligible applicants include every Nebraska incorporated municipality with a population of less than 50,000 persons and are not a CDBG Entitlement Community (including Omaha, Lincoln, Bellevue, and Grand Island). See the "Threshold Requirements" within the Appendix (www.neded.org/aap) for specific thresholds that are also considered in determining eligibility.

Below is the Selection Criteria Matrix that will be used for the DTR Program Category.

Additional information is available within the Appendix.

(1)	**(2)**	**(3)**	**(4)**	**(5)**	**(6)**	**(7)**		**(8)**	
Project Need	Project Impact	Project Readiness	Business & Community Support	Matching Funds	MEF	Bonus Points	**SUBTOTAL**	Onsite Review	**TOTAL**
200	150	200	100	50	100	100	**900 points**	100	**1,000 points**
100 min	100 min	100 min	50 min	0	0	0	**350 minimum**	50	**400 minimum**

If only summary criteria were described, how can potential applicants access application manuals or other state publications describing the application criteria? (CDBG only)

As noted above within the description of the criteria used to select applications, this information was a summary of the criteria. Complete information regarding the application criteria will be made available within the CDBG Downtown Revitalization Application Guidelines. The Guidelines will provide specific details on the Application questions, deadlines for completing applications, threshold requirements, and any other necessary items. This information will be available on the

DED website at: http://www.neded.org/community/grants/applications/cdbg-forms

Describe how resources will be allocated among funding categories.

It is estimated that $1,000,000 in CDBG funds will be utilized for planning activities (Phase I) and project implementation (Phase II).

Describe threshold factors and grant size limits.

Each project funded must meet a CDBG National Objective of benefiting low to moderate (LMI) income persons or slum and blight (SBA).

DTR applicants will no longer be required to obtain either an Economic Development Certified Community designation nor a Leadership Certified Community. Participation in these programs is encouraged as many of the elements of each program provide many benefits to a community and can enhance DTR applications by having many of the necessary items for a project.

The maximum grant amount for Phase I (pre-development) activities will be $30,000 per community. Pre-development activities undertaken to complete Phase I DTR project activities require a 25% match. No more than half of the total project match may be in- kind source contributions. At least half of the total project match must include non-CDBG cash contributions, of the total pre- development project costs. General Administration activities during the pre-development phase may not exceed 10% of the amount of CDBG funds awarded, or $3,000, whichever is greater. General Administration activities do not require any matching funds.

The maximum grant amount for Phase II (project implementation) activities will be $350,000 per community. DTR activities undertaken during Phase II require a 25% match. No more than half of the total project match may be in-kind source contributions. At least half of the total project match must include non-CDBG cash contributions, of the total DTR project costs. General Administration activities during the project implementation phase may not exceed 10% of the amount of CDBG funds awarded. General Administration activities do not require any matching funds.

Additional information regarding threshold requirements and eligible activities can be found within the Appendix (www.neded.org/aap) and also within the DTR Program Guidelines.

What are the outcome measures expected as a result of the method of distribution?

Through CDBG resources, communities will be improved throughout the state through the increased viability of downtown areas.

State Program Name: Economic Development (ED)

Funding Sources: CDBG funds

Describe the state program addressed by the Method of Distribution.

Within the Economic Development Priority Need, CDBG funds will be utilized for providing communities (and counties) with resources to assist businesses which expand the state's economic base and which create quality jobs principally benefiting LMI employees and made available under the LMI, SBA, or Urgent Need CDBG National Objective criteria.

Eligible activities will generally include:

- loans to for-profit businesses (through the applicant community) for a variety of business purposes;
- public facilities (infrastructure) projects undertaken by applicant communities for economic development purposes, where a benefiting business agrees to locate or expand premised on the infrastructure improvements and agrees to create jobs for LMI persons;

Describe all of the criteria that will be used to select applications and the relative importance of these criteria.

A summary of the ED Program criteria include a number of items, much of which is noted below. Additional criteria include the following:

- The business must pay all employees at the project location in Nebraska at a rate of no less than $9.00 per hour, as well as provide appropriate employee benefits, for the duration of the project job maintenance period (this period will be established as part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the project).
- Non-profit businesses/organizations are ineligible.
- Businesses that derive any revenues from gaming are ineligible.
- Production agriculture enterprises are ineligible. These are excluded because they lack the necessary CDBG ED Program Guideline requirement that there must exist extra levels of substantial and separately identifiable value-added processing being performed by employees of the production agriculture enterprise—beyond those tasks and activities of production, harvesting, and marketing normally associated with traditional agricultural production commodities. Examples of such ineligible enterprises (when they lack the extra value-added component) include: grain farming, livestock raising, raising of poultry or the production of eggs, the production of milk, fruit or nut orchards, vegetable farming including hydroponics vegetable production, and aquacultural facilities.
- Trucking enterprises, which lack the requisite storage, warehousing, or distribution extra components which would distinguish them from the usual so-called "rolling stock" enterprises, are ineligible.

The general scoring criteria for the Program include 110 points available for any application. These criteria include: CDBG Funds Utilization; Community Impact and Investment; Business Factors; Economic Development Certified Community; and DED Leadership Community. Additional

information will be noted within the Appendix (www.neded.org/aap).

This information provided is a summary. Additional information will be available within the Appendix (www.neded.org/aap) and within the ED Program Guidelines.

If only summary criteria were described, how can potential applicants access application manuals or other state publications describing the application criteria? (CDBG only)

As noted above within the description of the criteria used to select applications, this information was a summary of the criteria. Complete information regarding the application criteria will be made available within the CDBG Economic Development Application Guidelines. The Guidelines will provide specific details on the Application questions, deadlines for completing applications, threshold requirements, and any other necessary items. This information will be available on the DED website at: http://www.neded.org/community/grants/applications/cdbg-forms

Describe how resources will be allocated among funding categories.

For the 2016 Program Year, DED is considering funding economic development infrastructure activities/projects with the anticipated $2,000,000 of funding allocated to this Program. Other activities/projects will be funded from DED's CDBG Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund.

Describe threshold factors and grant size limits.

Eligible applicants include every Nebraska incorporated municipality that is under a population of 50,000 persons. Every county in Nebraska is also eligible for the Program.

Each project funded must meet one of three CDBG National Objectives that include: benefiting low to moderate (LMI) income persons; aiding in the prevention or elimination of slums and blight (SBA); or meeting other community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to health or welfare of the community and other financial resources are not available to meet such needs.

The majority of projects funded within the ED Program meet the LMI National Objective. The LMI benefit is demonstrated in nearly all projects through job creation, job retention, or both job creation and job retention, by a benefited business. Such job creation or job retention must involve the employment of persons, the majority (51% or more) of whom are LMI persons.

All CDBG ED projects require a minimum 1:1 match of CDBG funds with funds from other (non-CDBG) sources. This means that CDBG funds can be no more than 50% of the total project cost.

The Housing and Community Development Act (HCDA) and HUD's CDBG regulations outline basic project "underwriting" guidelines/standards so that State programs administering federal CDBG funds will achieve the federal objectives of the CDBG Program. The underwriting standards—the decision-making criteria—used in the Nebraska ED Program are designed to address these federal guidelines. Further information regarding the "decision-making criteria" and other information on

the ED Program will be available within the Appendix (www.neded.org/aap). Additional information will also be available with the Economic Development Program Guidelines.

In addition, not all businesses are eligible to be benefited businesses under the DED CDBG ED Program. For a business to be eligible to be a benefited business that business must:

- meet the definitional criteria to be a "qualified business" as that term is defined in the Nebraska Advantage Act, as that Act exists at the time an eligibility determination is made under these guidelines;

and also,

- meet any additional eligibility criteria, and not be ineligible by reason of the exclusions, in the ED Program Guidelines and above mentioned information.

Additional information regarding the Nebraska Advantage Act Criteria will be provided within the Appendix (www.neded.org/aap).

$1,000,000 will be used as a guideline for an award for any one project under the ED Program.

What are the outcome measures expected as a result of the method of distribution?

