

**CITY OF BILOXI  
AGENDA ITEM  
FACT SHEET**

Item No.: 5A

Council Meeting Date: February 10, 2026

**ITEM TITLE:** RESOLUTION

**INTRODUCED BY:** Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich

**CONTACT PERSON:** Richard Weaver, Chief Administrative Officer  
Christy LeBatard, Director of Engineering & Public Works

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION:**

Resolution Approving and Authorizing Submittal Of Substantial Amendment No. 5 to the 2019 Action Plan and Substantial Amendment No. 7 To The 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan for the City Of Biloxi's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

Resolution  Ordinance  Public Hearing  Routine Agenda

Exhibits for Review

Contract  Minutes  Plans/Maps  Deed  Lease

Other (Specify):

Submittal Authorization: Council President  Mayor

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval

**COUNCIL ACTION:** Motion By: \_\_\_\_\_ Second By: \_\_\_\_\_

Vote:	Councilmember	Yes	No	AFR	ABST	Councilmember	Yes	No	AFR	ABST
	Gray	___	___	___	___	Tisdale	___	___	___	___
	Marshall	___	___	___	___	Glavan	___	___	___	___
	Nail	___	___	___	___	Shoemaker	___	___	___	___
	Creel	___	___	___	___					

**ACTION TAKEN:**

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF SUBSTANTIAL  
AMENDMENT NO. 5 TO THE 2019 ACTION PLAN AND  
SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT NO. 7 TO THE 2015-2019 CONSOLIDATED PLAN  
FOR THE CITY OF BILOXI'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK  
GRANT ENTITLEMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City of Biloxi Mississippi is an "Entitlement City" under the terms of the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program; and

WHEREAS, on August 6, 2019, Resolution No. 476-19 authorized the Mayor and/or Municipal Clerk to approve the Biloxi CDBG Program Year (PY) 2019 Action Plan, which was amended on December 3, 2019 by Resolution No. 788-19; substantially amended for the first time on June 2, 2020 by Resolution No. 352-20; substantially amended for the second time on June 1, 2021 by Resolution No. 356-21; substantially amended for the third time on April 19, 2022 by Resolution No. 277-22; and substantially amended for the fourth time on January 7, 2025 by Resolution No. 4-25, which minor amendment and substantial amendments subsequently were approved by HUD; and

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2014, Resolution No. 589-14 authorized the Mayor and/or Municipal Clerk to approve the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan, which was substantially amended the first time on August 7, 2018 as authorized by Resolution 416-18; for the second time on March 26, 2019 by Resolution No. 210-19; for the third time on April 23, 2019 by Resolution No. 258-19; for the fourth time on June 2, 2020 by Resolution No. 352-20; and the fifth time on June 1, 2021 by Resolution No. 356-21; and the sixth time on January 7, 2025 by Resolution No. 4-25, which substantial amendments subsequently were approved by HUD; and

WHEREAS, on June 8, 2020, HUD notified the City of Biloxi it was awarded a first round CARES Act CDBG-CV allocation of \$272,001 and on September 11, 2020, a third round CDBG-CV allocation of \$722,212 to be administered through the CDBG Entitlement Program in compliance with HUD regulations, procedures and guidance regulating the use of these federal funds to prepare for, prevent and respond to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on September 4, 2024, the CDBG-CV federal expenditure deadline was extended to June 16, 2026 and HUD encouraged the City of Biloxi to develop a new CDBG-CV eligible project funded by budgeting its unexpended combined balance of \$939,809 in CARES Act CDBG-CV allocations to fund a project to prepare for future federally-eligible disasters; and

WHEREAS, on January 7, 2025 the City of Biloxi substantially amended its PY2019 Action Plan for the fourth time and 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan for the sixth time to reallocate the unexpended combined balance of \$217,597 from the City's first CARES Act allocation and \$722,212 from the third CARES Act allocation and budget the combined balance of \$939,809 to prepare for future federally-eligible disasters by improving the dual role of the Gruich Community Center as a local community center and disaster response facility to serve an estimated 7,315 project area residents and Biloxi's homeless populations, by preparing for future federally-declared disasters; and

WHEREAS, bids were received on June 18, 2025 for Gruich Community Center HVAC Replacement Project-CV-021; with D.N.P. Inc submitting the lowest and best bid in the amount of \$624,750 and on July 29, 2025 by Resolution No. 498-25, the City awarded a contract to D.N.P. Inc., which subsequently was executed between the City and D.N.P.; and

WHEREAS, the City of Biloxi wishes to substantially amend its PY2019 Action Plan for the fifth time and 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan for the seventh time to reallocate \$300,059, the

remaining unencumbered balance of the City's combined CDBG-CV (CARES Act) allocations, to fund a second new Public Facilities Improvement Project as part of the City's efforts to prepare for future disasters. The proposed project involves purchasing and installing filtered water stations in qualified project service areas throughout the City to ensure low- to moderate-income residents in primarily residential areas have access to safe drinking water during future federally-designated disasters; and

WHEREAS, Richard Weaver, Chief Administrative Officer, and Christy LeBatard, Director of Public Works and Engineering, recommend that the Mayor and City Council approve substantially amending the PY2019 Action Plan for a fifth time and the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan a seventh time, in compliance with Biloxi's Citizen Participation Plan, to create a new CDBG-CV eligible project and budget \$300,059 in reallocated CARES Act CDBG-CV funds for a new Public Facilities Improvement Project to support efforts to prepare for future federally-eligible disasters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI, THAT:

Section One: The findings, conclusions, and statements of fact contained in the preamble are adopted and ratified.

Section Two: The Mayor and City Council hereby authorize substantially amending the City's PY2019 Action Plan for a fifth time and 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan a seventh time, in substantial compliance with Exhibits A and Exhibit B respectively and attached hereto, which were developed in compliance with Biloxi's Citizen Participation Plan, to create a new project and reallocate the available balance of \$300,059 in CARES Act allocated funds for a new Public Facilities Improvement Project to prepare for future federally-designated disasters.

Section Three: The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute the HUD-required forms to be attached to the subject substantial amendments to the 2019 Action Plan and 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan.

Section Four: The Mayor and/or Municipal Clerk, or such other staff as may be appropriate, hereby are directed to submit to HUD the approved PY2019 Action Plan and 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan as substantially amended to create a new Public Facilities Improvement Project and reallocate the balance of \$300,059 in unexpended CARES Act CDBG-CV allocations to the new Public Facilities Improvement Project to prepare for future federally-eligible disasters.



## Proposed Substantial Amendment #5 to the City of Biloxi Community Development Block Grant 2019 Action Plan

The fifth substantial amendment proposes to reallocate \$300,059, the remaining unencumbered balance of the City's combined CDBG-CV (CARES Act) allocations, to fund a second new Public Facilities Improvement Project as part of the City's efforts to prepare for future disasters. The proposed project involves purchasing and installing filtered water stations in qualified project service areas throughout the City to ensure low- to moderate-income residents in primarily residential areas have access to safe drinking water during future federally-designated disasters.

The 2019 Action Plan is a component of the City's HUD-approved 2015-2019 CDBG Consolidated Plan, which is proposed to be substantially amended for the seventh time, concurrently with the Action Plan.

Text proposed to be added to or revised in the City's 2019 CDBG Action Plan through substantial amendment #5 is underlined to facilitate review.

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

Biloxi's 2019 Action Plan is a component of its 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan and serves as its application to HUD for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement grants. During PY2019, the City received a CDBG allocation of \$470,034 and anticipated receiving Program Income of \$170,271. It budgeted \$31,947 in additional CDBG resources (previously allocated, but unexpended funds and program income received but not used), bringing total PY2019 CDBG funds anticipated to be available to \$672,252.

A December 2019 **minor amendment** budgeted \$77,909 in unbudgeted program income for the existing East Biloxi East-West Neighborhood Access Road Project Phase 1. It was not subject to Citizen Participation Plan requirements as the redistribution of funds did not equal or exceed 40% of the program year's adopted CDBG budget, including program income, and because the subject funds were budgeted to an existing CDBG project. The minor amendment increased total CDBG resources available for PY2019 activities to \$750,161.

In 2020, the City approved **substantial amendment #1** to its 2019 Action Plan and #4 to its Consolidated Plan to add a CARES Act allocation of \$272,001 as a resource to prevent and address homelessness in Biloxi caused by COVID-19. The City identified that the most expeditious option for initiating the new activity, given the circumstances and regulatory compliance with documentation and timeliness requirements was to award the CDBG-CV funds to Open Doors Homeless Coalition, which has a successful track record administering this type of public services activity. Open Doors also has the staff capacity and existing organizational framework in place to expeditiously implement the new activity that may provide rent and utilities assistance for income-eligible residents for up to six consecutive months. As of April 5, 2022, \$54,404.01 was expended for this activity, benefiting 25 families, before HUD's Jackson Field Office suspended the program while it researched eligibility.

**Substantial amendment #2** to the 2019 Action Plan and a 5th substantial amendment to the Consolidated Plan were considered during April - June 2021, budgeting a \$722,212 CARES Act allocation and adding a public facilities and improvements project to rehabilitate a building into a coordinated entry center to serve Biloxi's homeless and near-homeless populations. The new project was planned to provide a safe environment for qualified individuals and families to be assessed and linked with housing assistance and related supportive services, reducing their risk of COVID-19 infection by providing adequate social distancing space. This project did not go forward because the property owner of the building to be rehabilitated would not commit to selling within federal spending deadlines; no CDBG or CDBG-CV funds were expended for the proposed rehabilitation project.

**A third substantial amendment** to the 2019 Action Plan was prepared during March - April 2022, which proposed budgeting the City's second CDBG-CV allocation of \$722,212 and \$217,597 in unexpended funds remaining from the first CDBG-CV allocation to construct a public facility to provide a safe environment in which Biloxi's homeless and near-homeless populations would be assessed and linked with housing assistance and other supportive services while preventing and addressing the spread of the coronavirus. This project also was not implemented, based on input from the HUD Field Office that project completion likely would not be possible by the CDBG-CV expenditure deadline.

**The fourth substantial amendment** was developed between November 2024 and January 2025, which reallocated \$939,808.99, the unexpended balance of combined CDBG-CV (CARES Act) allocations, to fund a new Public Facilities Improvement Project to support efforts to prepare for future disasters; the project as proposed was reviewed and encouraged by the HUD Jackson Field Office. The contract for purchase and installation of new HVAC system equipment was awarded by the City on July 29, 2025 to the contractor who submitted the lowest and best bid of \$639,750, in compliance with federal procurement regulations, policies and procedures, and is anticipated to be completed by April 29, 2026.

**A fifth substantial amendment** to the 2019 CDBG Action Plan is in the process of being developed. Initiated in December 2025, the proposed substantial amendment is anticipated to be considered at the February 10, 2026 City Council meeting, following completion of the citizen participation process. The fifth substantial amendment proposes to reallocate \$300,059, the remaining unencumbered balance of the City's combined CDBG-CV (CARES Act) allocations, to fund a second new Public Facilities

Improvement Project as part of the City's efforts to prepare for future disasters. The proposed project involves purchasing and installing filtered water stations in qualified project service areas throughout the City to ensure low- to moderate-income residents have access to safe drinking water during future federally-designated disasters.

The City of Biloxi is not a formula entitlement recipient under HUD's HOME, Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) or HOME Programs.

Through its citizen-based public participation process described in its Citizen Participation Plan, the City of Biloxi identified the community's housing and community development needs and priorities for PY2019 and the current Consolidated Plan. Through input provided by citizens, citizen groups and nonprofit organizations, and other interested parties, the City developed priorities that focus on:

- 1) improving the quality of life and providing suitable living environments for residents in areas where the majority qualify as low- to moderate-income; and
- 2) supporting affordable public services for very low, low and moderate-income families, victims of domestic violence and qualified residents with special needs.

## **2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan**

Activities included in the Biloxi 2019 Action Plan are intended to principally benefit low- to moderate-income residents through eligible uses of CDBG funds for public safety and welfare improvements that will improve their quality of life. The 2019 Action Plan identifies the sources of funds and other resources available to plan and implement specific activities during PY2019 and the steps to be taken to accomplish proposed goals.

CDBG funds budgeted in PY2019 to the East Biloxi East-West Neighborhood Access Road Project, Phase I totals \$585,161, which includes \$77,909 in previously unallocated program income budgeted to the project through a December 2019 minor amendment to the 2019 Action Plan. This project will benefit a majority of low- to moderate-income residents in a primarily residential area of East Biloxi; \$65,000 is budgeted for qualified public services agencies; and \$100,000 is budgeted for CDBG Entitlement Program administration.

In the Public Services category, \$65,000 in PY2019 CDBG funds are budgeted for programs to address the following unmet, high priority community needs: expanded access to quality, affordable early childcare services for eligible families, including children who are victims of domestic violence; expanded access to programs to improve literacy of eligible elementary school age children; and improved access to affordable housing through rent, utility and security deposit assistance to primarily assist homeless veterans and families with children to prevent and address homelessness. Because of HUD's public services cap waiver in response to the pandemic, the City also expended \$54,404.01 from its first CARES Act allocation to assist 25 households negatively impacted by COVID-19 with rent assistance as budgeted through substantial amendment #1 to the 2019 Action Plan.

### **3. Evaluation of past performance**

As identified in its Five-Year Consolidated Plan, the goal for use of Biloxi's CDBG resources is primarily to meet the high priority, unmet needs of its low- to moderate-income residents and those with special needs to improve their quality of life and standard of living. Input through its citizen participation process; awareness of CDBG regulations and policies; and attention to scheduling to ensure timely implementation of projects guide identification of CDBG goals and projects.

Throughout each program year, the City of Biloxi monitors its performance in terms of spending CDBG funds and meeting program goals through the expenditure of said funds. The City annually assesses its performance as detailed in its CAPER and conducts a public hearing to share information with the public about its progress in completing CDBG-funded activities and achieving program goals to primarily benefit low- to moderate-income residents.

By monitoring expenditures throughout implementation of each activity, the staff is able to ensure timeliness of expenditures and to administer each CDBG-funded activity for maximum public benefit and cost-efficiency while complying with HUD regulations, procedures and policies.

Based on this on-going evaluation of past performance, the City determines which qualified public services agency programs and/or eligible activities should be funded with CDBG resources in the upcoming program year. The on-going evaluation of past performance also improves the City's understanding of the time and resources required to administer the CDBG Entitlement Program, especially development of annual and multi-year documents, in compliance with current HUD regulations and policies.

### **4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process**

The City encouraged citizen participation throughout development of the 2019 Action Plan and substantial amendments. As identified and detailed in the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan, specific measures were taken to provide opportunities for citizens, particularly those of low- to moderate-income, to participate in establishing priorities and identifying activities to be funded. To encourage citizen input specifically into development of the 2019 Action Plan and Substantial Amendments, the City did the following:

- Published a Notice of Availability of Information Regarding Biloxi's 2019 Action Plan;
- Published a Notice of Public Hearing for the 2019 Action Plan and Substantial Amendments;
- Mailed letters to supportive service agencies, civic organizations and other nonprofits to encourage attendance at the public hearing and to share information regarding the 2019 Action Plan and amendments, as time allowed;
- Posted notices, in English, Spanish and Vietnamese, regarding public hearings and availability of information about the 2019 Action Plan on the City's website, at City Hall, the Community Development and Engineering Departments, Biloxi Public Libraries, the Biloxi Housing Authority,

and delivered notices to public service agencies that assist and/or represent nonEnglish-speaking residents;

- Posted notices, in English, Spanish and Vietnamese, regarding public hearings and availability of information about the 2019 Action Plan Substantial Amendments on the City's website, at City Hall, the Community Development and Engineering Departments, Biloxi Public Libraries, and Biloxi Housing Authority, and delivered notices to public service agencies that assist and/or represent nonEnglish-speaking residents;
- Conducted public hearings to provide citizens with opportunities to comment orally and in writing about the housing and non-housing community development needs of the City and about the proposed use of CDBG and CDBG-CV funds during PY2019;
- Published a Notice of Draft Availability for the 2019 Action Plan for a 30-day comment period and published Notices of Draft Availability of the 2019 Action Plan Substantial Amendments for 8-day, two 5-days, 32-day and 30-day comment periods (as authorized through HUD waivers);
- Posted notices and made Drafts of the 2019 Action Plan available for public review at City Hall, the Community Development and Engineering Departments, Biloxi Public Libraries, the Biloxi Housing Authority and on the City's website; and
- Posted notices and made Drafts of the 2019 Action Plan Substantial Amendments available for public review at City Hall, the Community Development and Engineering Departments, Biloxi Public Libraries, the Biloxi Housing Authority and on the City's website.

### **Summary of Citizens Comments**

A public hearing to discuss the City of Biloxi's 2019 Action Plan was held on Wednesday, June 26, 2019 in the Biloxi Community Development Auditorium. Minutes, copies of the attendance roster, agenda, CDBG Fact Sheet, the official notice published in the local newspaper and posted fliers are attached to this document. The attachment also includes documentation of compliance with the Biloxi Citizen Participation Plan for each of the substantial amendments.

### **5. Summary of public comments**

A public hearing to discuss the City of Biloxi's 2019 Action Plan was held on Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the Biloxi Community Development Department Auditorium. Minutes from the meeting, as well as copies of the attendance roster, agenda, CDBG Fact Sheet and the official notice published in the local newspaper to advertise the hearing are attached to this document. No oral comments were received and no written comments were formally submitted at the public hearing; the minutes are attached. One written comment was submitted during the subsequent 30-day comment period and is attached.

Because of the urgent needs to be addressed with the CARES Act allocation, HUD authorized a waiver of the 30-day comment period. Development of the substantial amendments complied with the Biloxi Citizen Participation Plan; four written comments were submitted during an eight-day comment period

for substantial amendment #1 and are attached with the minutes. No written comments were submitted during a five-day comment period for substantial amendment #2 or during the public hearing regarding the amendment. One person attended the May 13, 2021 public hearing and spoke in favor of the amendment. Minutes for the hearing are attached.

No written comments were submitted during a five-day comment period for substantial amendment #3 or during the public hearing regarding the amendment. Four people attended the April 5, 2022 public hearing and all spoke in favor of the amendment.

No one attended the November 25, 2024 public hearing regarding substantial amendment #4 and no written comments were received. The minutes of the hearing are attached. No written comments were submitted during the subsequent 32-day comment period.

No one attended the December 29, 2025 public hearing regarding substantial amendment #5 and no written comments were submitted. The minutes are attached. During the subsequent 30-day comment period, one written comment was submitted and a copy is attached.

All oral and written comments received by the City were considered.

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

No oral or written comments were offered during the June 26, 2019 public hearing. One written comment was submitted by Carol Burnett, Executive Director of Moore Community House, during the 30-day comment period. She summarized MCC's early childhood education program and the benefits it provides to the participating children; this program is supported annually with City of Biloxi CDBG public service funds.

Several oral comments were offered at the public hearing for the 2019 substantial amendment #1 process and four written comments were submitted during the eight-day comment period. One oral comment was offered at the May 13, 2021 public hearing, but no written comments were submitted at the hearing or during the five-day comment period for the substantial amendment #2 process. The four citizens who attended the April 5, 2022 public hearing spoke in favor of substantial amendment #3 ; no written comments were submitted at the hearing or during the five-day comment period for substantial amendment #3. No one attended the November 25, 2024 public hearing regarding substantial amendment #4 and no written comments were received during the 32-day comment period.

No one attended the December 29, 2025 public hearing and no written comments were received. One written comment was submitted in regard to substantial amendment #5 to the 2019 Action Plan during the 30-day written comment period. A copy of each written comment submitted is attached with a copy of the minutes.

The City considered all oral and written comments and budgeted its limited CDBG resources to support the goals and address the high priority community needs identified during development of the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan, 2019 Action Plan and subsequent substantial amendments.

## 7. Summary

Biloxi's 2019 Action Plan allocated most of its Program Year 2019 CDBG resources to improve the safety and welfare of its residents, primarily those who reside in low- to moderate-income households in an East Biloxi project service area.

The City does not receive HOME, ESG or HOPWA allocations to address needs funded through these programs. The City will continue to work with the Open Doors Homeless Coalition and other local nonprofit agencies that serve Biloxi's low- to moderate-income residents and the homeless, by supporting their applications for federal and state assistance when the programs proposed to be funded are consistent with Biloxi's current Five-Year Consolidated Plan.

The Mayor reserves the right to designate qualified subrecipients to assist in the City's on-going efforts to address unmet community needs through specific, HUD-eligible public service activities, subject to the approval of the Biloxi City Council and in compliance with HUD's annual budget limits on public service activities.

### PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies – 91.200(b)

Agency/entity responsible for preparing/administering the Consolidated Plan

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
CDBG Administrator	City of Biloxi	Engineering Department, Federal Programs Division

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

#### Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Paula Snyder, Federal Programs Manager  
City of Biloxi, Engineering Department  
psnyder@biloxi.ms.us

### AP-10 Consultation – 91.100, 91.200(b), 91.215(l)

#### 1. Introduction

The City enjoys a good working relationship with local and regional nonprofit agencies and public service organizations that work collaboratively to provide services and programs to address residents' unmet needs. The City actively participates as a member of the Open Doors Homeless Coalition Continuum of Care and maintains ongoing communication with the Biloxi Housing Authority, Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII, Back Bay Mission, Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence, the Mississippi Center for Justice, Moore Community House, the Biloxi Public School District, the East Biloxi Community

Collaborative and others to share public information, consult about residents' needs and service delivery.

**Provide a concise summary of the jurisdiction's activities to enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers and private and governmental health, mental health and service agencies (91.215(I))**

During Program Year 2019, the City will continue to work with and support the ongoing efforts of the many public service organizations and agencies that provide social services, including housing assistance programs, to residents of Biloxi. These include the Biloxi Housing Authority, Salvation Army, South Mississippi AIDS Task Force, LIFE, Open Doors Homeless Coalition, Catholic Community and Social Services, Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence, Back Bay Mission, Moore Community House, Gulf Coast Rescue Mission, the Mississippi Center for Justice and several others. In a similar manner, the City maintains open channels of communication with local and regional private and governmental health, mental health and service agencies to ensure the healthcare needs of its residents are met. Merit Hospital of Biloxi, Coastal Family Health Center, Mental Health Association of South Mississippi, South Mississippi Regional Center, Meals on Wheels & Human Resources Agency, South Mississippi AIDS Task Force and Catholic Social and Community Services, among others, were invited and encouraged to participate in development of the 2019 Action Plan. Most of these receive the City's mailed monthly newsletter and Biloxi "Bmails" (an almost daily emailed update of City news and information), which helps these agencies and the City better coordinate on-going efforts to address local healthcare needs on a comprehensive basis.

The City of Biloxi is an active participant in the Gulf Coast Continuum of Care (administered by the Open Doors Homeless Coalition), a multi-county, multi-agency effort to address the full continuum of care for the homeless. The City will continue to participate and will actively support efforts of the CoC to obtain HUD and other funding to broaden the spectrum of services available to the homeless and increase and improve current levels of services.

**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 City of Biloxi is an active participant in the Open Doors Homeless Coalition Continuum of Care, a multi-county, multi-agency effort to address the full continuum of care for the homeless on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The City will continue to participate and will actively support efforts to obtain HUD and other funding to broaden the spectrum of services available to the homeless and increase and improve current levels of services. Specifically, during Program Year 2019, the City will continue to support efforts of the Open Doors Homeless Coalition to assess and address the needs of the chronically homeless, especially veterans and families with children, and to obtain grant funding to assist those on the verge of becoming homeless.

In PY2019, Biloxi budgeted \$20,000 in CDBG funds for a public service activity to directly assist in ongoing efforts to address and prevent homelessness by providing rent, utility and deposit assistance, with priority given to homeless families with children, veterans and persons at risk of homelessness.

During April-June 2020, the City developed a substantial amendment to its 2019 Action Plan and 2025-2019 Consolidated Plan to include a CARES Act allocation of \$272,001 as an available resource to fund a new public services activity administered by the Open Doors Homeless Coalition Continuum of Care to help prevent and address homelessness in Biloxi in response to the Coronavirus. HUD authorized a waiver of the 15% public services cap for CDBG-eligible use of these funds.

**Describe consultation with the Continuum(s) of Care that serves the jurisdiction's area 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**

The City has a good working relationship with the Open Doors Homeless Coalition, the Mississippi Coast's designated Continuum of Care. The City provides input about the needs of the community to support the efforts of the Continuum of Care, including projects and activities assisted with ESG funds. The City does not receive or administer any ESG funds.

**2. Describe Agencies, groups, organizations and others who participated in the process and describe the jurisdiction's consultations with housing, social service agencies and other entities**

**Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated**

1	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Biloxi Housing Authority
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	PHA
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Public Housing Needs, Homelessness Needs – Veterans, Non-Homeless Special Needs, Lead-based Paint Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The City has an ongoing working relationship with the Biloxi Housing Authority and communicates via telephone and email with the Executive Director and staff on a regular basis. The BHA was invited by mailed letter and telephone call to attend the 2019 Action Plan Public Hearing and to provide oral or written comments regarding proposed activities and use of funds. Additionally, the BHA Executive Director met several times with the Biloxi Federal Programs Manager to plan PY2019 fair housing outreach activities and the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice update.
2	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Open Doors Homeless Coalition Continuum of Care
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing, Services-homeless, Service-Fair Housing, Regional organization

	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment, Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless, Homeless Needs - Families with children, Homelessness Needs – Veterans, Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth, Homelessness Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The CoC was invited by mail to attend the 2019 Action Plan Public Hearings and provide input orally or in writing. The Executive Director also was contacted to provide updated information regarding homelessness in Biloxi. The City regularly attends the CoC meetings and participates in the Point of Time annual counts to maintain current information about local homelessness. Working together, the CoC, Biloxi and other nonprofits effectively ended veterans' homelessness in Biloxi during 2015. The City and CoC work together to provide a public service activity to provide rent, utility and security deposit assistance to help prevent and/or address homelessness, especially for the chronically homeless, families with children and veterans, which will be supported through the investment of 2019 CDBG funds.
3	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Back Bay Mission
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-homeless, Services-Education, Services-Employment, Service-Fair Housing
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless, Homeless Needs - Families with children, Homelessness Needs – Veterans, Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The City contacted Back Bay Mission by phone and mail to encourage their input into development of the 2019 Action Plan and to encourage attendance at the public hearing. The City provides Back Bay Mission with general funds to support its housing rehabilitation program for the elderly and disabled.
4	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services – Housing, Services-Children, Services-Victims of Domestic Violence, Services-homeless, Services-Education, Services-Employment, Service-Fair Housing, Services – Victims, Regional organization
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment, Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless, Homeless Needs - Families with children

	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The City encouraged attendance of the Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence at the 2019 Action Plan public hearing by mail, email and phone conversation. The City works with the Center to provide an early childhood services program for qualified victims of domestic violence, which is supported with resources from the City's CDBG Program. The City met with the Center director and staff several times during development of the 2019 Action Plan.
5	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Moore Community House
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Children, Services-Health, Services-Education, Services-Employment
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The City encouraged Moore Community House's attendance at the 2019 Action Plan public hearing by mail, email and phone. The City and MCC are working together to provide affordable, quality early childhood education services to income-eligible families; the City invests CDBG resources to support this program.
6	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Biloxi NAACP
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Business and Civic Leaders
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homeless Needs - Families with children, Economic Development, Anti-poverty Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The City invited the Biloxi NAACP to the 2019 Action Plan public hearing and encouraged the agency's input into development of the 2019 Action Plan. The Mayor meets with representatives of the agency on an on-going basis to discuss and coordinate local activities and programs to redevelop East Biloxi neighborhoods, stimulate economic development activities and workforce training opportunities. PY2019 CDBG funds are budgeted for a public facilities project in East Biloxi, in large part because of consultation with Biloxi NAACP members and residents. Consultation has resulted in a shared vision for East Biloxi neighborhoods that are safe, code-compliant and offer residents a high quality of life.

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

The City is not aware of any agency types that it did not consult with; in addition to residents, representatives of several public service organizations, nonprofit agencies, business and civic

organizations attended the 2019 Action Plan public hearing, which was widely advertised to provide input.

**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?
Continuum of Care	Open Doors Homeless Coalition	The City's goals are similar in seeking to address the causes of homelessness to prevent homelessness. The City and CoC are working together during PY2019 to assist veterans and families with children in accessing affordable housing to prevent or address homelessness.
Biloxi Comprehensive Plan	City of Biloxi	Several goals and activities overlap that were identified by considerable citizen input during development of the Biloxi 2009 Comprehensive Plan. These include providing water, sewer and storm water system services to all residents, meeting affordable housing needs for all residents and expanding effective delivery of public services to improve residents' quality of life.

**Table 3 – Other local / regional /federal planning efforts**

**Narrative (optional)**

In addition to the agencies identified in Table 2, above, agencies, groups, organizations and others who participated in the development process for the 2019 Action Plan by attending and providing input during the June 26, 2019 public hearing include representatives of New Bethel CDC's Believe Program; Mississippi Center for Justice; and the Gulf Coast Housing Initiative.

**AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)**

**Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal-setting**

The City encouraged citizen participation throughout development of the 2019 Action Plan and substantial amendments. Specific measures are taken to provide opportunities for citizens, particularly those of low- to moderate-income, to participate in establishing priorities and identifying activities to be funded. The City did the following to broaden citizen participation into development of the 2019 Action Plan and substantial amendments:

- Published a Notice of Availability of Information Regarding the 2019 Action Plan;
- Published Public Hearing Notices;
- Mailed letters to various agencies and civic organizations;
- Posted public hearing notices in English, Spanish and Vietnamese;
- Conducted public hearings to encourage citizen input about proposed uses of CDBG funds;

- Published Notices of Public Review Draft Availability for the original 2019 Action Plan for the required 30-day comment period and of Drafts of Substantial Amendment #1 for an 8-day comment period; Substantial Amendments #2 and #3 for 5-day comment periods (subject to COVID-19 waivers); Substantial Amendment #4 for a 32-day comment period; and Substantial Amendment #5 for a 30-day comment period; and
- Posted notices and made the Public Review Drafts available at public locations and on the City's website.

### Summary of Citizens Comments

A public hearing to discuss the 2019 Action Plan was held on June 26, 2019 in the Community Development Auditorium. Minutes, the attendance roster, agenda, CDBG Fact Sheet and official notice published in the newspaper, are attached. No oral or written comments were received during the hearing.

One written comment was received during the 30-day comment period for development of the 2019 Action Plan. The written comment that was received is attached; Moore Community House's director requested the City's continued support for its early childhood education program that benefits qualified low-income residents. The City budgeted a portion of its PY2019 CDBG public service funds to continue supporting this successful program.

A public hearing was conducted on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 to discuss substantial amendment #1. Minutes, the attendance roster, agenda packet and proof of official notice of publication in the newspaper are attached. Oral comments were offered but no written comments were received during the hearing.

A public hearing was conducted on Thursday, May 13, 2021 to discuss substantial amendment #2. Minutes and public hearing material are attached. One oral comment in support of the amendment was expressed but no written comments were submitted during the hearing or the 5-day comment period.

Four citizens attended the April 5, 2022 public hearing to discuss substantial amendment #3 and all four people spoke in favor of the amendment. No written comments were submitted during the five-day comment period for substantial amendment #3 or at the public hearing regarding the amendment. Minutes for and notices regarding the hearing are attached.

No one attended the November 25, 2024 public hearing to discuss substantial amendment #4 and no written comments were submitted at the hearing or during the 32-day comment period. Minutes for and notices regarding the hearing are attached.

No one attended the December 29, 2025 public hearing regarding substantial amendment #5 to the 2019 Action Plan and no written comments were received. During the 30-day comment period, one written comment was submitted. Minutes for and notices regarding the hearing are attached.

All oral and written comments received were considered by the City.

**Citizen Participation Outreach**

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of attendance	Summary of comments	Summary of comments not accepted
1	Public Hearing	<p>Minorities</p> <p>Non-English Speaking - Spanish &amp; Vietnamese</p> <p>Persons with disabilities</p> <p>Non-targeted/broad community</p> <p>Residents of Public and Assisted Housing</p>	<p>2 locally elected officials, 6 citizens, and staff attended the 6/26/2019 public hearing. 2 City officials, 5 residents, and staff attended the 5/19/2019 hearing. One citizen attended the 5/13/21 hearing and spoke in favor of the amendment. Councilman Gines and staff also attended. 4 people attended the 4/5/2022 public hearing in addition to staff. No one attended the 11/25/2024 hearing in addition to staff. <u>No one attended the 12/29/25 hearing in addition to staff.</u></p>	<p>The minutes of the public hearings are attached to this document; copies of the written comments received during development of the Action Plan and amendments also are attached. All in attendance at the 4/5/2022 hearing spoke in favor of substantial amendment #3. No one submitted written comments at the 11/25/2024 hearing or during the comment period. <u>No written comments were submitted during the 12/29/2025 hearing; one was submitted during the 30-day comment period in regard to substantial amendment #5.</u></p>	<p>Not applicable; all comments were considered.</p>

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of attendance	Summary of comments	Summary of comments not accepted
2	Internet Outreach	Minorities Non-English Speaking - Spanish & Vietnamese Persons with disabilities Non-targeted/ broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	Cannot determine (public hearing notices also were published and posted).	Attached to this document.	Not applicable; all comments were considered.
3	Flyers were posted throughout the City.	Minorities Non-English Speaking - Spanish & Vietnamese Persons with disabilities Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	Not known because other forms of advertising were used to encourage citizen input at the public hearings and through written comments.	Attached to this document	Not applicable; all comments were considered.

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

### AP-15 Expected Resources – 91.220(c)(1,2)

HUD allocated \$470,034 in CDBG Entitlement Program funds to the City of Biloxi for PY2019. The City anticipates generating \$170,271 in program income during the 2019 Program Year. Carryover funds total \$31,947.

As the result of a minor amendment to the 2019 Action Plan in December 2019, \$77,909 in additional, previously unallocated PY2019 program income was budgeted to the East Biloxi East-West Neighborhood Access Road Project, Phase 1. The minor amendment increased Program Year (PR) 2019 anticipated program income to \$248,180.

A 2019 substantial amendment #1 added the first CDBG-CV CARES Act allocation of \$272,001 as a PY2019 CDBG-CV resource and budgeted the funds for a new public services activity to help prevent and address homelessness in Biloxi for income-eligible residents through rent assistance for up to six consecutive months in response to the coronavirus. HUD authorized a waiver of the 15% public services cap for CDBG-eligible uses of these funds.