Through the Economic Development Program additional jobs will be created or retained throughout the state which will create additional opportunities for Nebraskan's, particularly those who are LMI.

State Program Name: Tourism Development (TD)

Funding Sources: CDBG funds

Describe the state program addressed by the Method of Distribution.

Within the Economic Development Priority Need, CDBG funds will be utilized for tourism development projects, defined as tourist attractions. For the purposes of this section "tourist attractions" include attractions developed by either for-profit or non-profit entities that are either public or private. These tourist attractions must be expected to draw 2,500 visits or more per year from origins of at least 100 miles away. Tourist attractions include sites and facilities that draw visitors from a significant distance away because of their scenic, historic, cultural, scientific, educational, and/or recreational attributes. These projects also serve and provide facilities that service other community and regional activities. Tourism projects generally focus on meeting and improving multi-faceted facilities for assisting in economic development at the local, regional, and statewide levels. Tourist attractions must meet a CDBG National Objective and also a state CDBG priority. A complete list of priorities, along with further information regarding the Tourism Development Program, will be in the Appendix (www.neded.org/aap).

Describe all of the criteria that will be used to select applications and the relative importance of these criteria.

Full applications are scored with pre-set categorical criterion containing the following categories:

Project Need, Project Impact, Project Readiness, Citizen Participation, Matching Funds, LMI benefit, and MEF. A scoring team will review the applications independently and then come together to prepare a consensus tabulation. A new tool will be utilized which replaces the Community Needs Factor (CNF) score that is called the Municipal Equalization Fund (MEF) evaluation criteria. MEF was created in 1996 as a needs-based method of providing state aid to cities. The program is administered by the Nebraska Department of Revenue, with data provided by the Department of Revenue's Property Assessment and Research Divisions, and the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts. Final aid calculations for Nebraska communities are posted in June of each year.

This aid formula provides a way of looking at needs and resources while at the same time ensuring that local governments provide a level of local resources. DED will incorporate the MEF calculation as one of the scoring categories used to produce points towards the total score of a TD application.

Each city's population is multiplied by the average per capita property tax levy for the relevant population group. Then each city's property tax valuation is multiplied by the state average property tax levy. These numbers are used to make the preliminary determination for state aid under the MEF formula. If a city's population multiplied by the average per capita property tax levy is greater than the state-wide average levy multiplied by its valuation, the community qualifies for points towards their CDBG Public Works application. If the difference is negative, no points will be awarded under MEF category used for scoring CDBG Public Works applications. Populations, used in the MEF are based on the last decennial census including those modified by annexations that have taken place since the last census and any special censuses completed by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Overall, the information provided above is a summary of the criteria that will be utilized within the TD Program. Further information will be provided within the Appendix (www.neded.org/aap) and within the CDBG Program Guidelines for this Program.

If only summary criteria were described, how can potential applicants access application manuals or other state publications describing the application criteria? (CDBG only)

As noted above within the description of the criteria used to select applications, this information was a summary of the criteria. Complete information regarding the application criteria will be made available within the CDBG Tourism Development Application Guidelines. The Guidelines will provide specific details on the Application questions, deadlines for completing applications, threshold requirements, and any other necessary items. This information will be available on the DED website at: http://www.neded.org/community/grants/applications/cdbg-forms

Describe how resources will be allocated among funding categories.

Up to $350,000 in resources will be made available within the 2016 Program Year for TD projects. These resources are being estimated in a range from $350,000 to $0 depending on the number and quality of applications within a given year.

Describe threshold factors and grant size limits.

Each project funded must meet a CDBG National Objective.

All TD projects require a minimum 25% match which must be 3 to 1 (3 CDBG and 1 other resources) match of CDBG funds with funds from other (non-CDBG) sources. At a maximum, no more than one-half of the total project match may be from in-kind source contributions. At a minimum, at least one-half of the total project match must be non-CDBG cash contributions. General administration activities require no matching funds.

Eligible local governments may individually or jointly apply and receive more than one grant per year in the Tourism Development Category.

Applications for CDBG TD awarded are accepted and considered on an open cycle. TD applications will be accepted beginning in May of 2016. Applications will be submitted as prescribed in the Tourism Development Application Guidelines.

Threshold requirements must be met prior to review. Applications will not be considered and returned if the following threshold requirements are not met:

- Applicant is eligible;
- activities are eligible and comply with a CDBG National Objective and State CDBG priority;
- Applicant has no significant, unresolved audit finding;
- Applicant has no legal actions underway that may significantly impact its capacity;
- Applicant is following a detailed Citizen Participation Plan and Anti-Displacement Plan; and
- Applicant has adopted an authorizing participation resolution.
- Applicant must have addressed and cleared all compliance problems (i.e. Davis-Bacon, acquisition, fair housing, etc.), if any, from past Awards and have had responses accepted by DED;
- Applicant is current with all reporting requirements (semiannual status reports, closeout reports, audit reports, notification of annual audit reports, etc.)

The maximum grant amount is $225,000 in CDBG funds and the minimum amount is $50,000 per community/unincorporated county.

What are the outcome measures expected as a result of the method of distribution?

Additional tourist attractions funded by Tourism Development activities will increase opportunities throughout the state for persons within the communities where the projects are located and for those persons visiting the attractions.

HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME)

State Program Name: HOME CHDO Program

Funding Sources: HOME funds
Describe the state program addressed by the Method of Distribution.

Within the Housing Priority Need, HOME funds will be utilized for eligible CHDO activities throughout the state and made available to eligible non-profits that are designated as Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) under the Nebraska Affordable Housing Program application criteria.

Describe all of the criteria that will be used to select applications and the relative importance of these criteria.

Eligible applicants include community-based non-profit 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), or section 905 (subordinate organization of a 501(c) organization) organizations with the provision of decent housing that is affordable to low- and moderate-income persons among the purposes of the organization.

In addition, these organizations must meet and satisfactorily demonstrate the prescribed requirements in the CHDO Designation guidelines. DED will designate nonprofit organizations that meet defined criteria as CHDOs. A CHDO is defined in the HOME Investment Partnerships Program Final Rule Subpart A, §92.2

The HOME CHDO Program will be implemented by the Nebraska Affordable Housing Program (NAHP) within DED. The NAHP will utilize a separate application cycle titled the "CHDO Cycle". HOME funds will only be available for applicants that are eligible Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs).

Three eligible CHDOs will be provided the opportunity for HOME CHDO resources for 2016 after successful submittal of CHDO designation and application information. These CHDOs include: Housing Development Corporation (HDC); NeighborWorks Lincoln; and NeighborWorks Northeast Nebraska.

Complete application guidelines information will be made available within the CHDO Application Guidelines section. The Guidelines will provide specific details on the Application questions, deadlines for completing applications, threshold requirements, and any other necessary items. This information will be available on the DED website at:
http://www.neded.org/community/community-info/documentslibrary-a-forms/home

Describe how resources will be allocated among funding categories.
$600,000 in HOME resources will be available for CHDO Program.

Describe threshold factors and grant size limits.
Eligible applicants include community-based non-profit 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), or section 905 (subordinate organization of a 501(c) organization) organizations with the provision of decent housing that is affordable to low- and moderate-income persons among the purposes of the organization.

In addition, these organizations must meet and satisfactorily demonstrate the prescribed requirements in the CHDO Designation guidelines. DED will designate nonprofit organizations that meet defined criteria as CHDOs. A CHDO is defined in the HOME Investment Partnerships Program Final Rule Subpart A, §92.2.

State-designated CHDOs will be selected through the HOME CHDO application process. The three CHDOs identified above will also be provided the opportunity to complete an application for funding. These applications will only be for CHDO-eligible activities.

The maximum amount of HOME funds available within the CHDO Cycle will be $600,000, with $200,000 being available to each of the 3 eligible CHDOs.

What are the outcome measures expected as a result of the method of distribution?

Through the HOME CHDO Program additional housing units that will be occupied by LMI persons throughout the state. The additional number of affordable housing units will be quantified within the Annual Performance Report under the "Housing Program" Goal that is completed after the conclusion of the previous Program Year.