Substantial amendment #2 budgeted \$722,212, the third CDBG-CV CARES Act allocation, as an additional CDBG-CV resource for Program Year 2019 and proposed to allocate the funds to rehabilitate a building for a coordinated entry center to help prevent and address the spread of coronavirus in Biloxi by providing a safe environment primarily for homeless and near-homeless populations while being assessed and linked with housing assistance and related supportive services. This project was not implemented because the owner of the building proposed to be rehabilitated would not commit to selling within federal spending deadlines.

Substantial amendment #3 proposed to combine \$722,212, the third CDBG-CV CARES Act allocation, with the \$217,597 in unexpended CDBG-CV CARES Act funds from the first CDBG-CV CARES Act allocation, to fund construction of a public facility to help prevent and address the spread of coronavirus in Biloxi by providing a safe environment for social distancing primarily for homeless and near-homeless populations while they are assessed and linked with housing assistance and related supportive services. This project also was not implemented, based on input from the HUD Field Office that project completion likely would not be possible by the CDBG-CV expenditure deadline.

Development of substantial amendment #4, which proposed funding a new Public Facilities Improvement Project to support the City's overall effort to prepare for future federally-declared disasters, was encouraged by the HUD Field Office. The City approved the substantial amendment on January 7, 2025, reallocating \$939,809, the combined balance of unexpended CDBG-CV funds (\$217,597 from the first CDBG-CV allocation and \$722,212 from the third allocation of CDBG-CV funds) to the project.

The contract for the HVAC and ductwork improvements was awarded on July 29, 2025 and will be completed by April 29, 2026 to improve air quality, circulation and ventilation in the building to support the dual role the Gruich Center plays as a community center and local disaster response facility. The improvements to the HVAC system will help protect the health and safety of project service area residents, in addition to Biloxi homeless and near-homeless populations, who may access the facility during future federally-designated disaster events.

Substantial amendment #5 to the 2019 Action Plan subsequently is being developed during December 2025 through January 2026 and proposes to ensure LMI residents in qualified project service areas, in addition to homeless and near-homeless populations, have access to filtered drinking water during future federally-designated disasters.

**Anticipated Resources**

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 2019				Expected Amount Available Remainder 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	470,034	248,180	31,947	750,161	0	This is the 5th year of the 5-Year Consolidated Plan period. The City's 2019 CDBG allocation is a slight increase over its PY2018 allocation.
Other CDBG- CV	public - federal	Other	994,213	0	0	994,213	0	CDBG-CV funds to be used to prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus.

Table 5 - 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**

The CDBG Entitlement Program allocation and CDBG-CV allocations do not require matching funds.

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

The City of Biloxi budgeted most of its 2019 CDBG resources to improve the public safety of citizens in a primarily residential project service area, in which the majority of residents are low- to moderate-income, through implementation of the East Biloxi East-West Neighborhood Access Road Project, Phase 1 (formerly named the Railroad Crossing Closure and Construction of Access Road Project, Phase I).

**Discussion**

The City will continue to seek additional federal, state and private resources to leverage its annual CDBG allocation from HUD.

## AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

### Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
4	Streets, sidewalks & lighting improvements	2016	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	Sidewalk & Street Improvements	CDBG: \$585,161	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than LMI Housing Benefit: 2685 Persons Assisted
7	Public Services	2015	2019	Housing & Non-Housing Community Development		CDBG: \$65,000 CDBG-CV: \$54,404	Public service activities other than LMI Housing Benefit: 125 Persons; Public service activities for LMI Housing Benefit: 25 Households Assisted
8	Public Facilities & Improvements	2019	2026	Non-Housing Community Development	Prepare for Future Federally-Designated Disasters	CDBG-CV: \$639,750 <u>Gruich Public Facilities Improvement (PFI) Project</u>  and CDBG-CV: \$300,059 <u>Filtered Water Stations PFI Project</u>  Total: \$939,809	Limited Clientele: <u>estimated 178 homeless (based on Biloxi's 2025 PIT count), in addition to 7315 project service area residents (Gruich PFI Project);</u> and Limited Clientele: <u>estimated 178 homeless (based on Biloxi's 2025 PIT count), in addition to (# tbd) residents in qualified project service areas (FWS PFI Project)</u>

Table 6 – Goals Summary

### Goal Descriptions

4	<b>Goal Name</b>	Streets, sidewalks & lighting improvements
	<b>Goal Description</b>	The City budgeted \$585,161 of PY2019 CDBG resources for the East Biloxi East/West Neighborhood Access Road Project, Phase I (formerly the Railroad Crossing Closure and Construction of Access Road Project, Phase I) to benefit a primarily residential, LMI project area in East Biloxi.
7	<b>Goal Name</b>	Public Services
	<b>Goal Description</b>	<p>The City budgeted \$65,000 in PY2019 for public service activities. \$25,000 is budgeted to support affordable, high quality early childcare services for qualified residents provided by <b>Moore Community House</b>; \$20,000 is budgeted to assist the local <b>CoC</b> address and prevent homelessness primarily for homeless veterans and families with children through rental, utility and security deposit assistance; \$10,000 is budgeted for the <b>Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence</b> to support quality early childcare and educational services for victims of domestic violence; and \$10,000 is budgeted for <b>New Bethel CDC</b> to support a summer educational program for children ages 5 - 12.</p> <p>\$20,000 originally was budgeted in the 2019 Action Plan to support <b>Open Doors'</b> public services activity to prevent and address homelessness in Biloxi. Substantial amendment #1 to the 2019 Action Plan added a CDBG-CV CARES Act allocation of \$272,001 to fund a new public services activity to prevent and address increased homelessness in Biloxi resulting from the coronavirus, also to be administered by Open Doors. HUD authorized providing up to six consecutive months of rent assistance to qualified persons impacted by the coronavirus.</p> <p>Since other federal funds have been made available to provide rent and utility assistance, the City proposed substantial amendment #3 to reprogram the unexpended balance of \$217,597 from the first CDBG-CV allocation to the Public Facilities and Improvements Project.</p>

8	<b>Goal Name</b>  <b>Goal Description</b>	<b>Public Safety and Welfare</b>  Concurrently with substantial amendment #5 to the Consolidated Plan, substantial amendment #2 to the 2019 Action Plan added a new goal of funding public facilities and improvements.  Substantial amendment #3 to the 2019 Action Plan budgeted the 3rd CDBG-CV allocation of \$722,212 and \$217,597 in unexpended funds from the 1st allocation to construct a public facility to prevent/address the spread of COVID-19 among homeless and near-homeless populations by providing a place to safely distance while being assessed and linked to housing assistance.  Since the substantial amendment #3 proposed project did not go forward, the City proposed substantial amendment #4, reallocating the combined total of its unexpended CDBG-CV funds to prepare for future disasters by enhancing the dual role played by the Gruich Center as a community center and local disaster response facility. <u>Approximately 7,315 project service area residents</u> in addition to Biloxi's homeless and near-homeless populations will benefit from the project.  <u>Substantial amendment #5 to the 2019 Action Plan, developed December 2025 - January 2026, will reallocate the available balance of \$300,059 in CDBG-CV funds following contract award for the Gruich Community Center Public Facilities Improvement Project.</u>  <u>The unencumbered CDBG-CV balance of funds is proposed to support a second Public Facilities Improvement Project to ensure LMI residents in qualified project service areas, in addition to homeless and near-homeless populations in Biloxi, have access to safe drinking water during future federally-designated disasters.</u>
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**AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)**

This section provides specific information about Program Year 2019 projects to be funded through Biloxi's CDBG Entitlement Program. In addition to funding a portion of CDBG Program staff costs, consultant services to assist in development of HUD-required documents and administration of the CDBG program, and publication fees through its Program Administration activity, this category includes funding to implement the fair housing educational outreach recommendations in Biloxi's current Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, which includes conducting workshops in partnership with the Biloxi Housing Authority, the Mississippi Center for Justice, the Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence and the Open Doors Homeless Coalition Continuum of Care, and to update the A.I. in collaboration with the Mississippi HOME Corp. and other CDBG entitlement cities and housing agencies.

#	Project Name
1	Administration
2	Public Services
3	East Biloxi East/West Neighborhood Access Road Project, Phase 1
4	Public Services CDBG & CDBG-CV
5	Gruich Community Center Public Facility Improvements Project – CDBG-CV
6	Filtered Water Stations Public Facilities Improvement Project

Table 7 - Project Information

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

To meet underserved and unmet community needs identified during development of the 2019 Action Plan and the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan, the City has allocated \$65,000 in PY2019 CDBG funds for public service activities.

An April-June 2020 substantial amendment added a CDBG-CV CARES Act allocation of \$272,001 as an available resource to the 2019 Action Plan, budgeting it for rent and utility assistance for income-eligible residents to help prevent and address increased homelessness in Biloxi caused by the coronavirus. HUD waived the 15% public services cap for this CDBG-CV eligible public services activity. The Open Doors Homeless Coalition Continuum of Care was determined by the City to be most qualified to administer the new public services activity based on its considerable experience, staff capacity and organizational systems in place to implement the activity most expeditiously in the program year.

Substantial amendment #2 to the 2019 Action Plan budgeted the third round CDBG-CV CARES Act allocation of \$722,212 to a new public facilities and improvement project to rehabilitate a building to serve as a coordinated entry center from which housing assistance and other supportive services would be provided to qualified residents. The project was designed to help Biloxi's homeless and near-homeless populations, primarily, avoid/reduce the risk of contracting and/or spreading the coronavirus by providing adequate social distancing space while being assessed and linked with housing assistance.

However, since the owner of the building being considered for rehabilitation would not commit to selling within federal spending deadlines for CDBG-CV funds, the project did not move forward and the City approved a third substantial amendment to the 2019 Action Plan, budgeting the 3<sup>rd</sup> round CDBG-CV allocation of \$722,212 and reprogramming the unexpended balance of \$217,597 from the first CDBG-CV allocation to construct a new public facility to prevent and address the spread of the coronavirus by providing Biloxi's homeless and near-homeless populations a safe environment in which to socially distance while being assessed and linked with housing assistance. Subsequently, the HUD Field Office indicated it was unlikely that the proposed project would meet expenditure deadlines and the project was not implemented.

During November 2024 – January 2025, the City developed substantial amendment #4 to the 2019 Action Plan, which was approved and reallocated the total combined balance of unexpected CDBG-CV

funds of \$939,809 to prepare for future disasters through enhancement of the Gruich Community Center’s dual role as an East Biloxi community center and local disaster response facility. Improvements to the building’s HVAC system and replacement of ductwork will be completed and paid for by HUD’s CDBG-CV expenditure deadline of June 16, 2026. The improvements will help protect the health and safety of the 7,315 residents in the project service area in addition to Biloxi’s homeless and near-homeless populations.

After the contract was awarded for the Gruich Community Center Public Facilities Improvement Project, substantial amendment #5 to the 2019 Action Plan was proposed and was in the process of being developed during December 2025 – January 2026 to reallocate the remaining balance of the City’s two CDBG-CV (CARES Act) allocations to a second Public Facilities Improvement Project. The proposed project also will support the City’s efforts to prepare for future federally-declared disasters. With guidance from the HUD Field Office in Jackson, the City is working expeditiously to complete the project and draw down the CDBG-CV funds to meet HUD’s June 2026 deadline.

## AP-38 Project Summary

### Project Summary Information

<b>1</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Administration
	<b>Target Area</b>	Not applicable
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Not applicable
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Not applicable
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$100,000
	<b>Description</b>	PY2019 CDBG funds in the amount of \$100,000 are budgeted for eligible costs associated with administering the entitlement program, including a portion of staff costs, consultant services and publication of required notices. Funding also supports implementation of the City's fair housing educational activities identified in its current Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice and updating its Analysis of Impediments.
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2020
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	Not applicable
	<b>Location Description</b>	Federal Programs Office City of Biloxi 214-A Delauney Street Biloxi, MS 39530

	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Activities to be funded through Administration include a portion of staff costs and publication of required notices. In PY2019, Administration funds also will pay for consultant services to assist in developing HUD-required documents such as the 5-Year Consolidated Plan, One-Year Action Plan and CAPER, and to provide other CDBG program-related services as needed. Funding also supports implementation of the City's fair housing educational outreach activities identified in its current Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice and updating the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice.
2	<b>Project Name</b>	Public Services
	<b>Target Area</b>	NA
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Public Services
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Rent Assistance
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$65,000
	<b>Description</b>	\$65,000 in CDBG funds is budgeted to implement four public service projects in Program Year 2019: Moore Community House - affordable, high quality, early childcare services for qualified residents \$25,000; Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence - affordable early childcare and education services for victims of domestic violence \$10,000; Open Doors Homeless Coalition - rental, utility and security deposit assistance to improve access to affordable housing, primarily for near-homeless and homeless veterans and families with children \$20,000; and New Bethel CDC - summer educational program for eligible children ages 5 - 12 \$10,000.
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2020
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	Moore Community House estimates 55 qualified children will benefit during PY2019 from the CDBG-assisted program; New Bethel CDC projects that 50 income-eligible children will benefit from the summer educational program. The Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence estimates that 20 children who have experienced domestic violence will participate in its early childhood daycare and educational services. Open Doors Homeless Coalition projects that 15 eligible households will be assisted through Biloxi's investment of CDBG funds for its public service activity.
	<b>Location Description</b>	Citywide
<b>Planned Activities</b>	Assist in the provision of affordable, high quality early childhood educational programs for qualified children; assist in improving access to affordable housing in Biloxi to prevent and address homelessness through rental, utility and security deposit assistance for near-homeless and homeless veterans and families with children; and assist children ages 5 - 12 meet required classroom skill levels through participation in a summer educational program.	

3	<b>Project Name</b>	East Biloxi East/West Neighborhood Access Road Project, Phase 1
	<b>Target Area</b>	NA
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Streets, sidewalks and lighting improvements
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Sidewalk and Street Improvements
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG: \$585,161
	<b>Description</b>	This project will improve public safety and welfare in a primarily residential, low- to moderate-income area in East Biloxi. A portion of an east-west neighborhood access road will be constructed to preserve neighborhood access and improve emergency vehicle response times. Activities will include environmental review; engineering design; survey and legal work; right-of-way acquisition; demolition and relocation services; and access road construction. Residents north and south of the closed railroad crossing will experience improved public safety from implementation of this project. Unlike the area south of the railroad tracks, the area north of the tracks does not have an east-west road to maintain access for residents and emergency vehicles, therefore construction of a portion of an east-west access road (approximately 1,420 in length) is included in Phase 1 of this project.
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2020
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	The City estimates that 4,285 people will benefit from this project, of whom 2,685 (62.66%) are low- to moderate-income.
	<b>Location Description</b>	East Biloxi between Dorries and Crawford Streets in the vicinity of the CSX Railroad tracks
<b>Planned Activities</b>	The project involves closing a CSX Railroad crossing between Dorries and Crawford Streets in East Biloxi and constructing a neighborhood access road north of the tracks to preserve neighborhood access and improve emergency vehicle response times. Project activities also may include right-of-way acquisition; demolition and relocation; environmental review; survey and legal work; and engineering design.	
4	<b>Project Name</b>	Public Services CDBG-CV
	<b>Target Area</b>	NA
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Public Services
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Address and prevent the spread of the coronavirus
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG-CV: \$54,404 (funding for this public service was reduced by \$217,597 through substantial amendment #3)

	<b>Description</b>	Through substantial amendment #1, the first CDBG-CV CARES Act allocation of \$272,001 was budgeted for rent and utility assistance on behalf of qualified residents to prevent and address the spread of the coronavirus. Through substantial amendment #3, the City reprogrammed the unexpended balance of \$217,597 from the first CDBG-CV allocation and combined it with \$722,212 from the third CARES Act allocation to construct a new facility, providing homeless and near-homeless populations with a safe place in which to be assessed and linked with housing assistance. Other sources of federal funds have been made available to provide rent and utility assistance.
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2020
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	25 qualified households benefited from the CDBG-CV funded rent assistance program.
	<b>Location Description</b>	Citywide
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	To help prevent and address increased homelessness in Biloxi resulting from the coronavirus, rent and utilities assistance was provided for up to six consecutive months to qualified residents by the Open Doors Homeless Coalition through a subrecipient agreement with the City.
5	<b>Project Name</b>	Gruich Community Center Public Facilities Improvement Project – CDBG-CV
	<b>Target Area</b>	NA
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Public Safety and Welfare
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Address and prevent the spread of the coronavirus/protect the public health and safety
	<b>Funding</b>	CDBG-CV: \$639,750
	<b>Description</b>	Substantial amendment #4 to the 2019 Action Plan <u>reallocated</u> the balance of CDBG-CV funds previously budgeted to construct a coordinated entry center for homeless populations to a new project that supports efforts to prepare for future disasters. The new Gruich Community Center Improvement Project will improve the dual roles played by the Center as an East Biloxi community center and a local disaster response facility. The project will protect the health and safety of residents in the qualified project service area, in addition to Biloxi's homeless and near-homeless populations.
	<b>Target Date</b>	6/1/2026
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	Beneficiaries include 7,315 residents living in the project service area <u>and an estimated 178 Limited Clientele people who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless (based on Biloxi's 2025 PIT count).</u>

	<b>Location Description</b>	The Gruich Center is located at 591 Howard Avenue in East Biloxi.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Development of plans for the proposed interior facility improvements <u>were expedited</u> to help meet the CDBG-CV expenditure deadline of June 16, 2026. Removal and disposal of existing HVAC equipment and duct work also will be expedited. Ordering, installation and inspection of the new HVAC and ductwork equipment/materials will be coordinated by the Engineering Department to avoid delays in project completion.  Replacing the existing HVAC and duct work systems will remove air contaminants for improved air quality, circulation and ventilation, helping to protect the health and safety of Biloxi residents who access the facility during future disaster events.
6	<b>Project Name</b>	<u>Filtered Water Stations Public Facilities Improvement Project – CDBG-CV</u>
	<b>Target Area</b>	<u>NA</u>
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	<u>Public Safety and Welfare</u>
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	<u>Address and prevent the spread of the coronavirus/protect the public health and safety</u>
	<b>Funding</b>	<u>CDBG-CV: \$300,059</u>
	<b>Description</b>	<u>Substantial amendment #5 to the 2019 Action Plan proposes to reallocate the balance of CDBG-CV funds to a new Public Facilities Improvement Project. The new Filtered Water Stations Public Facilities Improvement Project will help ensure access to safe drinking water for residents living in qualified project service areas, in addition to homeless and near-homeless populations, during future federally-declared disasters.</u>
	<b>Target Date</b>	<u>6/1/2026</u>
	<b>Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities</b>	<u>Beneficiaries include an estimated _____ (to be determined) residents living in the qualified project service areas, identified by HUD Census data on the project location map, in addition to an estimated 178 Limited Clientele: homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless people (based on Biloxi's 2025 PIT count).</u>
	<b>Location Description</b>	<u>A project service areas map is in the process of being developed, identifying the location of each public facility proposed to be improved with filtered water stations.</u>
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	<u>The proposed filtered water stations project will involve procuring approximately _____ (to be determined) filtered water stations (FWS), in compliance with federal procurement regulations, policies and procedures. Where feasible, the City will install the FWS equipment to existing public facilities in the qualified project service areas.</u>

**AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)**

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

The City does not allocate funds by geographic priorities, as detailed in its Five-Year Consolidated Plan. Maps are attached that identify the low- to moderate-income areas in the City, minority concentration areas and the location of 2019 Program Year projects. Each of the PY2019 public service activities provides citywide benefit.