State Program Name: HOME Rental Program

Funding Sources: HOME funds

Describe the state program addressed by the Method of Distribution.

Within the Housing Priority Need, HOME funds will be utilized for rental housing (both new construction and rental rehabilitation) through a joint application process between the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA) and DED. NIFA will provide an allocation of Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTCs) and DED provides HOME funds to those applicants needing HOME resources for gap financing in order to make their tax credit projects feasible. The tax credit rental development program uses 9 percent tax credits (and may use 4 percent tax credits for a bond structured project) combined with other resources in order to provide affordable housing to low income persons, at or below 60% of the Area Median Income, throughout the state. All areas of Nebraska are eligible for these rental projects, including Omaha, Lincoln, and Bellevue.

Describe all of the criteria that will be used to select applications and the relative importance of these criteria.

Eligible applicants include community-based non-profit 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), PHAs, CHDOs, and units of local government. These applicants will partner with rental housing developers in order to complete the joint NIFA/DED application.

NIFA administers the application process that begins with the completion of a Qualified Allocation

Plan (QAP). The QAP provides details on the LIHTC allocation process. Further information and details can be found within the QAP at: http://nifa.org/downloads/2016qap.pdf

A joint NIFA/DED application is completed online in order for eligible applicants to apply for LIHTCs and HOME resources. The NIFA/DED application includes a variety of detailed selection criteria which include, but are not limited to, site control requirements, evidence of sufficient funding resources, and a market study. The complete application can be found on NIFA's website at: http://nifa.org/downloads/2016lihtc_homeapp.pdf

Describe how resources will be allocated among funding categories.

$2,100,000 in HOME resources will be utilized for LIHTC rental housing development. In addition, $675,000 in NAHTF resources will also be used within the tax credit cycles. These NAHTF resources will be used in order to meet the 25% HOME Match requirements.

Describe threshold factors and grant size limits.

Only eligible HOME applicants can apply for HOME resources within the NIFA/DED application cycles. Eligible applicants include community-based non-profit 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), PHAs, CHDOs, and units of local government. A number of Threshold Exhibits are required during the application process that include: architectural plans; an affirmative marketing plan; site control; site visit approval for HOME funded projects; subsidy information; investor letters; financing documentation; development worksheets; and other information (all of which is noted within the NIFA/DED application as mentioned above).
There are no specific HOME grant size limits. However, DED staff will work closely with applicants in order determine the availability of HOME funds for any given project.

What are the outcome measures expected as a result of the method of distribution?

HOME resources, combined with LIHTCs, will create additional rental housing throughout the state. These additional units will serve low income persons at or below 60% of the Area Median Income. These additional affordable housing units will remain affordable to low income persons for at least 20 years.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

State Program Name: Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (NHAP)

Funding Sources: ESG funds and HSATF resources

Describe the state program addressed by the Method of Distribution.

Within the Homeless Services Priority Need, ESG funds will be utilized, along with Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund (HSATF) resources, in order to provide funding for activities that provide a comprehensive approach to address the needs of people who are homeless or at risk of

homelessness in Nebraska. These activities are intended to: assist in the prevention and alleviation of homelessness; provide temporary and/or permanent housing for persons who are homeless; and to encourage the development of projects that link housing assistance programs with efforts to promote self-sufficiency.

The statewide Continuum of Care (CoC) system has been developed to help ensure that people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness are able to access needed emergency shelter, street outreach, homelessness prevention, and rapid rehousing services in each of the 93 counties.

Additional information regarding the Continuum of Care Regions is available within the Appendix (www.neded.org/aap).

Describe all of the criteria that will be used to select applications and the relative importance of these criteria.

In order to reduce NHAP grant management and administrative burden, NHAP adopted a two-year funding cycle in 2003. 2016-2017 is the first year of this two-year grant cycle; involving a competitive application process that is open to any eligible applicant. The second year will be a renewal application process that is open only to existing NHAP recipients in good standing.

In 2015, an allocation formula was used in distributing NHAP grant funds. The formula helped ensure an equitable distribution of funds throughout the entire state. The formula was calculated using a $50,000 base 'hold harmless' funding amount per geographic Region (see page 6-12); the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) annual Continuum of Care NOFA pro rata amounts; and consideration of statewide service continuity. The initial allocation formula was developed with input from the NHAP advisory committee.

For 2014-15, the following NHAP plan was developed in consultation with Nebraska's Continua of Care:

Due to annual fluctuations in the pro rata need amounts and the need to help ensure statewide continuity of necessary services, should applying the formula result in a decrease in funding from the prior year for the majority of the regions, or a significant increase in one or more regions, adjustments will be made to reduce the impact of the change in available funding by region.

In December of 2015, NHAP surveyed Nebraska's Continua of Care and determined the current funding formula should remain in place.

Describe the process for awarding funds to state recipients and how the state will make its allocation available to units of general local government, and non-profit organizations, including community and faith-based organizations. (ESG only)

The State ESG program is a competitive program and geographic distribution is based on applications received and the results of the project selection process. The eligible applicants are units of general local government, Community Action Agencies and individual non-profits. ESG

applications are taken on an annual basis. As mentioned above, NHAP utilizes a two-year grant cycle.

Describe how resources will be allocated among funding categories.

ESG funds will be allocated among several service categories. The Table below further describes the breakdown of estimated allocations for each of the ESG Categories in order to ensure that no more than 60 percent of the total ESG award is allocated to Street Outreach (SO) and Emergency Shelter (ES) services. Based on the ESG allocation estimate, SO and ES services must be below $569,064, which is 60 percent of the total ESG funds.

Service	Estimated ESG Funds
Street Outreach (SO)	$5,000
Emergency Shelter (ES)	$165,702
Maximum SO & ES Subtotal (60% of Estimated Total Award)	**$170,702**
Homelessness Prevention	$384,396
Rapid Re-housing	$204,074
HMIS	$118,134
Services Subtotal	**$877,307**
Estimated Administration (7.5%)	$71,133
Total ESG Award	**$948,440**

Describe threshold factors and grant size limits.

At present, DHHS does not have grant limits for ESG funds. However, because DHHS attempts to achieve equitable distribution, sizes of grant awards may be limited by available funds and the number of requests. There are no threshold factors for funding other than those identified in the RFA.

What are the outcome measures expected as a result of the method of distribution?

Through ESG and HSATF resources needed services will be provided to persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness throughout the state. For the upcoming program year, we anticipate that 8,500 homeless persons will receive adequate emergency shelter/and or transitional housing, 1,700 homeless persons will be rapidly re-housed, and 3,000 individuals will receive support services to prevent them from becoming homeless.

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)

State Program Name: HOPWA Program

Funding Sources: HOPWA funds

Describe the state program addressed by the Method of Distribution.

Within the HOPWA Services Priority Need, HOPWA funds will be utilized to provide supportive services to persons, and their families, with HIV/AIDS that include: standard and intensive case management services with a medical and self-sufficiency component; outreach to HIV+ homeless persons/families and homeless service providers; emergency rental/mortgage assistance; tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA); permanent housing placement (including first/last month's rent, security deposits, and rental application fees); and housing information services and resource identification.

The HOPWA Program prioritizes outreach to the chronically homeless and homeless persons, and their families, living with HIV/AIDS in order to help address their housing, supportive services, and medical needs.

In general, DHHS provides HOPWA resources to the Nebraska AIDS Project (NAP), the HOPWA Project Sponsor, in order to carry out activities throughout the state. The strategy of the program is to support and facilitate NAP's participation and involvement in the seven (7) regional Continuum of Care (CoC) Committees. DHHS participates on the Statewide Continuum of Care Committee. It is the goal of HOPWA staff to coordinate with ESG Program staff, and homeless service providers, in order to coordinate homeless activities. These collaborations will help to ensure that the special needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS in Nebraska will be represented at both the regional and the state level planning processes.

The HOPWA Program also participates in the Nebraska HIV Care and Prevention Consortium (NHCPC) which consists of HIV/AIDS medical providers, service providers, consumers, and other members of the public. One of the members of the NHCPC includes a representative of the Nebraska Red Ribbon Community. The Nebraska Red Ribbon Community is a geographical, diverse group of persons living with HIV/AIDS that work together to enhance and enrich the lives of fellow HIV positive persons through leadership and partnership with the State and other local organizations. In addition, the HOPWA Program Manager works closely with the Ryan White Part B Program Manager, the ADAP Coordinator and the Ryan White All Parts Committee members to coordinate services for persons living with HIV/AIDS. Committee meetings are held on a quarterly basis. The HOPWA Program Manager manages the Ryan White Part B, ADAP and HOPWA Programs Clinical Quality Management Program. The CQM Committee meets face-to-face in conjunction with (immediately following) the NHCPC and has teleconferences throughout the year.

Describe all of the criteria that will be used to select applications and the relative importance of these criteria.

DHHS and NAP will identify the criteria used to select applications. This information will be provided prior to finalizing the AAP.

Identify the method of selecting project sponsors (including providing full access to grassroots faith-based and other community-based organizations). (HOPWA only)

Within Nebraska, the Nebraska AIDS Project (NAP) is the only AIDS Service Organization that provides case management services statewide to persons living with the HIV/AIDS disease. Because of this, DHHS awards HOPWA funds to NAP directly through a sole source contract deviation process. NAP serves as the project sponsor for the HOPWA Program and has offices located in Omaha, Lincoln, Kearney, Norfolk, and Scottsbluff.

Describe how resources will be allocated among funding categories.

$362,364 in HOPWA funds will be available with the 2016 Program Year. The majority of those resources will be awarded to the Nebraska AIDS Project, in order to administer the HOPWA Program.

HOPWA funds will be used to support the goal of reducing homelessness and increasing housing stability for special needs populations through the following activities:

DHHS

- Formula Administrative-$10,871
- Supportive Services-$7,000
- Housing Information-$8,000
- Resource Identification-$16,030
- Short-term Rent/Mortgage-$9,433
- Long-term Rent-$22,210

Nebraska AIDS Project

- Formula Administrative AID-$25,365.48
- Supportive Services AID-$96,450
- Resource Identification AID-$3,225
- Permanent Housing Placement AID-$9,000
- Short-term Rent/Mortgage AID-$79,880
- Long-Term Rent AID-$81,370.23

TOTAL: $362,364.00

Describe threshold factors and grant size limits.

Services provided by Nebraska's HOPWA program are limited to services that can be delivered under the funding allocation the program receives and provides to Nebraska AIDS Project. There are

no State dollars provided to the HOPWA program. Other threshold factors will be defined by DHHS in collaboration with NAP through the implementation of HOPWA services.

What are the outcome measures expected as a result of the method of distribution?

Through HOPWA resources needed services will be provided to persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families throughout the state, including emergency rent and mortgage assistance, permanent housing placement, and tenant-based rental assistance.

Distribution of Other CDBG Funds Remaining Funds

Funds remaining uncommitted and unobligated from prior years' allocations on the acceptance date for the 2016 CDBG Program, from any funding category, will remain in their funding category. If the remaining uncommitted and unobligated funds exceed the total amount of eligible and viable applications in the original funding category, or if funds need to be moved to another category in order for DED to meet timely distribution requirements, the funds may be distributed among any funding category identified in the 2016 Annual Action Plan. Funds for State Administration and Operations and Technical Assistance that are not used in a Program Year may be carried forward to the next Program Year.

Reallocated Funds

Funds reallocated by HUD during 2016 shall be used in conformance with the 2016 CDBG Program Guidelines, unless otherwise specified by HUD

Redistributed Funds

Funds periodically recaptured by DED from grantees including, but not limited to, those that are recaptured due to: (a) unexpended CDBG funds for approved activities and (b) disallowed expenditures of CDBG funds for unapproved or ineligible activities, will be redistributed according to the prioritization noted below.

The first priority for the redistribution of recaptured CDBG funds is to the Comprehensive Development (CD) Program. The amount redistributed will not exceed the total funds required to fund all eligible and viable projects in the CD Category application cycle.

The first priority for the redistribution of recaptured CDBG funds is to the Downtown Revitalization (DTR) Program of the Community Development Priority Need. Otherwise, funds recaptured from prior CDBG projects will be redistributed in conformance with the 2016 Program that is most similar to the Program from which the original award was made.

Funds recaptured from Economic Development Program grantees may be redistributed to either the Economic Development Program or the Tourism Development Program in conformance with 2016 Program Guidelines, or may be distributed among other funding programs.

Funds recaptured from Public Works; Water/Wastewater; Housing; Comprehensive Development; Planning; and Downtown Revitalization Program grantees will be redistributed in conformance with 2016 Program Guidelines as follows: (1) if there are sufficient funds within 105 days from the date of the 2016 grant awards, the next ranked fundable applicant(s) may be awarded; or (2) if funds are insufficient, these funds, and any other funds recaptured after the 105 day period and prior to the 2016 CDBG application acceptance date, may be redistributed in conformance with the Program Guidelines of any 2016 CDBG Program.

In addition, CDBG funds recaptured from Housing Program grantees (the CDBG OOR Program) may be redistributed for housing activities in the CD Program. In addition, funds recaptured (de-obligated) from HOME and NAHTF grantees may also be redistributed for housing activities within the CD communities.

CDBG Program Income (Economic Development and Housing)

Program income is defined as gross income received by a State, a unit of general local government, or a sub-grantee of the unit of general local government that was generated from the use of CDBG funds, regardless of when the CDBG funds were appropriated and whether or not the activity has been closed out, except in limited circumstances [See also 24 CFR 570.489(e)(2)]. When program income is generated by an activity that is only partially assisted with CDBG funds, the income must be prorated to reflect the percentage of CDBG funds used.

The State may use up to 3% of the amount recaptured and reportable to HUD each year for administrative expenses under the Nebraska Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, including amounts recaptured and reported to HUD from and during all open grant years.

There are 2 primary types of CDBG program income that is generated through program-eligible activities and these include Economic Development (ED) program income and Housing program income. ED program income is incurred through ED Program activities as defined within the Economic Development Program and Housing program income is created through the CDBG OOR Program activities.

Further information regarding CDBG program income is identified within the Appendix (www.neded.org/aap).

Discussion:

See above for more information.

AP-35 Projects – (Optional)

Introduction

There are currently no 2016 projects to report at this time as the 2016 Program Year does not begin until July 1, 2016. Funding for CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA projects will not be determined until Program-specific applications are received and evaluated, which will occur in 2016.

It is for this reason that the table below is blank as generated by the IDIS system.

#	Project Name

Table 7 – Project Information

Describe the reasons for allocation priorities and any obstacles to addressing underserved needs

As projects are funded through CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA additional information will be provided within this AP-35 Section.

AP-38 Project Summary (optional)

Project Summary Information

There are currently no 2016 projects to report at this time as the 2016 Program Year does not begin until July 1, 2016. Funding for CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA projects will not be determined until Program-specific applications are received and evaluated, which will occur in 2016

Table 8 – Project Summary

AP-40 Section 108 Loan Guarantee – 91.320(k)(1)(ii)

Will the state help non-entitlement units of general local government to apply for Section 108 loan funds?

No, the State has no Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program and has no plans to apply for this program in the near future.

Available Grant Amounts

Not applicable.

Acceptance process of applications

Not applicable.

AP-45 Community Revitalization Strategies – 91.320(k)(1)(ii)

Will the state allow units of general local government to carry out community revitalization strategies?

In 2016 the State of Nebraska will combine the CDBG Comprehensive Revitalization (CR) Program and Comprehensive Investment & Stabilization Program in 2016 into one competitive program called Comprehensive Development (CD). The CD program will be for those communities within the state that have 5,000 persons or more and that are not a CDBG entitlement recipient (Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island and Bellevue). All previous CR and CIS communities (with the exception of Grand Island) will be eligible to apply for CD funding in the 2016 program year.