<b>Geographic Distribution</b>	
Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Central Biloxi Drainage Improvements Project	Not Applicable
Petit Bois Drainage Improvements Project	Not Applicable
Central Biloxi Infrastructure Improvements Project (Greater Biloxi Subdivision area)	Not Applicable
Hiller Park Recreational Enhancement Project	Not Applicable
Central Biloxi/Lee Chinn Fire Station ladder truck acquisition	Not Applicable
East Biloxi/Howard Avenue Streetscape Improvements	Not Applicable
East Biloxi/Division Street Neighborhood Facility	Not Applicable
Central Biloxi/Pass Road and Hiller Park Area Sidewalk and Street Improvements Project	Not Applicable
East Biloxi/Division Street	Not Applicable
Central Biloxi/Pass Road	Not Applicable
East Biloxi Police Substation and Meeting Room	Not Applicable

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

**Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically**

The City does not allocate funds by geographic priorities, as detailed in its Five-Year Consolidated Plan. The City's goal for use of limited CDBG resources is to improve the safety and welfare of its low- to moderate-income residents through investment of funds in activities that maximize public benefits and that leverage the investment of other private, local, state and federal funding.

**AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)**

The City of Biloxi does not receive HOME, ESG or HOPWA funding. However, the City has budgeted \$20,000 of PY2019 CDBG funds for a public service activity to prevent or address homelessness of veterans and families with children through rental, utility and deposit assistance that will improve access to affordable housing in Biloxi. The City will work with the Open Doors Homeless Coalition Continuum of Care and other public service agencies to identify qualified, eligible participants. It is estimated that this public service activity will benefit 15 eligible households in PY2019.

The City also anticipates budgeting general funds to continue supporting Back Bay Mission's housing rehabilitation program that benefits elderly and disabled, income-qualified residents.

<b>One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported</b>	
Homeless	15
Non-Homeless	0
Special-Needs	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

**Table 9 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement**

<b>One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through</b>	
Rental Assistance	15
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	0
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

**Table 10 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type**

## **Discussion**

The City will continue to support grant applications of area nonprofit organizations and agencies for expanded resources to meet the housing needs of its citizens, including applications for funding to lower housing cost burdens on low- and moderate-income families to help them access affordable housing.

The City will continue to support the pursuit of federal, state and private housing funding by area nonprofit service organizations and public agencies for housing services and programs that comply with the goals and objectives of the Biloxi Five-Year Consolidated Plan through programs such as: HOME, ESG, HOPWA, Weatherization, LIHEAP, Public Housing, VA, FEMA rental and mortgage assistance.

As an active member of the Open Doors Homeless Coalition CoC, the City will continue to work during PY2019 to effectively coordinate local and regional systems, resources and services to meet the housing needs of the homeless, and to improve the affordability of and/or access to housing for those with special needs and those with low- to moderate-incomes.

The City will continue to support efforts of agencies, such as the Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence to

secure increased funding from federal and state sources to provide rental and mortgage assistance payments for those in crisis.

The City will continue to support efforts of the Open Doors Homeless Coalition to secure grant funding through the “Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program” to assist families on the verge of becoming homeless with counseling services, financial assistance and long-term solutions.

The City also will work with the Open Doors Homeless Coalition and its member agencies to implement a PY2019 CDBG public service program to assist qualified, income-eligible near-homeless and homeless families with children and veterans with rental, utility and deposit assistance to improve access to affordable housing.

Substantial amendment #1 to the 2019 Action Plan, approved in June 2020, budgeted \$272,001 in CDBG-CV CARES Act funds to prevent and address increased homelessness in Biloxi resulting from the coronavirus by providing up to six consecutive months’ rent and utility assistance to CDBG-eligible households in Biloxi impacted by the pandemic. Subsequently, other federal funds have been made available for rent and utility assistance and, through substantial amendment #3, the City reprogrammed the unexpended balance of \$217,597 from the public service activity and \$722,212 from the third round CDBG-CV CARES Act allocation to fund construction of a new Public Facility Project.

## **AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)**

The Biloxi Housing Authority (BHA) owns and manages 11 public housing complexes in the City, which comprise a combined total of 908 Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Project Based Housing Choice Voucher units. In 2019, there were approximately 2,230 applicants on the waiting list for assisted housing. BHA reported that no units were deemed to be below standard and most developments were reported to be in good condition.

In addition to managing the 11 RAD sites, BHA administers a total of 65 affordable market rate units; 444 Tenant Based Housing Choice Vouchers; 158 VASH vouchers; 117 Project-based Non-RAD Vouchers; and 50 straight Low-Income Housing Tax Credit units and one scattered-site affordable rental unit.

The Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII provides Section 8 rental assistance through Section 8 certificates and vouchers to hundreds of Biloxi residents.

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

Although the Biloxi 2019 Action Plan does not designate funding for public housing, the City of Biloxi will continue to work with and support the Biloxi Housing Authority and the Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII through the following actions:

- Continue to support the efforts of the Regional Housing Authority to eliminate obsolete public housing.
- Support the Biloxi Housing Authority's efforts to secure funds for additional assisted housing.
- Support the Biloxi Housing Authority's efforts to secure funds for additional assisted housing designated for elderly citizens.
- Support the Biloxi Housing Authority's efforts to improve the living environment at all assisted housing sites.
- Partner with the public housing agencies to provide fair housing educational outreach information and workshops.

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

The City will continue to work with the Biloxi Housing Authority and encourage BHA residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership through the public outreach campaign to educate Biloxi residents about their rights under the Fair Housing Act through workshops offered at various locations in 2019.

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

Not applicable to the Biloxi Housing Authority.

### **Discussion**

BHA reports that in 2019 none of its units is deemed to be below standard, and all of the developments were reported to be in good condition.

### **AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities – 91.220(i)**

The City of Biloxi's strategy for addressing homelessness during the 2019 Program Year largely will focus on continuing to support the ongoing efforts of the following organizations that currently serve the homeless and those threatened with homelessness: the Open Doors Homeless Coalition Continuum of Care, LIFE, Catholic Community and Social Services, Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Back Bay Mission, Gulf Coast Rescue Mission, the Biloxi Housing Authority, the Veterans Administration and others.

The City of Biloxi is an active participant in the MS-503 Gulf Coast Continuum of Care, a multi-county, multi-agency effort to address the full continuum of care for people experiencing homelessness. The City will continue to participate and will actively support efforts to obtain HUD and other funding to broaden the spectrum of services available to people experiencing homelessness and increase and improve current levels of services. In addition, the City will continue to support efforts of the Open Doors Homeless Coalition/MS-503 CoC to assess and address the needs of homeless persons and to obtain grant funding to assist those on the verge of becoming homeless.

#### **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 City works with the Open Doors Homeless Coalition/MS-503 CoC and other public service agencies serving people experiencing homelessness with shelter, food, clothing, etc. and will continue to work with the CoC to establish methods for assessing the needs of people experiencing homelessness. The CoC interviews homeless persons in Biloxi through coordinated entry in an attempt to identify their immediate and long-term needs to determine what can be done to comprehensively meet those needs so that self-sufficiency and economic independence in a permanent housing environment can be attained.

During PY2019, the City will not receive funding through HOME, ESG or HOPWA, but will participate in on-going efforts to reduce homelessness through the allocation of \$20,000 in PY2019 CDBG funds for a housing assistance public service activity that will provide rent, utility and security deposit assistance to qualified, eligible near-homeless and homeless families with children and veterans to assist them in accessing affordable housing in Biloxi. In addition to the \$20,000 in PY2019 CDBG resources, the City

budgeted \$272,001 from its first CDBG-CV allocation to prevent and address increased homelessness in Biloxi resulting from the coronavirus by providing up to six months' rent and utility assistance to qualified Biloxi residents. Because other federal sources of funding have been made available for rent and utility assistance, the City reprogrammed the unexpended balance of \$217,597 to assist in funding a new Public Facility Project through substantial amendment #3 to the 2019 Action Plan.

The City also is working with the Open Doors Homeless Coalition and other dedicated local nonprofits to effectively end chronic homelessness in Biloxi by the end of the year and to effectively end homelessness among families and youth by 2020.

### **Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons**

The City will continue to support efforts of agencies to secure increased funding from HUD and other agencies to provide rental and mortgage assistance payments for those in crisis.

The City will continue to support efforts of the Open Doors Homeless Coalition/MS-503 CoC to secure grant funding through the Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG) to assist families on the verge of becoming homeless with counseling services, financial assistance and long-term solutions.

**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 need for expanded or additional emergency shelter facilities and supportive services has been established from data supplied to the City by agencies such as the Open Doors Homeless Coalition/MS-503 CoC, Back Bay Mission, the Mississippi Center for Justice and Interfaith Hospitality Network. Strategies for addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless individuals and families include the following actions:

- \$20,000 in PY2019 CDBG funds are budgeted to assist near homeless and homeless families with children and veterans (as first priority) in securing affordable housing through the provision of rent, utility and security deposit assistance to improve access to affordable housing. This public service activity will be a collaborative effort between the City and local housing-supportive service agencies to identify qualified, eligible participants and to document beneficiaries for HUD compliance purposes. The \$272,001 allocation of CDBG-CV CARES Act funds also will be used to prevent and address increased homelessness in Biloxi resulting from the coronavirus. In response to other federal funds becoming available to provide rent and utility assistance, the City approved substantial amendment #3, reprogramming the unexpended balance of \$217,597

from the CARES Act to a new Public Facility Project that also will benefit homeless and near-homeless populations in Biloxi.

- The City will support applications from agencies currently providing emergency shelter and supportive housing to people experiencing homelessness. Agencies such as the Open Doors Homeless Coalition/MS-503 CoC, Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence, Women’s Resource and Empowerment Center (a subsidiary of the Center for Environmental and Economic Justice), Gulf Coast Rescue Mission and others will be supported by the City in their efforts to expand the capacity of such programs.
- The City will support agencies serving Biloxi residents that seek funding opportunities to establish a transitional housing program with facilities and supportive services.

**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.**

The City will support applications for federal and state funding to assist housing and supportive service providers in obtaining funds for the continuation and expansion of services and facilities that help low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially the extremely low-income and those who are being discharged from public institutions and systems of care or receiving assistance from agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education and youth needs.

The City also will support agencies and applications for funding to continue and expand programs and facilities to meet the needs of mentally, developmentally and physically disabled persons. Agencies such as the South Mississippi Regional Center, LIFE, Gulf Coast Mental Health and the Mental Health Association of Mississippi will continue to be supported.

## **Discussion**

The City will continue to support agencies such as the Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII , Biloxi Housing Authority and Catholic Community and Social Services in their efforts to obtain more housing and housing assistance for the elderly through programs such as Public Housing Development Grants, Housing Choice Vouchers, HUD Section 201 and 811 Housing, and Tax Credits.

The City will support applications for funding to assist agencies such as the Catholic Community and Social Services and American Red Cross with programs to assist the elderly with reducing utility costs and paying utility bills through Weatherization and LIHEAP. Programs such as Meals on Wheels, which delivers meals to homebound elderly persons, Coastal Family Health Center and other home health

programs will be supported in their efforts to assist the elderly and frail elderly.

The City will support agencies and applications for funding to continue and expand programs and facilities to meet the needs of mentally, developmentally and physically disabled persons. Agencies such as the South Mississippi Regional Center, LIFE, Gulf Coast Mental Health and the Mental Health Association of Mississippi will continue to be supported.

### **AP-75 Barriers to affordable housing – 91.220(j)**

During development of the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan, the need for affordable permanent housing and affordable rental housing was identified by community leaders and citizens as one of the greatest challenges facing the City of Biloxi. To foster and maintain affordable housing and remove barriers to affordable housing, the City will do the following during the 2019 Program Year:

- Continue to work with and support efforts of the Biloxi Housing Authority to expand public housing and improve existing public housing;
- Continue to support grant applications of local nonprofit agencies for local rehabilitation loan and grant programs;
- Continue to support grant applications of local nonprofit agencies for emergency shelter services and programs;
- Continue to support efforts of various agencies to obtain HOME funding to broaden much-needed opportunities for homebuyer education and assistance for homeownership; and
- Work to implement the City's public education outreach plan to educate the public about the responsibilities of lenders, realtors, developers, landlords and others to provide access to all citizens in compliance with the Fair Housing Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act as well as to inform the public about their rights under the law.

**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**

Biloxi's Comprehensive Land Development Ordinance, which includes subdivision regulations, provides for zero lot line developments and includes other land use provisions that encourage construction of affordable housing developments. An analysis of the Official Zoning Map of Biloxi reveals that a range of residential activities are permitted city wide so that affordable multi-family residential apartments and homes of all types and prices are not clustered in a single geographic area.

The City's Community Court helps maintain property values throughout the City through code enforcement activities that support public health and safety as well as promote basic maintenance of structures and preclude illegal dumping. This comprehensive, citywide code enforcement effort helps

maintain property values for all homeowners and regulates rehabilitation to safeguard the safety of renters and home buyers.

### **Discussion**

During PY2019, a portion of CDBG program administration funds will assist with implementing the fair housing educational outreach plan as part of its ongoing effort to remove and ameliorate barriers to fair housing. This includes conducting workshops in partnership with the Biloxi Housing Authority, the Mississippi Center for Justice, the Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence and the Open Doors Homeless Coalition Continuum of Care to educate the public about rights and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Funds also will be used to complete the statewide Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice update.

### **AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)**

To meet other unmet community needs identified during development of the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan and the 2019 Action Plan, the City budgeted a portion of its CDBG funds for public service activities. A total of \$65,000 originally was budgeted for PY2019 public service activities and substantial amendment #1 to the 2019 Action Plan budgeted the City's CDBG-CV CARES Act allocation of \$272,001 to a new public services activity to prevent and address increased homelessness in Biloxi due to the coronavirus. Because other federal funding sources were made available for rent and utility assistance, the City proposed in March 2022 to reprogram the unexpended balance of \$217,597 to assist in funding construction of a new Public Facility Project to benefit homeless and near-homeless populations.

#### **Affordable, High Quality Early Childhood Education and Development Services**

To support affordable, high quality early childhood education and development services for children six weeks to three years old, \$25,000 is budgeted for Moore Community House, which has a track record of success administering federally- and state-funded public programs for the benefit of Biloxi residents. CDBG funds budgeted for this activity leverage additional private, state and local funds. The program is available to income-qualified Biloxi families who also comply with program participation requirements.

#### **Early Childhood Education and Development Services for Victims of Domestic Violence**

The Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence is licensed to provide an early childhood education and development program, which is limited to families that are sheltered at or receiving services from the center. PY2019 CDBG funding in the amount of \$10,000 will help support the program and will leverage other private, state and local resources. The activity meets HUD's Limited Clientele presumption of

benefit for children who have experienced domestic violence but will be supported with required income documentation to verify low/mod benefit compliance.

### **Access to Affordable Housing through Rent, Utility and Security Deposit Assistance**

The Open Doors Homeless Coalition/MS-503 CoC is certified by HUD to administer federally funded homeless and housing programs. PY2019 CDBG funds will provide rent, utility and security deposit assistance for eligible families with children and veterans (first priority) in their efforts to avoid or address homelessness by supporting compliance with “move-in” requirements to access affordable housing in Biloxi. The City’s CDBG funds will assist on a “first come-first served” basis until the \$20,000 cap is reached. The activity meets HUD’s Limited Clientele presumption of benefit for people experiencing homelessness, which will be supported with required income documentation to verify low/mod benefit compliance.