Eligible activities for CD will be all public works, water/wastewater, Downtown Revitalization, and housing CDBG priorities. Activities must meet one of 2 CDBG National Objectives of benefiting low to moderate income persons (LMI) or aiding in the prevention or elimination of slums and blight (SBA).

Projects will be carried out in two phases, first a pre-development phase which will result in the completion of a pre-development study that defines a comprehensive strategy of revitalization to stabilize, support, and enhance clearly defined residential neighborhoods with concentrations of persons with lower incomes.

State's Process and Criteria for approving local government revitalization strategies

Annually, the State will review the local revitalization strategies of the CD Program communities. This strategy review includes evaluating the planning process completed during the pre-development phase of the project, and evaluating the proposed activities within the CD Program in order to ensure that these activities meet a CDBG national objective of 1) benefitting low-and-moderate income persons (through the subcategories LMI Area Benefit; LMI Limited Clientele; or LMI Housing); or 2) aiding in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight. Any project or project activity that fails to meet one of these specified national objectives is ineligible.

AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.320(f)

Description of the geographic areas of the state (including areas of low-income and minority concentration) where assistance will be directed

The State of Nebraska has chosen not to target any particular geographic area for special assistance, but has chosen to allow any non-entitlement community to apply for CDBG funding, dependent on eligible activities and programs, and provides HOME, ESG, and HOPWA funding throughout the state.

It is for this reason that the table below is blank as generated by the IDIS system.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Statewide	

Table 9 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

Not applicable.

Discussion

The State of Nebraska will distribute development resources in proportion to the development needs of the state. In general, the Nebraska Department of Economic Development and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services will approve funding for development projects which satisfy specific criteria and fund projects throughout the state. There is no specific target area for funding distribution but program assistance is provided statewide.

Nebraska is served by a system of service providers throughout the state. The majority of these service providers are located in the areas where need has been shown according to the Census data available and other economic indicators. Some of these indicators include the community population, where those communities with the largest populations tend to have the greatest number of service providers within any given geographic area.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 24 CFR 91.320(g)

Introduction

Below is a summary of the one year goals for a number of categories that relate to affordable housing. These one year goals are related to the federal resources provided through CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA and also include HSATF projects. These numbers do not include households assisted through NAHTF as this is a State resource and the State is not required to report these numbers within the context of the Annual Action Plan.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	452
Non-Homeless	125
Special-Needs	57
Total	634

Table 10 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	464
The Production of New Units	50
Rehab of Existing Units	50
Acquisition of Existing Units	25
Total	589

Table 11 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

As the information above demonstrates, a significant number of households are served annually through affordable housing programs.

One year goals for the number of “Homeless” households supported are estimated from the number of households that will receive TBRA through the Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (See also AP-20). One year goals for the number of “Non-Homeless” are estimated from the number of units proposed within the Housing Program Goal (See also AP-20). One year goals for the number of “Special-Needs” are estimated from the number of households that will be served through the HOPWA Program (See also AP-20).

Rental assistance will be completed primarily through ESG and HOPWA resources that include Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA); financial assistance including rental application fees,

security and utility deposits, last month's rent, utility payments, and moving costs; and short- term rent assistance. In addition, HSATF resources will also be used for this activity. The total estimated number of households for "Rental Assistance" includes ESG and HOPWA estimates of TBRA assistance combined (See also AP-20).

The production of new units will be completed primarily through HOME resources that will be utilized through the NIFA/DED Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Application Cycle which utilizes LIHTCs and HOME funds in order to provide additional affordable housing. In addition, NAHTF resources may also be used for this activity.

Rehabilitation of existing units will be completed primarily through CDBG resources within the Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Program administered by the Nebraska Affordable Housing Program. Additional rehabilitation activities may occur through the NIFA/DED Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Application Cycle which utilizes LIHTCs and HOME funds in order to provide additional affordable housing. In addition, NAHTF resources may also be used for this activity.

The number of households supported through acquisition of existing units will be performed through HOME funding to eligible CHDO organizations in order to meet the HOME regulatory requirement which ensures that at least 15 percent of the HOME allocation is utilized for CHDO activities. It is estimated with the approximate $450,000 in HOME funds proposed for 2016, approximately 25 households will be assisted with acquisition.

It is anticipated that additional households will be supported through NAHTF projects which will likely include those that involve acquisition of existing units. Specific numbers and estimates regarding NAHTF accomplishments were not available during the development of this Consolidated Plan, as this information is compiled and calculated through a separate NAHTF cycle, but this information will be compiled separately through the implementation of additional housing programs.

In addition, based on the findings within the "Opening Doors: 10 Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in the State of Nebraska" there is a significant need for the development of additional Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) throughout the state. Collaboration and partnerships should be developed and evaluated in order to address these continued needs in order to serve persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

AP-60 Public Housing - 24 CFR 91.320(j)

Introduction

As the State Department of Economic Development, DED does not manage or oversee funds to any of the Public Housing Authorities throughout the state. The State will continue to work with the Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to house Nebraska's low-income households to the extent that is necessary. PHAs are eligible applicants for some DED resources including Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund (NAHTF) resources.

Actions planned during the next year to address the needs to public housing

This Annual Action Plan is for a State grantee, and therefore no summary information is available on the actions planned for multiple Public Housing Authorities in Nebraska. This information would be obtained by contacting a given PHA within a designated geographic area.

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

This Annual Action Plan is for a State grantee, and therefore no summary information is available on the actions planned for multiple Public Housing Authorities in Nebraska. This information would be obtained by contacting a given PHA within a designated geographic area.

If the PHA is designated as troubled, describe the manner in which financial assistance will be provided or other assistance

Not applicable.

Discussion

This Annual Action Plan is for a State grantee, and therefore no summary information is available on the actions planned for multiple Public Housing Authorities in Nebraska. This information would be obtained by contacting a given PHA within a designated geographic area.

AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities – 91.320(h)

Introduction

Describe the jurisdictions one-year goals and actions for reducing and ending homelessness including

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

The "All Doors Lead Home Coordinated Entry" has the potential to create more efficient homeless service systems by targeting resources toward those who need them most and helping clients move through the system faster. In Nebraska, coordinated assessment is being implemented at the CoC level. NHAP will continue to require participation in coordinated assessment for the CoC as a part of the ESG program.

The State of Nebraska's ESG funding is focused on assisting the literally homeless. As such, a portion of funding is designated to street outreach to identify unsheltered individuals and support them with the services they need to allow them to regain stable housing and secure self-sufficiency.

New to last year's AAP, performance measurements were identified. Consequently, for 2016, data being presented establishes the baselines for which performances will be measured.

To measure the effectiveness of Nebraska's ability to reduce the number of unsheltered individuals and families and end homelessness, the Homeless Point in Time Count (PIT) will be used. The goal in Nebraska is to reduce the number of unsheltered individuals and families by 1% each year. From the 2015 PIT information, 24 unsheltered persons were identified. We would anticipate for the upcoming year, this number to remain fairly consistent.
For Street Outreach, the baseline performance measurements were established in 2015 from the HMIS APR and include:

1. Outreach Contacts - 12 individuals
2. Permanent Housing - 0 individuals
3. Non-Cash Benefits - 0 individuals

For 2016, we are projecting Outreach contacts to increase. As for Permanent Housing and Non-Cash Benefits, work will continue throughout the CoC regions in Nebraska to build relationships with unsheltered homeless people and engage them for the purpose of providing immediate support, intervention, and connections with homeless assistance programs and/or mainstream social services and housing programs.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Emergency shelter is a critical part of the homeless service system. Shelters provide temporary refuge and often serve as the "front door" or first place of entry to those experiencing

homelessness. NHAP sees the importance that emergency shelters have in connecting those experiencing homelessness with the resources needed to exit homelessness and move to self-sufficiency.

For Emergency Shelter, baseline performance measurements were established in 2015 from the HMIS APR and include:
1. Bed utilization rate for singles - 62%
2. Bed utilization rate for families - 58%
3. Average length of stay - 22 days
4. Percent discharged to PH - 37%

Note: Numbers reported for Emergency Shelter performance do not include DV numbers.

During this next year NHAP will continue to encourage and direct agencies receiving ESG allocations to reach out to homeless persons through various means thereby conceivably impacting bed utilization rate. Because length of stay is very close to the ideal length of stay benchmark of less than 20 days for Emergency Shelter, the goal for 2016 will be to try and maintain this base. As for Permanent Housing, continued efforts will be ongoing to increase this performance percentage.

For Transitional Housing baseline performance measurements were established in 2015 from the HMIS APR and include:
1. Bed utilization rate for singles - 100%
2. Bed utilization rate for families - 84%
3. Average length of stay - 70 days
4. Percent discharged to PH - 36%

With bed utilization rate for singles at capacity and families close to reaching the performance benchmark of 90%, the projected goal for 2016 will be to try and sustained these numbers. As for average length of stay, because the performance is well below the benchmark of less the 180 days, this number will remain the target goal for 2016. We acknowledge that ongoing efforts need to continue during the next year to assist in moving more households into secured permanent housing.

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

The State will continue to uphold the expectation NHAP sub-recipients utilize the housing first model and encourage them to prioritize Rapid Re-Housing funds towards ending homelessness. Technical assistance will continue from the State to support the implementation of Outreach and Rapid Re-Housing services, through NHAP grant awards, towards increasing the number of homeless households served.

With the CoC's usage of the coordinated entry system, persons seeking or in need of homeless assistance services are assessed using the VI-SPDAT. Any individual or family with a score of 10 or greater are referred to the Most Vulnerable Referral Team (MVRT) which consists of all providers of PSH in the CoC as well as those organizations who initially engage homeless people. The MVRT review each case in prioritized order, develops case plans for each, and offers available units to individual by priority order based on the appropriateness of the housing for the participates needs.

Exiting from a housing service to a permanent housing situation is a goal for all housing programs in the ongoing efforts to reduce and end homelessness. This goal can often be more challenging in certain situations such as persons in emergency shelter that are in severe crisis. Performance for Emergency Shelter household placements into permanent housing is currently at 37%; this measure falls at the lower end of the performance measure benchmark which has a large range of 20% to 60%. As for Transitional Housing placement into permanent housing, which has a rate presently at 36%, this program continues to struggle to meet the specified benchmark of above 80%. For the upcoming year, NHAP will provide technical assistance to ESG Grantees, working to increase placement of households into permanent housing.

With the support of housing stability case management and financial assistance services, NHAP will fund subrecipients who will work to help keep recently housed individuals from returning to homelessness. The goal to increase the percentage of discharged households with more non-cash benefits should help increase the economic security many individuals and families need to maintain their housing.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: 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); or, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs

Throughout Nebraska, many communities have systems in place aimed towards homeless prevention. Community Action Programs and other non-profits provide wrap around services to address poverty and NHAP is committed to supporting these efforts. CSBG, TANF, and Assistance to the Aged, Blind and Disabled programs are just a few examples of services and/or grants distributed state-wide to provide financial assistance to those who are extremely low-income and require short-term assistance in order to stabilize their housing. NHAP's goal to increase the percentage of discharged households with more non-cash benefits will help those low-income families and individuals to avoid becoming homeless again as well as free up public and private services for other low-income families experiencing struggles with day to day living.

The State will continue to evaluate policies across the CoC regions in order to help low-income individuals and families to avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income families who are being discharged for the publicly funded institutions and systems of care, such as health care facilities, mental health facilities and other youth facilities, and correction programs and

institutions. The CoC regions and NHAP subrecipients actively promote and pursue coordination with community providers and work towards integrating individuals served with mainstream resources and services. NHAP will continue to work and support the CoCs involvement to provide permanent supported housing options for those individuals at highest risk of becoming homeless.

Discussion

See above for additional information.

AP-70 HOPWA Goals – 91.320(k)(4)

The primary goal of the HOPWA Program is to provide decent, safe and affordable housing and supportive services to people who are homeless and/or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. If funding permits, increasing access to employment opportunities/job training is a goal for the program, as well as increasing the number of individuals receiving tenant-based rental assistance. Eligibility for HOPWA funded services requires at least one person in the household be infected with the HIV virus and a household income at or below 80% of the area median income. Households with incomes above 80% of the area median income are eligible to receive HOPWA funded housing counseling and referral services. The priority population for HOPWA is serving the homeless and chronically homeless.

One year goals for the number of households to be provided housing through the use of HOPWA for:	
Short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance to prevent homelessness of the individual or family	0
Tenant-based rental assistance	0
Units provided in permanent housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds	0
Units provided in transitional short-term housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds	0
Total	0

AP-75 Barriers to affordable housing – 91.320(i)

Introduction

Below is information on the actions planned for 2016 and some background information on the State's efforts toward reducing barriers to affordable housing.

Actions it planned 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

Discussion

The Annual Action Plan regulations require the State to describe the State's actions it plans to take during the next year to remove or ameliorate negative effects of its policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing as identified within MA-40 of the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan. The State has adopted a strategy to remove or ameliorate barriers to affordable housing as identified within SP-55 of the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan. During the 2016 Annual Action Plan year, the following actions are planned to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing and these actions include:

Actions related to Tax Policy affecting land and other property
The State will continue to evaluate steps to alleviate the property tax burden that is a barrier to affordable housing. The State has previously reviewed the tax structure as it relates to school districts, but will also review other areas of the tax policy that may be revised which reduce property taxes for Nebraskans.

In addition, the State will continue to review the tax policies affecting affordable housing and evaluate the impacts of the new legislation under LB356 which revised the method for appraisals made on low income housing tax credit projects that was passed in 2015. The State will review whether the income-approach calculation will reduce the overall taxes on these properties that utilize low income housing tax credits (LIHTCs) and often times also use HOME or NAHTF resources.

Actions related to Land Use Controls and Zoning Ordinances
The State, because it has very limited influence on land use controls and zoning ordinances, will continue to work with local governments to utilize good practices in ensuring the local land use controls and zoning ordinances do not negatively impact affordable housing development, thus removing an additional barrier to affordable housing. One way in which the State will accomplish this is to continue its collaboration with the Nebraska Chapter of the American Planning Association through its participation at the Nebraska Planning and Zoning Association (NPZA) Conference and other planning and zoning related events. Continued collaboration and educational outreach will assist in these efforts.

Actions related to Building Codes

The State will continue to work with local governments in ensuring that any building codes enacted at the local level do not have a negative impact on affordable housing. Efforts are needed to ensure that local building codes do not hamper additional investment for affordable housing throughout the state. The State will accomplish this through collaborating with community and county officials in educating them on the use of solid building code policy that will focus on ensuring safe and decent housing for individuals, including low income persons, but at the same time implementing policies such as energy efficiency, into the codes.

In addition, the State Department of Economic Development will continue to collaborate with the Nebraska Department of Energy in ensuring that affordable housing projects meet the property code standards within their developments.

Actions related to Growth Limits
The State, because it has very limited influence on communities utilizing regulatory barriers which place limits on the number of market rate, rental, and affordable housing that may be located within a given area, will continue to work with local governments in education and utilization of good practices in reducing the negative impacts of growth limits within communities. Education and outreach can be important tools in showing that mixed income developments both market rate and rent-restricted units) are not harmful to communities, but can create benefits through the income diversity within a community. The State will continue its outreach which would assist in reducing any negative impacts that growth limits may have on affordable housing.

Actions related to Policies Impact Return on Residential Investment
Because the State does not have control of the amount of residential return on investment, as this is determined at the local level when a property is sold or when it is rented, the State has limited actions it can take to create more favorable policies that may impact return on residential investment. The State hopes that through education and outreach with affordable housing providers that a reasonable return on investment can be obtained within the development of affordable housing projects, which will help in reducing the negative impacts a limited return on investment may have on housing development. The State will continue to work with local governments, housing providers, housing developers, and other affordable housing entities in order to help assist in the creation of favorable policies that improve return on residential investment and that will reduce the negative impacts on policies related to this issue.