### **Summer Education Program for Eligible Low/Mod Children**

The City also will support a summer education program provided by New Bethel CDC for eligible children from low- to moderate-income households. The 8-week program will help prepare children, ages 5-12, for the upcoming school year through reading, writing, math, computer and English as a Second Language classes. \$10,000 in PY2019 CDBG funds is budgeted to purchase teacher resources, books, classroom supplies and meals/snacks for the children and to fund field trip expenses. The program operates Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### **Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs**

The City and local service providers will address the housing and supportive service needs of special groups that are underserved as follows:

The City will support applications for federal and state funding to assist housing and supportive service providers in obtaining funds for continuation and expansion of services and facilities. The City will continue to support agencies such as the Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII, Biloxi Housing Authority, the Open Doors Homeless Coalition/ MS-503 CoC, Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence and Catholic Community and Social Services in their efforts to obtain more housing and housing assistance for the underserved through various housing programs.

The City will support applications for funding to assist agencies such as the Catholic Community and Social Services and American Red Cross with programs to assist the elderly with reducing utility costs and paying utility bills through Weatherization and LIHEAP. Programs such as Meals on Wheels, which delivers meals to homebound elderly, Coastal Family Health Center and other home health programs

will be supported in their efforts to assist the elderly and frail elderly.

The City will support agencies and applications for funding to continue and expand programs and facilities to meet the needs of mentally, developmentally and physically disabled persons. Agencies such as the South Mississippi Regional Center, LIFE, Gulf Coast Mental Health and the Mental Health Association of South Mississippi will continue to be supported.

The City will continue to support efforts to sustain and expand programs and facilities to address the needs of persons who have alcohol or drug addictions. Agencies such as the Coastal Family Health Center, Salvation Army, Gulf Coast Rescue Mission and others will be supported in their efforts to develop new facilities to house and counsel persons addicted to drugs or alcohol.

The City will endorse and support efforts to establish a health facility specifically devoted to health care for persons with HIV/AIDS and will endorse and actively support efforts to develop broad educational programs focused on AIDS prevention.

The City will continue to support agencies and applications for funding agencies providing a full array of services that support the low- and moderate-income population and help persons to avoid homelessness. The following programs, among others, will be supported as well as applications for funding: American Red Cross, Meals on Wheels, Loaves & Fishes and Back Bay Mission.

The City will support agency efforts to assist public housing residents in making the transition to independent living. Agencies such as the Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII, Biloxi Housing Authority, Salvation Army, Boys and Girls Clubs, Moore Community House and Interfaith Hospitality Network will be supported in efforts to provide public housing residents with opportunities to seek gainful employment and economic self-sufficiency. Programs such as resident initiatives, economic development training, homeownership, comprehensive day care programs, and youth programs will be encouraged and supported.

### **Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing**

To foster and maintain affordable housing and remove barriers to affordable housing, the City will do the following during the 2019 Program Year:

- Continue to work with and support efforts of the Biloxi Housing Authority to expand public housing and improve existing public housing.
- Continue to support applications for local rehabilitation loan and grant programs.
- Continue to support efforts of various agencies to obtain HOME funding to broaden much-needed opportunities for homebuyer education and assistance for homeownership.
- In Program Year 2019, the City will partner with local nonprofit agencies such as the Open Doors Homeless Coalition/MS-503 Continuum of Care, the Biloxi Housing Authority, the Mississippi

Center for Justice and others to implement an educational outreach program to promote compliance with the Fair Housing Act and to support the rights of those protected by the Act.

- The City will continue to implement its Fair Housing Plan in an ongoing effort to affirmatively advance fair housing and eliminate discrimination. The City also will assist in completing the statewide Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice.

### **Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards**

During PY2019, the City will continue to educate the public about lead-based paint hazards, including information about testing and abatement, if necessary, in accordance with EPA requirements.

The City's code enforcement efforts require that housing structures being substantially rehabilitated or repaired be upgraded to code standards to eliminate or reduce exposure to lead-based paint exposure.

The Biloxi Housing Authority will continue to require abatement of lead-based hazards prior to public housing rehabilitation or renovation.

The Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VIII will abate any lead-based paint reported in its LRPB units with funds from its Comprehensive Grant Program. The Regional Housing Authority will continue its inspection program requiring owners of housing units inspected for Section 8 eligibility scrape and repaint any surface areas where paint is chipping or peeling. The agency will continue its lead-based paint hazard education program by providing informational literature to Section 8 families with children less than six years of age.

### **Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families**

In addition to capitalizing on redevelopment opportunities and encouraging economic growth, the City will continue to do the following during PY2019 to help reduce the number of poverty-level families:

- Invest PY2019 CDBG resources to improve access to affordable housing in Biloxi through rent, utility and security deposit assistance for qualified families with children and veterans to prevent or address homelessness;
- Continue to support programs of the Biloxi Housing Authority to provide employment training opportunities to public housing residents and support the establishment of afterschool care programs, which will allow parents a chance to seek and maintain gainful employment while children are cared for by qualified agencies;
- Invest PY2019 CDBG resources to support affordable, quality early childhood education and development programs for children in qualified, income-eligible families to support parents' efforts to secure and maintain jobs or complete their education or training;
- Continue to support the local job training programs that focus on jobs for Biloxi residents;
- Continue its commitment to maintain existing infrastructure, including but not limited to water and sewer lines and streets, to serve business and industry and will continue implementing its

capital projects program to upgrade and improve infrastructure to accommodate, encourage and induce diverse economic development;

- Continue street improvements at major thoroughfares to ensure that traffic congestion does not adversely impact economic development efforts;
- Continue to use federal and state resources to position Biloxi so that development and redevelopment opportunities will be available;
- Continue its policy of encouraging investment and creation of jobs and will, to the maximum extent feasible, encourage investors to employ local residents.
- Continue to work with and support local agencies to expand affordable housing options.

### **Actions planned to develop institutional structure**

The Open Doors Homeless Coalition/MS-503 Continuum of Care assists the City in maintaining an effective coordinated system of housing and related services to meet the needs of all Biloxi citizens and the City of Biloxi plans to continue working as an active member of the CoC during PY2019. By participating with Open Doors and its 50+ other members, the City maintains effective communication and shares critical information with public and private housing and social service agencies that form the local institutional structure.

Adherence to the Biloxi Citizen Participation Plan will assist the City in its efforts to strengthen the institutional structure within the jurisdiction as it requires public notice regarding planned and proposed CDBG-funded activities. In addition to posting and publishing notices regarding the City's CDBG Entitlement Program, the City mails invitations to meetings and public hearings to local public and private housing and social service agencies to encourage their participation and input.

In PY2019, the City of Biloxi will take a pro-active role in implementing its Consolidated Plan and its Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (A.I.). Public service and housing providers will work to ensure that applications for HUD programs affected by the Consolidated Plan are consistent with the A.I.

The City will support coordinated efforts of the social service agencies in addressing the full continuum of care for the homeless and those with special needs.

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

In an effort to enhance coordination between public and private housing and public service agencies during PY2019, the City will continue to participate as an active member of the regional CoC and to adhere to its Citizen Participation Plan, which requires publication and distribution of information regarding the CDBG Entitlement Program.

The City will continue to share information about federal, state and local funding opportunities with

local agencies and organizations that provide housing and public service assistance to Biloxi residents. The City also will conduct an annual mailout to local agencies and organizations to encourage their participation in development and implementation of each CDBG Action Plan in an effort to strengthen the institutional structure within the jurisdiction.

The City will support coordinated efforts of the public service agencies in addressing the full continuum of care for the homeless.

### **Discussion**

The City of Biloxi recognizes that its actions have significant bearing on economic development and private investment in the community. The City remains proactive in its efforts to encourage local economic development and redevelopment. The City has used such programs as Tax Increment Financing, the Urban Renewal Program, the CDBG Program, and others to revitalize and redevelop areas of Biloxi; it is participating in the new federal Opportunity Zone Program, with three designated areas. This pro-development attitude has helped attract resort gaming venues, new business and industry and, in effect, has created thousands of new jobs thereby helping to reduce local poverty levels.

### **AP-90 Program Specific Requirements – 91.220(l)(1,2,4)**

The CDBG Entitlement Program is authorized under Title I of the Housing and Development Act of 1974, as amended. The primary objective of Title I is development of viable urban communities. These viable communities are achieved by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities.

Eligible CDBG activities must meet one of the program's three national policy objectives: benefit low- to moderate-income persons; aid in preventing or eliminating slums or blight; or address a need with a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health and welfare of the community.

### **2019 Program Year Activities & Funding:**

The City of Biloxi received a CDBG entitlement allocation of \$470,034 for PY2019 and anticipated generating \$248,180 in program income. \$31,947 in funds was carried over from previous years. PY2019 CDBG resources were budgeted as follows: Program Administration \$100,000; East Biloxi East-West Neighborhood Access Road Project, Phase I \$585,161; and Public Services \$65,000.

Approved in June 2020, substantial amendment #1 to the 2019 Action Plan budgeted \$272,001 from the City's first CARES Act allocation to prevent and address increased homelessness in Biloxi resulting from

the coronavirus. CARES Act funds were used to provide up to six consecutive months of rent assistance primarily to homeless populations and other qualified residents.

Developed during April - June 2021, substantial amendment#2 to the 2019 Action Plan budgeted \$722,212 from the third round CDBG-CV CARES Act allocation for a public facilities and improvements project to rehabilitate a building as a coordinated entry center. The new center proposed to offer primarily homeless and at-risk of homelessness populations a safe environment to support social distancing while being assessed for housing assistance and supportive services as part of the comprehensive effort to address and prevent the spread of coronavirus.

The property owner of the facility being considered for rehabilitation through substantial amendment #2 was not committed to selling in the near term, therefore the City approved substantial amendment #3, reallocating the \$722,212 from the third CDBG-CV allocation and combining it with the unexpended balance of \$217,597 from its first CARES Act allocation to fund construction of a public facility on property owned by Open Doors.

The new building was planned to achieve the same goal as described in substantial amendment #2, prevent and address the spread of COVID-19 by providing Biloxi's homeless and near-homeless populations with adequate social distancing space while being assessed and linked to housing assistance. Based on input from the HUD Field Office, concern about complying with CDBG-CV expenditure deadlines prevented the project from going forward.

Substantial amendment #4 to the 2019 Action Plan was approved, reallocating the \$939,809 of unexpended CDBG-CV funds to prepare for future disasters by improving the City-owned Gruich Community Center as a dual community center and local disaster response facility. Improved air quality, circulation and ventilation from the proposed improvements will benefit the 7,315 residents living in the qualified project service area in addition to Biloxi's homeless and near-homeless populations.

Following award of the contract for the Gruich Public Facilities Improvement Project, substantial amendment #5 to the 2019 Action Plan was proposed and is in the process of being developed during December 2025 - January 2026 to reallocate the remaining balance of the City's CARES Act funds to a second Public Facilities Improvement Project that will support the City's efforts to prepare for future federally-designated disasters. The City proposes to purchase and install filtered water stations at existing public facilities located in qualified project service areas on a citywide basis. The project will help ensure that low- to moderate-income residents, in addition to homeless and near-homeless populations, have access to safe drinking water during future federally-designated disasters.

**Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)  
Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(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	0
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
<b>Total Program Income:</b>	<b>0</b>

**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.	100.00%

The City estimates that 100% of 2019 CDBG funds will be invested in activities to benefit those who qualify as low- to moderate-income.

Overall benefit is determined based on the one-year period, October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020, which is the City of Biloxi's 2019 CDBG Program Year.

**Citizen Participation Documentation, Maps, HUD Forms &  
Certifications will be attached to the Final Document  
submitted to HUD for approval**



**PROPOSED SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT #7  
TO THE 2015-2019 CONSOLIDATED PLAN FOR THE CITY OF BILOXI  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ENTITLEMENT PROGRAM**

**Proposed Substantial Amendment #7:** Developed during December 2025 – February 2026, a 7th substantial amendment to Biloxi’s 2025-2019 Consolidated Plan is proposed to authorize a new project to prepare for future disasters by improving public facilities for the benefit of residents living in qualified project service areas, in addition to Biloxi’s homeless and near-homeless populations.

Concurrently with substantial amendment #7 to the Consolidated Plan, the City is proposing **substantial amendment #5 to the 2019 Action Plan** to reallocate \$300,059, the City’s combined balance of CARES Act funds (from the first and third CDBG-CV allocations) to support a new project as part of the City’s overall effort to prepare for future disasters. The available balance is proposed to be reallocated to fund a Filtered Water Stations (FWS) Public Facilities Improvement Project that will expand access to safe drinking water for residents living in qualified project services areas, as identified by HUD’s U.S. Census data by Census Tract/Block Group. The FWS will be located in primarily residential, low- to moderate-income areas to ensure that no-cost drinking water is available to residents during future federally-declared disasters.

Text proposed to be revised or inserted through the proposed substantial amendment is underlined.

## **ES-05 Executive Summary - 24 CFR 91.200(c), 91.220(b)**

As a condition of receiving CDBG entitlement funds, the City of Biloxi must submit a 5-year Consolidated Plan identifying its housing and community development needs and priorities, and an annual Action Plan identifying how the City plans to allocate its CDBG resources to address those needs. Beginning with PY2015, the City is required to use HUD's new Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS) and to submit the Consolidated Plan directly to HUD through IDIS.

The Consolidated Plan consists of three sections: identifying housing and community development needs through data assessment; a housing market analysis; and a strategic plan prioritizing housing and community development needs and strategies the City plans to use with available HUD resources over the five-year planning period.

### **2. Summary of the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan Needs Assessment Overview**

The primary objective throughout development of the City of Biloxi's 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan and 2015 Action Plan was to identify the community's priority needs, especially in areas that primarily consist of low- to moderate-income residents, and to identify how City resources may most effectively be used to address those needs. Provision of basic services, including improved police and fire safety services, were identified as top priorities as was the alleviation of recurring flooding in Central and West Biloxi, street and sidewalk and other public improvements in Central and East Biloxi, and expanded affordable public transportation throughout the City. The need to maximize the effective and efficient use of limited public resources also was identified as a priority outcome. Enhancing the City's existing recreational assets, especially Hiller Park, was also identified as a top community objective, which would expand their use by residents without incurring acquisition costs for new recreation areas. To accomplish objectives and achieve desired outcomes, the City will continue to work to improve communication with and among existing nonprofit service agencies to avoid duplication and address gaps in services.

### **3. Evaluation of past performance**

The City of Biloxi is in good standing with HUD in terms of managing its CDBG Program, as documented by approved CAPERs and compliance with HUD's 70% expenditure requirement. Annual objectives and goals generally are accomplished. Systems and procedures are in place to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of projects as well as compliance with HUD regulations. Through its CAPER, City officials and

staff annually evaluate past performance of Biloxi's CDBG entitlement program and discuss ideas for continued improvement in terms of efficiency and achieving objectives.

#### **4. Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process**

The citizen participation process began in June with an interagency meeting on June 26, 2014 to solicit input from the public and private agencies and organizations that work on an on-going basis to meet the housing and non-housing community needs of Biloxi citizens. Letters were mailed to invite agencies that on a regular basis work to help address the housing and non-housing needs of Biloxi residents. The meeting was well attended and considerable input was offered, as reflected in attached meeting minutes and written comments.

On July 17, 2014, the City published in a local newspaper a notice of information availability relative to its Consolidated and Action Plans and on August 21 and September 4, 2014, the City published in a local newspaper a notice of a citywide public hearing and encouraged public input. The public hearing notice was posted on the City's website, at City Hall, the Biloxi Housing Authority and four branches of the Biloxi Public Library. To broaden public participation, a special effort was made to inform nonEnglish speaking residents about the public hearing and planning process by preparing notices in English, Vietnamese and Hispanic and delivering them to local nonprofit agencies that serve Biloxi's nonEnglish speaking citizens, in addition to posting the notices in three languages at sites identified in the City's citizen participation plan. The public hearing was held on September 10, 2014 in the Biloxi Community Development auditorium. Comments were invited to be submitted orally and in writing.

On September 25, 2014, the City published a notice of availability of the Draft Consolidated and Action Plans and the public was invited to submit comments orally and in writing. The notice was posted in the same locations as the public hearing notice and also delivered in three languages to agencies serving local nonEnglish-speaking residents. All comments received in writing, or orally at the public hearing, prior to the close of business on October 27, 2014 were considered by the City in preparing final plans for submission to HUD.

The first substantial amendment to the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan was developed in 2018; the City substantially amended its Consolidated Plan for the second time during a January - March 2019 process; for a third time during February – April 2019 ; a fourth time during an April - June 2020 process; a fifth time during April - June 2021; a sixth time during November 2024 – January 2025; and is in the process of developing a 7<sup>th</sup> substantial amendment during December 2025 – February 2026. All substantial amendments are developed in compliance with

the Biloxi Citizen Participation Plan, as described in PR-15. Information about HUD’s consultation process is provided in templates PR-10 Consultation and PR-15 Citizen Participation.

## 5. Summary of public comments

A summary of public comments is included in the Citizen Participation attachment to this document.

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

All oral and written comments received during development of the Biloxi Consolidated Plan, 2015 Action Plan and Consolidated Plan Substantial Amendments were reviewed and considered by the City.

## 7. Summary

The Consolidated Plan was **substantially amended for the first time** in August 2018 to incorporate updated information as follows:

- change Biloxi's Program Year to correlate with its fiscal year;
- change its status in the Gulfport-Harrison County HOME Consortium to nonparticipating;
- expand activities for which CDBG resources may be used; and
- clarify public service activities that the City may fund with CDBG resources to assist in addressing high-priority, unmet needs that are CDBG-eligible.

The Consolidated Plan was **substantially amended for a second time** in March 2019 to add the East Biloxi Business Facade Grant Program as a new activity to be funded with CDBG resources, which will benefit a primarily residential project service area in which a majority of low- to moderate-income residents live. It also was developed in compliance with the Biloxi Citizen Participation Plan.

The Consolidated Plan was **substantially amended for a third time** in April 2019 to add the John Henry Beck Park Restrooms Project as a new activity to be funded with CDBG resources, which will benefit a primarily residential project service area in which a majority of low- to moderate-income residents live. It also was developed in compliance with the Biloxi Citizen Participation Plan.

The Consolidated Plan was **substantially amended for a fourth time** in June 2020 to expand high priority public services needs to allow a CARES Act allocation of \$272,001 to be budgeted as an available resource for Program Year 2019 to help prevent and address increased homelessness in Biloxi caused by COVID-19.

The City approved a **fifth Consolidated Plan substantial amendment** in June 2021 to add Public Facilities and Improvements as a new goal and identifying it as a high priority need, concurrently with approving substantial amendment #2 to the 2019 Action Plan, which budgeted a CARES Act allocation of \$722,212 to rehabilitate an existing facility into a coordinated entry center. The project was planned to help prevent and address the spread of coronavirus in Biloxi by providing a safe environment for homeless and at-risk of homelessness populations to seek housing assistance and related supportive services.

The City approved a **sixth substantial amendment** in January 2025 to clarify substantial amendment #5. Budgeting of CDBG and/or CDBG-CV (CARES Act) funds to prepare for future disasters by improving public facilities may benefit eligible residents living in an improvement project's designated service area in addition to serving those in Biloxi who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless. Concurrently, a fourth substantial amendment to the 2019 Action Plan was considered to reallocate unexpended CARES Act funds of \$939,808.99 to fund a new public facilities improvements project as part of the public effort to prepare for future disasters. The project created by substantial amendment #5 to the Consolidated Plan will be replaced by the Gruich Community Center Improvements Project created by substantial amendment #6, to support the Center's dual role as an East Biloxi community center and local disaster response facility. Beneficiaries of the new project will include the estimated 7,135 income-eligible residents living in the project service area in addition to Biloxi's homeless and near-homeless populations.

The City is proposing a **seventh substantial amendment** to its CDBG Consolidated Plan during a December 2025 – January 2026 development process to authorize a new public facilities improvement project that will provide access to filtered drinking water in qualified project service areas to ensure residents have access to safe drinking water during future disasters. Concurrently, a fifth substantial amendment to the 2019 Action Plan is being proposed to fund the new project through reallocation of \$300,059, the combined, unencumbered balance of the City's two CDBG-CV allocations. According to HUD's U.S. Census data, the proposed new project will benefit an estimated \_\_\_ residents (to be determined) living in the qualified project service areas, in addition to Biloxi's estimated 178 sheltered and unsheltered homeless people (based on the City's 2025 Point In Time Count) , as part of the City's overall effort to prepare for future federally-declared disasters.

## **PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies 24 CFR 91.200(b)**

**1. Describe agency/entity responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source**

<b>Agency Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Department/Agency</b>
CDBG Administrator	City of Biloxi	Engineering Department, Federal Programs

**Table 1 – Responsible Agencies**

**Narrative**

The City of Biloxi's Engineering Department is the lead agency responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and for administration of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program.

**Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information**

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**PR-10 Consultation - 91.100, 91.110, 91.200(b), 91.300(b), 91.215(I) and 91.315(I)**

As required by HUD regulations, the City of Biloxi consulted with public and private agencies and organizations and neighboring local units of government that provide housing and non-housing health and other services to meet the various needs of Biloxi's low- to moderate-income residents. Agencies consulted include the Biloxi Housing Authority, Open Doors Homeless Coalition Continuum of Care, South Mississippi AIDS Task Force, the Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence, Back Bay Mission, Mississippi Gulf Coast Habitat for Humanity, Visions of Hope, Biloxi NAACP, Mental Health Association of South Mississippi, Coastal Family Health Center, Moore Community House, Gulf Coast Rescue Mission, Loaves and Fishes, Mississippi Regional Housing Authority Number VIII, and neighboring local units of government.

**Provide a concise summary of the jurisdiction’s activities to enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers and private and governmental health, mental health and service agencies (91.215(l)).**

To enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers, private and governmental health, mental health and services agencies, the City of Biloxi invited all known housing, social and health services agencies to an interagency meeting on June 26, 2014 to share information about the Consolidated and Action Plan process and purpose, to begin identifying the community's current and projected needs, and to discuss ways to improve the local delivery of services to those in need. As a result of this meeting, the City of Biloxi has updated its mailing and email lists so that it may continue to inform these agencies about planning efforts, funding opportunities, changes in policies or procedures, and other information that they may find useful. Agencies involved with providing housing and related services agreed that by meeting and sharing information on an on-going basis, local programs may be better coordinated and resources maximized to reduce duplication of effort.

**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 City of Biloxi met frequently with the Open Doors Homeless Coalition, the designated Continuum of Care, throughout development of the Consolidated and Action Plans. In these meetings, the City and CoC discussed local and regional efforts and the limited resources available to provide housing assistance and services for homeless persons, especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and unaccompanied youth. It was agreed that by working together to increase public awareness of homelessness, local efforts will have a better opportunity to meet housing and service needs.

The Federal Programs Manager, who has the day-to-day responsibility of administering the CDBG Program, attends regular meetings of the Continuum of Care and the Executive Director of the Open Doors Homeless Coalition attended and provided oral and written comments for the City's Consolidated and Action Plan public hearing. Information provided by the Continuum of Care identified the extent of the local homeless problem, as well as information for the needs assessment, resulting in the City's support for budgeting Harrison County HOME Consortium funds in 2015 for construction of rental housing for homeless persons, especially the chronically homeless, families with children, veterans and unaccompanied youth, and development of a tenant-based rental assistance program targeted to assist homeless veterans and families with children.

**Describe consultation with the Continuum(s) of Care that serves the jurisdiction's area in determining how to allocate ESG funds, develop performance standards and evaluate outcomes, and develop funding, policies and procedures for the administration of HMIS**

The City of Biloxi does not receive ESG funds but provides feedback to and supports the efforts of the Continuum of Care to administer its ESG award to best meet the needs of Biloxi citizens.

**2. Describe Agencies, groups, organizations and others who participated in the process and describe the jurisdictions consultations with housing, social service agencies and other entities**

**Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated**

1	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Open Doors Homeless Coalition
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services – Housing, Services-homeless, Service-Fair Housing
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment, Homelessness Strategy, Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless, Homeless Needs - Families with children, Homelessness Needs – Veterans, Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The Open Doors Homeless Coalition is the local Continuum of Care and works with its member agencies, such as the Salvation Army and Back Bay Mission, to comprehensively address and end homelessness in Biloxi. Regular meetings were held and emails exchanged throughout development of the Consolidated and Action Plans. The City anticipates that this exchange of information and data will continue as it moves forward in support of developing and implementing tenant-based rental programs with funding from the Harrison County HOME Consortium. According to HUDexchange.info, there is a known issue with the PR-10 screen. Even after receiving an emailed response to question id 38537, it was not possible to insert and save data about the agencies and organizations the City consulted with during development of the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan.
2	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Biloxi Housing Authority
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	PHA, Services – Housing, Services-homeless, Service-Fair Housing, Business and Civic Leaders
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment, Lead-based Paint Strategy, Public Housing Needs, Homelessness Strategy, Homeless Needs - Families with children, Homelessness Needs – Veterans, Non-Homeless Special Needs, Market Analysis, Anti-poverty Strategy

	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The City has ongoing communication with the Biloxi Housing Authority and requests the agency's input on an annual basis regarding Biloxi's CDBG Action Plan as well as implementation of its Five-Year Consolidated Plan. For development of the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan, the BHA was invited to and attended the initial interagency meeting and met with the City and its consultant on several occasions to provide and discuss information for development of the needs assessment, market analysis and strategy. The City anticipates that this collaborative working relationship will continue throughout the five-year period of the Consolidated Plan.
3	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Coastal Family Health Center
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-homeless, Services-Health, Health Agency
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Lead-based Paint Strategy, Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless, Homeless Needs - Families with children, Homelessness Needs – Veterans, Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth, Non-Homeless Special Needs
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Coastal Family Health Center and the Gulf Coast Mental Health Association were invited to the initial interagency meeting for development of the Consolidated Plan and encouraged to complete questionnaires providing information about their clientele and services provided. The Coastal Family Health Center submitted written comments that were incorporated into the needs assessment.
4	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	South MS AIDS Task Force
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Housing, Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS, Services-Health, Regional organization
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment, HOPWA Strategy
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The South MS AIDS Task Force was invited to and participated in the initial interagency meeting. Written comments also were submitted that provided data about clients and their needs, which was incorporated into the needs assessment.
5	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Back Bay Mission
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services – Housing, Services-homeless, Services-Employment
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment, Homelessness Strategy, Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless, Homeless Needs - Families with children, Homelessness Needs – Veterans, Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth

	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Back Bay Mission was invited to and participated in the initial interagency meeting and submitted written comments that were incorporated into the needs assessment and strategy. The City has a good working relationship with this nonprofit that provides numerous services to Biloxi's low- to moderate-income households and the homeless.
6	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Mississippi Center for Justice
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Service-Fair Housing, Regional organization
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment, Non-Homeless Special Needs, Market Analysis
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	The Mississippi Center for Justice was invited to the initial interagency meeting and met with the City's consultant to provide information about its clientele and services provided. An anticipated outcome of the consultations is that the City and MCJ plan to work together to organize and conduct annual workshops to educate the public, owners of housing units and renters/buyers of Fair Housing Act regulations to alleviate housing discrimination.
7	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Gulf Coast Women's Center For Nonviolence
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Victims of Domestic Violence
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment, Homeless Needs - Families with children, Market Analysis
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	While the GCWC was not able to attend the initial interagency meeting, the staff was helpful in providing the City's consultant with information during phone interviews and in written data submitted that detailed its clients and services provided. The director also submitted written comments that were considered by the City. The City anticipates continuation of its support for the efforts of this nonprofit to meet the needs of victims of domestic violence and their children.
8	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	LIFE of South Mississippi
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services-Elderly Persons, Services-Persons with Disabilities, Service-Fair Housing
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment, Non-Homeless Special Needs, Market Analysis
	<b>How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	LIFE participated in the initial interagency meeting and provided information about the housing and service needs of disabled citizens, including the elderly, which were incorporated into the needs assessment and market analysis. The City will continue to work with this nonprofit to educate the public about the Americans with Disabilities Act regulations to better meet the needs of the disabled.

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

Not applicable

**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?
Continuum of Care	Open Doors Homeless Coalition	The City and the Open Doors Homeless Coalition share the goals of ending homelessness for veterans in 2015 and for families with children by 2016.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

**Describe cooperation and coordination with other public entities, including the State and any adjacent units of general local government, in the implementation of the Consolidated Plan (91.215(l))**

The City of Gulfport, as Lead Agency for the Harrison County HOME Consortium, was invited to attend the June 26, 2014 interagency meeting and to provide input to help identify housing and community development needs in Biloxi. Harrison County and Jackson County representatives also were invited to participate and provide input into the planning and assessment process; a representative of the Harrison County Health Department attended the June 26, 2014 meeting. Invitations also were extended to the Mayors of the adjacent city to the north, D'Iberville, and to the east, Ocean Springs. The director of the South Mississippi Regional Center, which receives mental health service public funds, was invited to the meeting as well as director of the Gulf Coast Mental Health agency. Representatives of both the Biloxi Housing Authority and the Mississippi Regional Housing Authority No. VIII attended the interagency meeting and provided input into development of the Plans.

Letters with questionnaires also were sent to neighboring jurisdictions, including Harrison and Jackson County officials, requesting input into the Consolidated Plan about projects and programs that might benefit from a multijurisdictional approach. Input from business and civic leaders also was invited during public Council meetings and the public hearing regarding planning. As of October 28, 2014, no response had been received.

The Mississippi State Department of Health, Environmental Division was very helpful in providing information about instances of Lead-Based Paint contamination reported in the City of Biloxi, which was incorporated into the Consolidated Plan.

The substantial amendments to the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan were developed in compliance with Biloxi's Citizen Participation Plan; notices were published in the local newspaper; fliers were posted at various public locations and on the City's website; and letters and emails were sent to local nonprofit agencies that provide public services in Biloxi to invite and encourage participation into development of the amendments.

**Narrative (optional):**

The social service agencies that work to meet the needs of citizens of Biloxi provide a diverse array of services and work collaboratively to maximize use of limited resources. Through coordination efforts of the Open Doors Homeless Coalition Continuum of Care, homelessness in Biloxi is beginning to be better addressed.

**PR-15 Citizen Participation – 91.105, 91.115, 91.200(c) and 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**

The City initiated its citizen input process with a June 2014 meeting; attendees completed surveys to identify available services and capacity to meet residents' needs.

On July 17, 2014, the City published a notice of info availability and posted it on the website and in public locations. Flyers in three languages were delivered. The City published and posted a public hearing notice as required; a copy of the minutes is attached. On September 25, the City published a notice of draft availability and invited written comments during a 30-day period. No written comments were submitted.

**Note:** Each public hearing identified below was held in the Community Development auditorium and each was conducted in compliance with the Citizen Participation Plan current at the date of the hearing. For each amendment, flyers were printed in three languages and delivered to

designated public facilities including the Biloxi Housing Authority administrative office and its developments, the four Biloxi branches of the Harrison County Public Library System, and other locations.

On May 3, 2018, the City published and posted a notice of info availability relative to the 1st amendment. Public hearing notices were published and posted in the same manner as described above. A hearing was conducted June 20; minutes are attached. The City published and posted a notice of draft availability and invited written comments during a 30-day period. Two written comments were submitted and are attached.

The 2nd Amendment was developed in 2019. The City published and posted a public hearing notice. A hearing was held January 30, 2019; the minutes are attached. The City published and posted a notice of draft availability, inviting written comments during a 30-day period. One written comment was submitted and is attached.

A 3rd Amendment was developed in early 2019. The City published and posted a public hearing notice twice. A public hearing was held March 19, 2019 and two written comments were submitted; the minutes are attached. On March 20, 2019, the City published and posted a notice of draft availability and invited written comments during a 30-day period. One written comment was received and is attached.

A 4th Substantial Amendment was developed in spring 2020. The City published and posted a public hearing notice twice. A public hearing was held May 19, 2020 during which no written comments were submitted; minutes are attached. The City published and posted a notice of draft availability and invited written comments during an 8-day period, per a COVID-19 waiver to the 30-day comment period. Four written comments were received; all written comments are attached.

The 5th substantial amendment was developed in spring 2021. A public hearing notice was published and posted in compliance with the Citizens Participation Plan. A public hearing was held May 13, 2021 during which one person spoke in favor of substantial amendment #5 and no written comments were submitted; the minutes are attached. The notice of draft availability and notice of 5-day comment period (in compliance with a COVID-19 waiver) were posted and published in compliance with the CPP. No written comments were received.

The 6th substantial amendment was developed during November 2024 – January 2025 with the public hearing notice published in the local newspaper on Sunday, November 10, 2024 and posted in compliance with the Citizens Participation Plan. A public hearing was held Monday, November 25, 2024, which no residents or interested parties attended. The minutes are attached. The notice about draft availability and the 32-day comment period was posted and published in compliance with the CPP. No written comments were received during the 32-day comment period.

The 7th substantial amendment to the Consolidated Plan was developed during December 2025 – January 2026 with the combined notice regarding the public hearing, draft availability and the 30-day comment period published in the local newspaper on Sunday, December 14, 2025 and posted in compliance with the Biloxi Citizens Participation Plan. A public hearing was held on Monday, December 29, 2025, which no one attended; no written comments were submitted. The minutes are attached. One written comment was received during the 30-day comment period.

All written comments offered during the development of the Consolidated Plan and each substantial amendment process were considered by the City.