Actions related to other effects of public policy on affordable housing and residential investment
The State will continue to evaluate additional barriers or constraints to the development of affordable housing that include: lack of housing contractors throughout the state; housing construction costs (including labor and materials); residential home values in certain markets; lack of sufficient rental units in some communities; lack of residential units for homebuyers (both low income and market rate) in many communities; lack of infrastructure for development, and ; insufficient establishment and enforcement of building codes. Policies related to these must be evaluated as these barriers negatively affect both the private and public sectors in ensuring that proper affordable housing and residential investment is made available within communities throughout the state.

The State will continue to evaluate policies that can be implemented which will work to attract additional residential contractors, particularly those that are willing to construct moderate priced homes in communities. The State will review whether or not there may be policy incentives implemented into State housing programs that may include: include: providing zero interest loans to contractors to build residential units; providing low priced or free residential lots for development; and also to provide additional points in housing applications for those applicants that compile lists of interested contractors that may work on projects if applications are funded. This approach could also be implemented at the local level and through education and outreach the State could help influence good decision making and policies that would work toward attracting more residential contractors in many underserved markets throughout the state.

The State will also continue to work with developers and contractors to identify any cost saving measures that might be appropriate to implement in order to save on the cost of materials and labor. Policies related to construction cost savings measures could be evaluated which could include increased collaboration between communities and affordable housing providers that utilize job training in their construction practices and thus are able to provide reduced price homes in communities.

Overall, the State will continue to evaluate public policy that may impact the value of residential units in certain markets; the lack of residential units; ways in which to improve residential infrastructure; and code enforcement assistance. All these items will move towards reducing additional barriers to affordable housing.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.320(j)

Introduction

The following are actions planned throughout the course of the Consolidated Plan period (2015-2019).

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

All of the activities which will be funded under the State's CDBG, HOME, ESG, HOPWA Programs and funded under the State's Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund (NAHTF) and Nebraska Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund (HSATF) will address obstacles to meeting underserved needs. The State will identify and respond to underserved needs as they arise from self- evaluation and citizen participation.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The Housing Priority of the Annual Action Plan addresses how the State attempts to foster and maintain affordable housing throughout the state. Actions planned include: developing additional rental housing; developing additional homeownership units; providing down payment assistance; providing owner occupied rehabilitation (OOR) activities, and other housing activities. These actions will be funded through HOME, for rental housing development and activities related to CHDOs; through CDBG, for OOR, and through the NAHTF, for rental development, homeownership activities, OOR, and non-profit operating assistance.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The State is committed to reducing lead based paint hazards. DED and DHHS will continue its efforts to educate CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA recipients on the dangers of lead-based paint, as appropriate. In addition, DED ensures that any Housing Program Guidelines contain information on the requirements for lead-based paint work practices and the requirement to have properly trained staff in order to properly mitigate lead-paint hazards as necessary.

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), through the Division of Public Health's Lead-Based Paint Program, will coordinate with DED for training, education, and other resources related to lead based paint hazards, and will require the that grantees and sub-grantees utilize staff and contractors that have the appropriate training and certification.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

Many agencies throughout Nebraska actively pursue the elimination of poverty. The role that DED and DHHS perform in this overall endeavor is to foster and promote self-sufficiency and independence. To better empower individuals and families toward self-sufficiency and independence the following strategies will be put to work:

- Promote sustainable economic development through affordable housing and other community development activities;
- Evaluate projects, in part, on the basis of their ability to foster self-sufficiency when awarding funding for projects;
- Maintain a strong relationship with the Continuum of Care system in order to enhance and promote the stabilization of homeless families and encourage transition to stable households and housing situations;
- Explore partnership opportunities with other agencies that provide a range of services and activities that have a measurable, and potentially major impact, on the causes of poverty in their communities; and
- Enhance efforts to educate the public and interested persons about available supportive services that foster self-sufficiency and independent living arrangements.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure
The State is committed to improving institutional structures. The institutional structure for the CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA Programs is composed of DED, DHHS, local governments, nonprofit organizations, and private industry. It is essential that these entities efficiently work together. The 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan focuses on improving institutional structure through coordination. Some examples include within the rental housing program (through the collaboration between NIFA and DED) and within the water/wastewater program (through the collaboration between DED and the WWAC).

Actions planned to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies

DED will continue to coordinate with public partners in the Affordable Housing Agency Committee (AHAC) process which includes regularly scheduled meetings with the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA), the USDA, the City of Omaha, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and any other interested parties in order to discuss current projects and methods to coordinate efforts throughout the state.

In addition, DED works with NIFA through providing technical assistance and financing resources in the NIFA-led Collaborative Resource Allocation in Nebraska (CRANE) process which works at developing housing projects that impact special needs and other underserved populations.

DED also coordinates regularly with the Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness (NCHH) and is represented on various social service state advisory groups to ensure housing services are coordinated with social services for needy populations in Nebraska.
The Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (NHAP) is housed within the infrastructure of the Department of Health and Human Services. Being part of this collective organization, which includes Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities, Medicaid, Public Health and Veteran's Homes, allows for continued collaboration and coordination across the various disciplines in support of the delivery of housing and supportive service needs. At the local level, the BOS works proactively with regional CoC partners. CoC partners engage various public and private nonprofit organizations, such

as local Housing Authorities, Veterans Administration, Employment First, and SNAP to ensure that efficient and effective coordination of services exists between affordable housing and social services.

Discussion

Through the above identified actions the State will continue to address these various issues and is committed to addressing these issues throughout the implementation of the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan.

Program Specific Requirements

AP-90 Program Specific Requirements – 91.320(k)(1,2,3)

Introduction

Activities planned utilizing the CDBG funds expected to be available during the year are identified within the Method of Distribution. The following information identifies program income that may be available for use that would be included in additional projects that would be carried out.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)
Reference 24 CFR 91.320(k)(1)

Projects planned with all CDBG funds expected to be available during the year are identified in the Projects Table. The following identifies program income that is available for use that is included in projects to be carried out.

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	2,000,000
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan.	0
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	0
4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan	0
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	0
Total Program Income:	**2,000,000**

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	70.00%

HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)
Reference 24 CFR 91.320(k)(2)

1. **A description of other forms of investment being used beyond those identified in Section**

92.205 is as follows:

The State of Nebraska will not use HOME funds beyond those identified in Section 92.205.

2. **A description of the guidelines that will be used for resale or recapture of HOME funds when used for homebuyer activities as required in 92.254, is as follows:**

   The Appendix to the Annual Action Plan contains the full language of the resale and recapture provisions for the HOME program. This information is also available on the DED website at: www.neded.org/aap.

   Guidelines for Resale or Recapture of HOME-Funded Projects
   DED structures these guidelines based on individual program design and market conditions.

   Use of Resale Provisions for HOME-Funded Projects
   The Appendix to the AAP contains the full language of the resale and recapture provisions for the HOME program. This information is also available on the DED website at: www.neded.org/aap.

   Use of Recapture Provisions for HOME-Funded Projects
   The Appendix to the Consolidated Plan/AAP contains the full language of the resale and recapture provisions for the HOME program. This information is also available on the DED website at: www.neded.org/aap.

   Additional recapture provisions to be established in the DED Grantee homebuyer guidelines
   The DED grantee must adopt the HOME Recapture & Resale provisions and establish additional recapture provisions in the DED grantee's Homebuyer Guidelines.
   The Appendix to the AAP contains the full language of the resale and recapture provisions for the HOME program. This information is also available on the DED website at: www.neded.org/aap.

3. **A description of the guidelines for resale or recapture that ensures the affordability of units acquired with HOME funds? See 24 CFR 92.254(a)(4) are as follows:**

   The Appendix to the AAP contains the full language of the resale and recapture provisions for the HOME program. This information is also available on the DED website at: www.neded.org/aap.