**Citizen Participation Outreach**

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted
1	Public Meeting	Nonprofit organizations & others	Copies of meeting sign-in sheet, meeting notification letter & mailing list are attached to this document.	Copies of minutes summarizing oral comments are attached as are copies of written comments submitted.	Not applicable

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted
2	Public Hearing	<p>Minorities</p> <p>Non-English Speaking - Vietnamese, Hispanic</p> <p>Persons with disabilities</p> <p>Non-targeted/ broad community</p> <p>Residents of Public and Assisted Housing</p>	<p>A public hearing was conducted on 9/10/2014 with representatives of Open Doors Homeless Coalition, MS Gulf Coast Habitat for Humanity, the Biloxi Police Department, the Gulf Coast Realtors Association and the Biloxi City Council present. 21 people attended the 6/20/2018 hearing. The substantial amendment #2 hearing was held 1/30/2019 with 10 attending. A public hearing for subamendment #3 was held 3/29/2019 with 3 citizens present. 5 residents attended the 5/19/2020 public hearing for subamendment #4. One person attended the 5/13/2021 hearing for subamendment #5 &amp; spoke in favor of the subamend. No residents attended the 11/25/2024 hearing for sub-amendment #6. <u>A public hearing regarding substantial amendment #7 was held 12/29/2025 with no one attending and no written comments submitted. One written comment was submitted during the 30-day comment period.</u></p>	<p><u>Copies of all hearing minutes &amp; written comments submitted are attached to the final document before submittal to HUD.</u></p>	<p>Not applicable- all comments received were considered.</p>

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted
3	Internet Outreach	Non-English Speaking - Spanish and Vietnamese  Non-targeted/ broad community  Residents of Public & Assisted Housing	<u>The City posted hearing &amp; comment period information on its website and posted &amp; published all notices in compliance with the Citizen Participation Plan. Notices were available in English, Vietnamese and Spanish.</u>	<u>Copies of all hearing minutes &amp; written comments submitted are attached.</u>	Not applicable- all comments received were considered.
4	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/ broad community	<u>Notices were published in the local newspaper to share information about the substantial amendments to the Consolidated and Action Plans; to advertise the public hearings and designated comment periods; and to advertise availability of public review drafts. Documentation of compliance with HUD and Biloxi's CPP requirements is attached.</u>	<u>Copies of all hearing minutes &amp; written comments submitted are attached.</u>	Not applicable- all comments received were considered.

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

**No changes are proposed to the Needs Assessment or Housing Market Analysis Sections of the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan through substantial amendment #7 therefore, they are not included in this version of the Consolidated Plan.**

## **SP-05 Overview**

### **Strategic Plan Overview**

To address the high priority needs of the community, as identified through the Consolidated Plan development process, the City's five-year strategy focuses on investing its CDBG entitlement funds to meet HUD's Low-Mod Area (LMA) national objective. Thus, CDBG-funded projects and programs will be located within areas in which more than 51% of residents have incomes below 80% of the area median income. Based on the most current data available from HUD, these areas are concentrated in East and Central Biloxi; there are no low- to moderate-income areas north of the Biloxi Back Bay.

A map is attached to this document that identifies the location of HUD-defined low- to moderate-income areas in the City of Biloxi.

Investment of Biloxi's CDBG entitlement funds will focus on addressing high priority non-housing, community development needs within the LMAs, including improved police and fire protection services; implementation of drainage improvements to address recurring flooding; comprehensive street and sidewalk improvements; and expanded recreational opportunities. The City will continue to rely on resources and services available through the Continuum of Care to address local affordable housing needs. The City will continue to work on an ongoing basis to support the efforts of the CoC and other nonprofit agencies and organizations to address homelessness, domestic violence, and discrimination in renting and/or selling housing.

## **SP-10 Geographic Priorities – 91.215 (a)(1)**

### **Geographic Areas – Not Applicable to the City of Biloxi for Budgeting CDBG Resources**

#### **General Allocation Priorities**

While many of the activities to be undertaken with CDBG funds during 2015-2019 will benefit the Biloxi community as a whole, the activities to be undertaken during Program Year 2015 and each subsequent year of this planning process will principally serve low- to moderate-income residents, as defined by Census block data. HUD-eligible activities were selected based on the significant need to address problems in these

areas as expressed during the citizen participation process. Maps attached to this Plan identify the low- to moderate-income areas in the City, as well as Census tracts by minority concentration.

### SP-25 Priority Needs - 91.215(a)(2)

Table 5 – Priority Needs Summary

1	<b>Priority Need</b>	Fire Station/Equipment
	<b>Priority Level</b>	High
	<b>Population</b>	Extremely Low, Low, Moderate, Large Families, Families with Children, Elderly, Public Housing Residents, Elderly, Frail Elderly, Persons with Mental Disabilities, Persons with Physical Disabilities, Persons with Developmental Disabilities, Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions, Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families, Victims of Domestic Violence, Non-housing Community Development
	<b>Geographic Areas Affected</b>	Not applicable
	<b>Associated Goals</b>	Public Safety Enhancement Public Safety and Welfare
	<b>Description</b>	Acquisition of a ladder truck to replace an outdated truck is needed to improve public safety in an area of Central Biloxi with a high concentration of low- to moderate-income residents.
	<b>Basis for Relative Priority</b>	Existing fire protection vehicles are old and out-of-date.
2	<b>Priority Need</b>	Drainage Improvements
	<b>Priority Level</b>	High
	<b>Population</b>	Extremely Low, Low, Moderate, Large Families, Families with Children, Elderly, Public Housing Residents, Elderly, Frail Elderly, Persons with Mental Disabilities, Persons with Physical Disabilities, Persons with Developmental Disabilities, Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions, Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families, Victims of Domestic Violence, Non-housing Community Development
	<b>Geographic Areas Affected</b>	NA

	<b>Associated Goals</b>	Drainage Improvements Public Safety Enhancement Streets, sidewalks, lighting, & other improvements
	<b>Description</b>	There are several low- to moderate-income areas in the City that need drainage improvements to protect residents' homes and businesses from flooding as well as to allow residents to access or leave their homes during periods of heaving rains. These much-needed drainage improvement projects will be accomplished as funds are available and will include environmental review assessment, provision of engineering design services, and implementation of improvements.
	<b>Basis for Relative Priority</b>	The low- to moderate-income residents who live in this area of Central Biloxi have suffered from recurring flooding for many years; addressing drainage problems that flood residents' homes is a priority of the City's to improve their living environment.
3	<b>Priority Need</b>	Police Substation & Railroad Crossing Closures
	<b>Priority Level</b>	High
	<b>Population</b>	Extremely Low, Low, Moderate, Large Families, Families with Children, Elderly, Public Housing Residents, Chronic Homelessness, Individuals, Families with Children, Mentally Ill, Chronic Substance Abuse, veterans, Persons with HIV/AIDS, Victims of Domestic Violence, Unaccompanied Youth, Elderly, Frail Elderly, Persons with Mental Disabilities, Persons with Physical Disabilities, Persons with Developmental Disabilities, Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions, Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families, Victims of Domestic Violence, Non-housing Community Development
	<b>Geographic Areas Affected</b>	NA
	<b>Associated Goals</b>	Public Safety Enhancement Public Safety and Welfare
	<b>Description</b>	Rehabilitation of existing facility in primarily low- to moderate-income neighborhood to improve police presence, deter crime and improve community outreach to residents and business owners.  The Railroad Crossing Closure and Access Road Project involves closing CSX railroad crossings in East Biloxi and constructing a neighborhood access road north of the railroad tracks.

	<b>Basis for Relative Priority</b>	<p>Improving residents' safety and welfare through the reduction of criminal activity is a high priority of the City of Biloxi. By providing a police substation with a community meeting room in this primarily low- to moderate-income area in East Biloxi, police response times will improve, crime will be deterred and community outreach will be enhanced.</p> <p>Railroad crossings in East Biloxi pose a serious threat, as documented by lives lost and vehicle-train collisions. Closing crossings while preserving neighborhood access for residents' convenience and supporting quick emergency vehicle response times will reduce a serious public safety threat.</p>
4	<b>Priority Need</b>	Street, Sidewalk, Lighting & Other Improvements
	<b>Priority Level</b>	High
	<b>Population</b>	Extremely Low, Low, Moderate, Middle, Large Families, Families with Children, Elderly, Public Housing Residents, Chronic Homelessness, Individuals, Families with Children, Mentally Ill, veterans, Persons with HIV/AIDS, Victims of Domestic Violence, Unaccompanied Youth, Elderly, Frail Elderly, Non-housing Community Development
	<b>Geographic Areas Affected</b>	<p>Infrastructure Improvements including water, sewer, stormwater, drainage, streets and sidewalks</p> <p>Parks, Recreational Facilities</p> <p>Street improvements, sidewalks, tree planting</p> <p>Sidewalks and street improvements</p> <p>Central Biloxi/Pass Road</p>
	<b>Associated Goals</b>	<p>Drainage Improvements</p> <p>Public Safety Enhancement</p> <p>Public Safety and Welfare</p> <p>Streets, sidewalks, lighting, &amp; other improvements</p>
	<b>Description</b>	Comprehensive East and Central Biloxi improvements, including streets, sidewalks, crosswalks, street lighting, stormwater drainage, removal of debris from illegal dump sites and improving the function and appearance of other public facilities and resources, which may include City parks, will improve public safety and welfare and residents' living environments. Assistance for exterior improvements to businesses located in primarily residential project service areas also will improve public safety and welfare in areas with a majority of low- to moderate-income residents.
	<b>Basis for Relative Priority</b>	Street, sidewalk, lighting and other improvements, as well as improving the function and appearance of other public facilities - including City parks - and resources, are needed throughout East Biloxi, along Pass Road and in the residential areas south of Hiller Park to improve pedestrian and vehicular access in primarily low- to moderate-income areas. These activities and assistance for exterior improvements to businesses in primarily residential project service areas will improve public health and safety for underserved, low-income areas.
5	<b>Priority Need</b>	Hiller Park Master Plan Project

	<b>Priority Level</b>	High
	<b>Population</b>	Extremely Low, Low, Moderate, Middle, Large Families, Families with Children, Elderly, Public Housing Residents, Persons with Mental Disabilities, Persons with Physical Disabilities, Persons with Developmental Disabilities, Non-housing Community Development
	<b>Geographic Areas Affected</b>	NA
	<b>Associated Goals</b>	Hiller Park Master Plan Implementation
	<b>Description</b>	Implementation of the City's plan to upgrade and expand recreational resources at Hiller Park, located in Central Biloxi, is identified as a community priority. The park currently is underutilized for a variety of reasons including the lack of sidewalks and lighting to allow safe access to the park; lack of lighting throughout the park to support after school and evening usage; inadequate/unsafe waterfront access for motor and non-motor boaters and those who like to fish; out-of-date restroom facilities; unsafe (cracked) basketball and tennis courts; insufficient playground equipment for the public, especially those with special needs. Currently, there are no fully equipped playgrounds for those with special needs in the City of Biloxi or in Harrison County.
	<b>Basis for Relative Priority</b>	Hiller Park is the City's largest park and is centrally located on Biloxi's Back Bay in close proximity to several other primarily low- to moderate-income neighborhoods, elementary schools, the VA Medical Center and Keesler AFB housing. With comprehensive safety improvements and enhancement of existing recreational resources, Hiller Park will become a well-used community resource for those who do not have membership to a gym or recreational club and those who wish to pursue outdoor recreational activities.
6	<b>Priority Need</b>	Public Services
	<b>Priority Level</b>	High
	<b>Population</b>	Extremely Low, Low, Moderate, Large Families, Families with Children, Elderly, Public Housing Residents, Chronic Homelessness, Individuals, Families with Children, Mentally Ill, Chronic Substance Abuse, veterans, Persons with HIV/AIDS, Victims of Domestic Violence, Unaccompanied Youth, Elderly, Frail Elderly, Persons with Mental Disabilities, Persons with Physical Disabilities, Persons with Developmental Disabilities, Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions, Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families, Victims of Domestic Violence, Other
	<b>Geographic Areas Affected</b>	NA
	<b>Associated Goals</b>	Public Services

<b>Description</b>	<p>Many Biloxi residents need rental, utility and security deposit assistance to improve access to existing affordable housing. The City will continue to work with the Biloxi Housing Authority and Open Doors Homeless Coalition to offer this and other types of assistance to address and prevent homelessness.</p> <p>The City also may invest CDBG and other federal funds allocated for administration through the CDBG Entitlement Program for CDBG-eligible projects and activities, including public services that address and prevent homelessness in Biloxi caused by natural disasters or other emergencies.</p> <p>The City also will support services to expand access for eligible residents to affordable, quality early childcare and educational programs; English as a Second Language classes/programs offered by experienced local nonprofit agencies; and recreational equipment for those with special needs.</p>										
<b>Basis for Relative Priority</b>	<p>This is defined as a lower priority relative to other projects, based on the availability of City of Biloxi funds and HUD's annual 15% public service spending limit. In June 2020, the City exercised a HUD-authorized waiver of the 15% public services cap to budget the CARES Act allocation of \$272,001 to a public service activity, to be administered by Open Doors Homeless Coalition, to address and prevent increased homelessness in Biloxi resulting from the coronavirus.</p> <p>The local and regional agencies and organizations, including the Open Doors Homeless Coalition, will provide the public services activities under subgrant agreements with the City have the expertise and staff resources to take the lead in providing these high priority public services.</p>										
<b>7</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td> <b>Priority Need</b> </td> <td> <u>Public Facilities and Improvements</u> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <b>Priority Level</b> </td> <td> High </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <b>Population</b> </td> <td> Extremely Low, Low, Moderate, Large Families, Families with Children, Elderly, Public Housing Residents, Chronic Homelessness, Individuals, Families with Children, Mentally Ill, Chronic Substance Abuse, veterans, Persons with HIV/AIDS, Victims of Domestic Violence, Unaccompanied Youth, Elderly, Frail Elderly, Persons with Mental Disabilities, Persons with Physical Disabilities, Persons with Developmental Disabilities, Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions, Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families, Victims of Domestic Violence </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <b>Geographic Areas Affected</b> </td> <td> NA </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <b>Associated Goals</b> </td> <td> Public Safety and Welfare  Public Facilities and Improvements </td> </tr> </table>	<b>Priority Need</b>	<u>Public Facilities and Improvements</u>	<b>Priority Level</b>	High	<b>Population</b>	Extremely Low, Low, Moderate, Large Families, Families with Children, Elderly, Public Housing Residents, Chronic Homelessness, Individuals, Families with Children, Mentally Ill, Chronic Substance Abuse, veterans, Persons with HIV/AIDS, Victims of Domestic Violence, Unaccompanied Youth, Elderly, Frail Elderly, Persons with Mental Disabilities, Persons with Physical Disabilities, Persons with Developmental Disabilities, Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions, Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families, Victims of Domestic Violence	<b>Geographic Areas Affected</b>	NA	<b>Associated Goals</b>	Public Safety and Welfare Public Facilities and Improvements
<b>Priority Need</b>	<u>Public Facilities and Improvements</u>										
<b>Priority Level</b>	High										
<b>Population</b>	Extremely Low, Low, Moderate, Large Families, Families with Children, Elderly, Public Housing Residents, Chronic Homelessness, Individuals, Families with Children, Mentally Ill, Chronic Substance Abuse, veterans, Persons with HIV/AIDS, Victims of Domestic Violence, Unaccompanied Youth, Elderly, Frail Elderly, Persons with Mental Disabilities, Persons with Physical Disabilities, Persons with Developmental Disabilities, Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions, Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families, Victims of Domestic Violence										
<b>Geographic Areas Affected</b>	NA										
<b>Associated Goals</b>	Public Safety and Welfare Public Facilities and Improvements										

<p><b>Description</b></p>	<p>Public facilities and improvements were added as a goal and high priority need through substantial amendment #5 to the Consolidated Plan and may include CDBG and/or CDBG-CV eligible rehabilitation of facilities to efficiently deliver public assistance and services to Biloxi's low- to moderate-income residents and to help address unmet community needs in response to federally-declared natural disasters and emergencies. This also may include such projects as improving existing public facilities to provide quarantine space, healthcare clinics, coordinated entry centers, <u>filtered water stations</u> and other facilities <u>to support City efforts to protect and maintain public health and safety.</u></p> <p>Substantial amendment #6 to the Consolidated Plan clarified that CDBG and/or CDBG-CV resources may be used by the City to fund public facility improvements projects that support the public effort to prepare for future federally-declared disasters by providing safe environments to protect and/or improve the health and safety of qualified residents living in a project's service area (as defined by HUD) in addition to homeless and near-homeless populations in Biloxi.</p> <p><u>Substantial amendment #7 proposes to provide safe drinking water through filtered water stations located in qualified project service areas throughout the City to protect and/or improve the health and safety of residents living in the project service areas, in addition to homeless and near-homeless populations, as part of the City's overall effort to prepare for future disasters.</u></p> <p>Efficiently providing public assistance and services to homeless and near-homeless populations may prevent and address the spread of the coronavirus. CDBG-CV funds allocated to the City through the CARES Act may fund Public Facilities and Improvements projects as part of the comprehensive public effort to prepare for, prevent and respond to COVID-19 and other federally-designated disasters.</p>
<p><b>Basis for Relative Priority</b></p>	<p>In response to COVID-19, Biloxi's goals and priorities have expanded to support local, state and federal efforts to prepare for, prevent and address the spread of the coronavirus. Federal CARES Act allocations were awarded to the City to support activities and projects that address the goal and high priority need to protect the public health and safety through public facilities and improvements projects that assist those who are least able to prepare for and adapt to healthcare and other emergencies.</p> <p>In compliance with applicable federal regulations, CDBG and/or CDBG-CV resources of the City may be used to improve facilities owned, operated and maintained by nonprofit agencies/organizations currently operating in Biloxi to support provision and expansion of public and social services to Biloxi's low- to moderate-income residents.</p>

## Narrative (Optional)

Based on needs identified during Consolidated Plan development, the City decided to improve public safety by purchasing fire protection equipment and converting a structure into a police substation. Both activities will primarily benefit low/mod income persons. PY2015 funds also were budgeted for a drainage improvement study in a low/mod area that frequently floods.