4. **Plans for using HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is rehabilitated with HOME funds along with a description of the refinancing guidelines required that will be used under 24 CFR 92.206(b), are as follows:**

   The State of Nebraska does not have any plans to use HOME funds to refinance any existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is rehabilitated with HOME funds.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
Reference 24 CFR 91.320(k)(3)

1. **Include written standards for providing ESG assistance (may include as attachment)**

   Note: ESG standards are a Living document and as such, will be revisited, edited and updated as needed. Any revisions made to this document will be posted on the NHAP website at: http://dhhs.ne.gov/children_family_services/Documents/ESG%20Standards%20-%20final.pdf

   See the attached ESG Standards found within the Appendix (www.neded.org/aap).

2. **If the Continuum of Care has established centralized or coordinated assessment system that meets HUD requirements, describe that centralized or coordinated assessment system.**

   The CoC is in the process of implementing a coordinated assessment system. The HMIS lead received funding through a HUD award to develop and implement the system. This system will implement a 'no-wrong door' Nebraska-wide approach, that will include initial telephone screening; walk in access through partner agencies statewide, and will be publicized through PSAs and through CAP agencies. The initial assessment will determine whether the household can be diverted from shelter; if not an assessment will be conducted using the VI and FAM SPDAT assessments to prioritize placement in PSH or RRH. Program eligibility minimums will be examined and most appropriate referral programs identified through eligibility module in HMIS. Referrals will be made to programs with available resources and appropriate services to end homelessness for the household.

3. **Identify the process for making sub-awards and describe how the ESG allocation available to private nonprofit organizations (including community and faith-based organizations).**

   In order to reduce NHAP grant management and administrative burden, NHAP adopted a two-year funding cycle. The first year of this two-year grant cycle involves a competitive application process that is open to any eligible applicant. The second year is a renewal application process and is open only to existing recipients in good standing.

   To be eligible to apply for NHAP funding, applicants must:
   (a) Have at least two years of experience successfully providing services which address the purpose of NHAP, as previously described;
   (b) Identify there is a need for the proposed services;
   (c) Provide evidence of participation in their Continuum of Care;
   (d) Obtain Continuum of Care approval for the proposed services identified in their application and provide documentation of such approval;
   (e) Be exempt from taxation under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue of 1986 or represent a number of eligible applicants;
   (f) Not discriminate based on age, religion, sex, race, color, disability or national origin;

(g) Provide:
i. Residential housing for at least eight hours of every twenty-four hour period, as defined by the state and federal rules and regulations governing HUD's Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program and/or Nebraska's Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund (HSATF); and
ii. Homelessness prevention, rapid rehousing, street outreach and/or shelter services for individuals and/or families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in compliance with the state and federal rules and regulations governing HUD's Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program and/or Nebraska's Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund (HSATF);
(h) Operate a drug-free premise;
(i) Agree to participate in any count of homeless individuals and/or families and housing inventory undertaken by DHHS or their designee;
(j) Agree to comply with the written ESG standards approved by the Balance of State Continuum of Care and found on the NHAP website at:
http://dhhs.ne.gov/children_family_services/Pages/fia_nhap_history_of_nhap.aspx
(k) Agree to participate in NHAP's HMIS database by entering data on all persons served and all NHAP-funded activities, with the exception victim or legal service providers who agree to submit annual aggregate data reports;
(l) If requesting funding for homeless prevention and/or rapid rehousing services, agree to assess client eligibility and obtain the necessary documentation to verify the client, the payment/service provided and the housing unit meet HUD's ESG requirements at 24 CFR 576. See also http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/textidx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title24/24cfr576_main_02.tpl

(m)If requesting funding for shelter services, agree to maintain shelter facility in compliance with HUD's minimum standards at 24 CFR 576.403.
(n) Conduct and submit an annual, certified, external financial audit/financial report for the year immediately preceding the application; and
(o) Submit a correctly completed application, including all the attachments, by the deadline previously specified.
(p) Assume responsibility for having knowledge of and the ability and intent to comply with federal and state Emergency Solutions grant (ESG) and state Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Fund (HSATF) requirements.
(q) ESG funds are not intended for start-up of new homeless service providers or programs, and duplicative service and program efforts should be avoided. First time applicants are expected to have homeless programs established and be active participants in their local CoC prior to participating in the ESG application process.

During a competitive year, funding priorities for eligible applicants will be based on the following factors:

- Availability of ESG and HSATF funding;
- Current and proposed performance:
- Need for proposed service (i.e., if project was discontinued or not funded, would it create a substantial and recognizable gap in services);
- Applicant's experience including the following:

    - Agency history and mission;
    - Provision of services to individuals and families experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, homelessness;
    - Work with federal grant programs;
    - Participation and leadership role in local, regional and/or state CoC;
    - Participation and leadership role in special events/projects related to ending and/or preventing homelessness and/or promoting self-sufficiency (e.g., Project Homeless Connect, Stand Down); and
    - Verification of CoC attendance.
- Applicant's strategies for:
    - Ensuring compliance with this and other grant-funded programs;
    - Monitoring and improving the accuracy and quality of program data;
    - Supporting and improving program participant self-sufficiency;
    - Coordinating services with mainstream service and housing providers;
    - Connecting program participants with mainstream services; and
    - Maintaining/attaining fiscal stability.
- Approval of applicant's project by relevant CoC;
- Quality of application, budget, budget narrative and personnel narrative.

An allocation formula is used in distributing NHAP grant funds. The formula helps ensure an equitable distribution of funds throughout the entire state. The formula is calculated using a $50,000 base 'hold harmless' funding amount per geographic Region; the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) annual Continuum of Care NOFA pro rata amounts; and consideration of statewide service continuity. The initial allocation formula was developed with input from the NHAP advisory committee.

The following NHAP plan was developed in consultation with Nebraska's Continua of Care:
Due to annual fluctuations in the pro rata need amounts and the need to help ensure statewide continuity of necessary services, should applying the formula result in a decrease in funding from the prior year for the majority of the regions, all other regions shall be limited to no more than the specific percentage increase that allows all regions to remain level or have an increase.

If ESG funding is less than anticipated, regional allocations shall be reduced by the same percent.

If ESG funding exceeds what is anticipated, regional allocations shall either be enhanced by the same percentage, an additional amount of HSATF shall be added to the Special Needs funding or a combination of both. Nebraska's CoCs shall be consulted in making this determination.

ESG Funding allocations for Street Outreach and Emergency Shelter services are not allowed to go over 60 percent of the total ESG award.

Applications for the competitive grant process are reviewed by teams composed of representatives of the governor-appointed Nebraska Commission on Housing and

Homelessness; State, Regional or Local Continuum of Care Committees; Department of Health and Human Services; and/or other agencies or organizations with experience in service delivery to those experiencing, or at risk of experiencing homelessness. NHAP will facilitate the review process.
Using the criteria performance criteria identified, which were developed based on input from the Continuums of Care via electronic survey, the grant review teams assigns points to each application, up to a maximum total of 100 points, and provides recommendations on funding to NHAP.

4. **If the jurisdiction is unable to meet the homeless participation requirement in 24 CFR 576.405(a), the jurisdiction must specify its plan for reaching out to and consulting with homeless or formerly homeless individuals in considering policies and funding decisions regarding facilities and services funded under ESG.**

   All NHAP sub-recipients are expected to involve homeless or formerly homeless individuals on the Board or actively consult with them regarding ESG policies, funding and activities.
   During on-site monitoring visits conducted by the State, NHAP sub-recipients are required to be able to demonstrate this assurance is being met.

5. **Describe performance standards for evaluating ESG.**
   The primary goals the State strives NHAP sub-recipients to achieve include reducing the length of homelessness, reducing returns to homelessness and maintaining/increasing income.

   Through a performance report card with performance metrics that has been established by the BoS CoC, performance on these goals can be measured. Currently a report is issued through HMIS and distributed bi-annually to all CoC and ESG grantees. The state will be moving to adopt and incorporate these performance measurements as an evaluation component of how successful NHAP sub-recipients are at reaching and achieving program standards. The performance measurements will also be used to increase housing stability.
   Part of the performance measures specifically relates to housing stability. With the housing stability information collected, the State and BoS CoC will jointly review and work to develop strategies which can help providers assist the homelessness gain stable housing. See also Performance Measures Section within the Appendix (www.neded.org/aap).

Discussion

See above for additional information.