During PY2015-2017, the City purchased fire protection equipment and supported rehabilitating an existing structure into a police substation. In 2018, **substantial amendment #1** updated Priority Needs #3 and 4 to expand activities in which CDBG resources may be used to improve public safety and welfare. CDBG funds were budgeted for a Neighborhood Access Road Project to improve public safety and preserve access to a low/mod residential area in East Biloxi. CDBG funds also were budgeted to improve public safety and welfare in East Biloxi neighborhoods impacted by a massive infrastructure project. CDBG funds also funded a business facade grant program and City park improvements.

The 2018 amendment also updated Priority Need #6 to include other high priority public service activities identified in the 2015-2019 Needs Assessment in which the City may invest CDBG resources. The description of public services needs was expanded to include English as a Second Language classes and affordable and licensed early childcare services and identified the need to address and prevent homelessness by improving access to affordable housing with rental, utility and security deposit assistance.

**Substantial amendment #2** was approved in 2019 to add an East Biloxi Business Facade Grant Program to address the need to improve the living environment for low- to moderate-income households in the primarily residential project service area. Businesses in the project service area were eligible to apply for deferred grants limited to exterior improvements. **Substantial amendment #3** to the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan expanded Priority Need #4 by specifying CDBG funds may be used for improvements to eligible City Parks, which may include the provision of public restrooms to improve public safety, welfare and the living environment in primarily residential project service areas in which a majority of households are low- to moderate-income.

A **4th substantial amendment** expanded Priority Need #6 Public Services by specifying CDBG and other allocated federal funds administered through the CDBG Program may be used for public services activities, including those to address and prevent increased homelessness in Biloxi caused by natural disasters or other emergencies.

A **5th substantial amendment**, approved June 1, 2021, added a new goal and high priority need to provide public facilities and improvements. CDBG and CDBG-CV funds may be used to protect and improve public health and safety through projects such as rehabilitating buildings to expand healthcare clinics, offer public quarantine space during pandemics and provide coordinated entry centers and other facilities to support efficient delivery of housing assistance and public services to qualified residents, primarily homeless and at-risk of homelessness populations who may lack safe environments. CDBG-CV funds allocated through the CARES Act to the City may be used to fund this type of activity as part of the comprehensive public effort to prepare for, prevent and respond to COVID-19.

**Substantial amendment #6**, approved January 7, 2025, clarified that CDBG and/or CDBG-CV resources may be used by the City to fund public facility improvement projects that support public efforts to prepare for future federally-declared disasters by providing public facilities and spaces that protect and/or improve the health and safety of LMI residents living in a designated project’s service area (as defined by HUD) in addition to homeless and near-homeless populations in Biloxi.

**Substantial amendment #7**, developed December 2025 – January 2026, proposes to add a new Public Facilities Improvement Project that supports the City’s overall effort to prepare for future disasters by installing filtered water stations in qualified locations throughout the City to ensure residents, and homeless and near-homeless populations, maintain access to safe drinking water during future federally-declared disasters.

### SP-30 Influence of Market Conditions – 91.215 (b)

#### Influence of Market Conditions

Affordable Housing Type	Market Characteristics that will influence the use of funds available for housing type
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	With a high residential vacancy rate for single family and multifamily housing units, market characteristics in Biloxi are favorable for preventing homelessness, addressing chronic homelessness and expanding housing options for low-to moderate-income households as well as special needs populations. With expanded tenant-based rental assistance programs, those with disproportionate housing cost burdens and/or special needs would be able to rent housing units available in existing inventory located throughout the City.

Affordable Housing Type	Market Characteristics that will influence the use of funds available for housing type
TBRA for Non-Homeless Special Needs	As identified above, expanded TBRA programs would benefit many Biloxi citizens among the non-homeless special needs population by enabling them to afford access to available inventory.
New Unit Production	With the market characteristic of high residential vacancy rates, there is not much local demand for new unit production except for custom homes, property already under development and new construction of Group Homes and assisted care type housing units for the elderly, frail elderly and the disabled.
Rehabilitation	Because of the high cost of construction, market characteristics are favorable for residential rehabilitation assistance, especially to provide access and weatherization improvements for the elderly, frail elderly, disabled and low- to moderate-income households. Generally, it is more cost effective to rehabilitate existing housing in Biloxi than to construct new units.
Acquisition, including preservation	Because of many landowners' inflated opinion of property values, acquisition generally is not favored in the Biloxi market at this time. Acquisition of property to preserve an historic home, however, is supported by the market as Hurricane Katrina destroyed so many historic structures that those with any architectural or historic significance are at a premium.

Table 6 – Influence of Market Conditions

### SP-35 Anticipated Resources - 91.215(a)(4), 91.220(c)(1,2)

The City of Biloxi is a CDBG Entitlement City and, as such, receives an annual allocation of funds from HUD to address local housing and non-housing community needs. Due to federal budget constraints, Program Year 2015 - 2019 CDBG allocations are not anticipated to increase. Because of the program's many successes in meeting community needs across the country and its proven effectiveness in directly benefiting primarily low- to moderate-income households, the City of Biloxi is projecting that its annual allocation will not decrease but will remain at about the Program Year 2015 level through 2019.

Through substantial amendments #4 and #5 to the Consolidated Plan and substantial amendments #1 and 2 to the 2019 Action Plan, the City budgeted CARES Act allocations of \$272,001 and \$722,212 for eligible CDBG and CDBG-CV uses to prepare for, prevent and respond to the coronavirus. Proposed substantial amendment #6 to the Consolidated Plan clarified substantial amendment #5 to the Consolidated Plan; substantial amendment #4 to the 2019 Action Plan reallocated \$939,809, the available balance of the City's CARES Act funds, to a new Gruich

Community Center Improvements Project to support its dual use as a coordinated entry center in future disasters. Following award of the contract for the Gruich Community Center Improvement Project, the remaining balance of \$300,059 in CARES Act funds is proposed through substantial amendment #7 to fund a new public facilities improvement project that will provide filtered water stations in qualified locations throughout the City to ensure residents, in addition to homeless and near-homeless populations, have access to drinking water during future disasters.

**Anticipated Resources**

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 2019				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	417,323	173,029	0	590,352	2,352,388	Because of anticipated federal budget cuts, the City of Biloxi does not anticipate that its annual allocation of CDBG funds will increase. For the purposes of this Consolidated Plan, the City based its planning for 2015-2019 period based on the assumption that funding will remain at about the current level.
Other CDBG-CV	public - federal	Public Improvements Public Services Other	994,213	0	0	994,213	0	CDBG-CV funds to be used to prevent, prepare for and respond to the Coronavirus.

Table 7 - Anticipated Resources

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

The CDBG Program does not require a match and the City does not anticipate using CDBG funds to leverage other state or local funds. Staffing levels are not adequate to support time required to pursue private grant funds.

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

The City is not aware of any such available land. However, the Biloxi Housing Authority owns residentially zoned property near its administrative offices on Benachi Avenue that is suitable for construction of six to eight rental housing units. The City, BHA, and the Open Doors Homeless Coalition support development of a rental assistance program to make these new units and other existing rental units more affordable to Biloxi's homeless and near-homeless populations.

**SP-40 Institutional Delivery Structure – 91.215(k)**

<b>Responsible Entity</b>	<b>Responsible Entity Type</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Geographic Area Served</b>
Biloxi Housing Authority	PHA	Public Housing, Rental	Jurisdiction
Open Doors Homeless Coalition	Continuum of care	Homelessness, public services	Region
Back Bay Mission	Non-profit organization	Homelessness, Rental, neighborhood improvements, public services	Jurisdiction
Coastal Family Health Center	Non-profit organization	public services	Region
Mental Health Association of South MS	Non-profit organization	public services	Region
Gulf Coast Women's Center For Nonviolence	Non-profit organization	Homelessness, Rental, public services	Jurisdiction
South MS AIDS Task Force	Non-profit organization	Homelessness, Rental, public services	Region
Visions Of Hope, Inc.	Non-profit organization	Ownership	Jurisdiction

**Table 8 - Institutional Delivery Structure**

**Assess Strengths and Gaps in the Institutional Delivery System**

The City of Biloxi's institutional delivery system is comprised of several nonprofit agencies and organizations that work collaboratively to meet the needs of area residents. The Open Doors Homeless Coalition plays a major role within this system, and is considered an asset, as it collects and maintains a database about regional homelessness that provides useful information about the population being served, needs addressed and unmet needs identified. Open Doors also coordinates regular meetings among the agencies, which is helpful in sharing information and

avoiding duplication of services. A gap exists in the system in the form of inadequate funding to address local needs. With additional resources, local agencies would be able to develop/implement a tenant-based rental program that includes security and utility deposit grants to make existing housing more affordable.

**Availability of services targeted to homeless persons and persons with HIV and mainstream services**

Homelessness Prevention Services	Available in the Community	Targeted to Homeless	Targeted to People with HIV
<b>Homelessness Prevention Services</b>			
Counseling/Advocacy	X	X	X
Legal Assistance	X	X	X
Mortgage Assistance			
Rental Assistance	X	X	X
Utilities Assistance	X	X	X
<b>Street Outreach Services</b>			
Law Enforcement	X		
Mobile Clinics			
Other Street Outreach Services			
<b>Supportive Services</b>			
Alcohol & Drug Abuse	X	X	X
Child Care	X	X	X
Education	X	X	
Employment and Employment Training	X	X	X
Healthcare	X	X	X
HIV/AIDS	X	X	X
Life Skills	X	X	X
Mental Health Counseling	X	X	X
Transportation	X		X
<b>Other</b>			

**Table 9 - Homeless Prevention Services Summary**

**Describe how the service delivery system including, but not limited to, the services listed above meet the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth)**

A diverse range of services is available to homeless persons, those with HIV/AIDS and the general public in Biloxi. The Gulf Coast Mental Health Association provides mental health counseling and related services to the homeless and special needs populations in addition to the public; Coastal Family Health Clinic provides healthcare services to the homeless and special needs populations as well as to low-income residents; the South MS AIDS Task Force provides a wide variety of services to persons with HIV/AIDS and their families from housing to employment assistance to transportation services.

The Open Doors Homeless Coalition works as the local Continuum of Care to coordinate services offered by local nonprofit agencies to meet the needs of the homeless and to prevent homelessness. By conducting regular meetings where information and news is shared, Open Doors helps local and regional agencies avoid duplication of services to maximize resources. The Mississippi Center for Justice provides legal assistance to homeless persons, those with HIV/AIDS and other special needs populations. Agencies including Back Bay Mission, Loaves and Fishes, and the Gulf Coast Rescue Mission offer meals, clothing, housing and/or employment assistance to the homeless. The Biloxi Housing Authority participates in the HUD/VASH Program and is allocated 140 HCV/VASH vouchers.

**Describe the strengths and gaps of the service delivery system for special needs population and persons experiencing homelessness, including, but not limited to, the services listed above**

Strengths of the service delivery system include coordination of services through the Open Doors Homeless Coalition and data base maintenance to track/record homelessness; trained staff at local agencies to provide needed services; the City of Biloxi's designation as a CDBG entitlement and access to HOME funds through the Harrison County HOME Consortium; the Biloxi Housing Authority, which has worked diligently to restore availability of public housing within the City; and the variety of agencies and organizations working to address unmet needs.

A major gap in the service delivery system is the lack of adequate resources to develop/implement a tenant-based rental program that includes security and utility deposit grants for low-income residents, special needs populations including the elderly and disabled, and homeless persons in all categories. The City has an 18% rental housing vacancy rate, but the service delivery system lacks the resources to make these units more affordable. High construction costs and high insurance premiums make it difficult for owners of housing to reduce rents.

Another gap in the system is limited and/or delayed referrals from the VA for VASH Voucher applicants; the Biloxi Housing Authority is not able to issue all of its allocation because of a lack of referrals.

**Provide a summary of the strategy for overcoming gaps in the institutional structure and service delivery system for carrying out a strategy to address priority needs**

The City of Biloxi is working in support of the Biloxi Housing Authority's and the Open Doors Homeless Coalition's efforts to develop a tenant-based rental assistance program and plans to apply to federal and state sources for funding to implement the program, which will initially target homeless veterans and families with children. The systems are in place to efficiently operate and monitor such a program if funding through various programs can be successfully accessed.

The Biloxi Housing Authority is in the process of converting its Public Housing portfolio to the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Program in an effort to stabilize funding and preserve affordable housing. BHA is revising the Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan to continue to serve 80% Area Median Income (AMI) families under RAD.

**SP-45 Goals Summary – 91.215(a)(4)**

**Goals Summary Information**

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Public Safety and Welfare	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	Central Biloxi/Lee Chinn Fire Station ladder truck acquisition	Fire Station/Equipment Police Substation & Railroad Crossing Closures; Street, Sidewalk, Lighting & Other Improvements Public Facilities and Improvements	CDBG: \$470,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than LMI Housing Benefit: 5145 Persons

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
2	Public Safety Enhancement	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	E. Biloxi/Howard Ave. Improvements & Division St. Neighborhood Facility /Police Substation; Lee Chinn Fire Station Equip.	Drainage Improvements Fire Station/Equipment Police Substation; Street, Sidewalk, Lighting & Other Improvements	CDBG: \$50,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than LMI Housing Benefit: 1070 Persons
3	Drainage Improvements	2015	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	Central Biloxi: Pass Road, Petit Bois Sub. & Greater Biloxi Sub. areas; E. Biloxi: Howard Avenue	Drainage Improvements Street, Sidewalk, Lighting & Other Improvements	CDBG: \$95,352	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than LMI Housing Benefit: 1090 Persons
4	Streets, sidewalks, lighting, & other improvements	2016	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	Central Biloxi: Petit Bois Subdiv., Greater Biloxi Subdiv. & Pass Road areas; Hiller Park & area: sidewalk/street improvements East Biloxi: Howard Avenue & Division St.	Drainage Improvements Street, Sidewalk, Lighting & Other Improvements	CDBG: \$171,454	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than LMI Housing Benefit: 2225 Persons
5	Hiller Park Master Plan Implementation	2019	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	Hiller Park Recreational Enhancements	Hiller Park Master Plan Project	CDBG: \$0	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than LMI Housing Benefit: 0 Persons
6	Howard Avenue Streetscape Improvements	2016	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	East Biloxi/Howard Avenue Streetscape Improvements	Streets, Sidewalks, Lighting & Other Improvements	CDBG: \$0	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than LMI Housing Benefit: 0 Persons

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
7	Public Services	2016	2019	Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide	Public Services	CDBG: \$178,00  CDBG-CV: \$54,404	Public service activities: 503 Persons Assisted and 25 households
8	Public Facilities and Improvements	2019	2023	Homeless	Citywide	Public Facilities and Improvements	CDBG-CV: \$722,212 + 217,597  \$939,809	Public Facilities and Improvements other than LMI Housing Total Benefit: _____ Gruich CC 7315 plus FWS ____ (number to be determined)

Table 10 – Goals Summary

### Goal Descriptions

1	<b>Goal Name</b>	Public Safety and Welfare
	<b>Goal Description</b>	<p>The City of Biloxi places high priority on preserving its citizens' safety and general welfare. The goal of protecting Biloxi residents requires use of federal, state and local funds to ensure adequate police and fire staffing and provision of fully-functioning, modern equipment and technology. The 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan and 2015 Action Plan propose the use of CDBG entitlement funds to make the second of three lease payments for acquisition of a new fire truck to serve a primarily low- to moderate-income area in Central Biloxi.</p> <p>To improve public health, safety and the living environment in a primarily residential project service area in which a majority of low- to moderate-income reside, the ConPlan was amended during PY2018 so that business facade grants may be awarded to support exterior improvements to qualifying commercial buildings operating in a primarily residential project service area in which a majority of low- to moderate-income persons reside. In PY2018, \$100,000 was reallocated to fund a business facade grant program that is projected to benefit 4,270 persons, of whom 2,335 (54.68%) qualify as low- to moderate-income.</p>

2	<b>Goal Name</b>	Public Safety Enhancement
	<b>Goal Description</b>	Through rehabilitation of an existing structure to house a police substation in a primarily low- to moderate-income neighborhood of East Biloxi, the City will enhance public safety by responding more quickly to criminal activities, establishing a more visible presence to deter crime, and improving community outreach. Closing several railroad crossings in East Biloxi, and constructing a local access road, also will improve public safety by reducing a serious threat, creating a more suitable living environment for residents.
3	<b>Goal Name</b>	Drainage Improvements
	<b>Goal Description</b>	The City of Biloxi places high priority on protecting the well-being of its citizens, which includes protecting their homes and businesses. Primarily residential, low- to moderate-income area in East and Central Biloxi suffer from recurring flooding caused by an inadequate stormwater system and illegal debris that impedes runoff. To address this problem, the City may use CDBG funds to design and implement drainage improvements.
4	<b>Goal Name</b>	Streets, sidewalks, lighting, & other improvements
	<b>Goal Description</b>	During the 2015-2019 strategic plan period, the City plans to comprehensively address non-housing community development needs in the primarily residential, low- to moderate-income areas of Central and East Biloxi. This may include street, sidewalk, lighting, drainage, and City parks improvements to improve public safety for residents, including when they are driving, walking or riding bicycles. The City also may remove debris from illegal dump sites and improve the function and appearance of other public facilities and resources - including City parks -that primarily serve residential, low- to moderate-income areas to improve residents' living environment.  Substantial amendment #3 reallocated \$171,454 from the East Biloxi Clean Up Program to the John Henry Beck Park Restrooms Project, to improve the public welfare, safety and living environment in a primarily residential area in which an estimated 2,225 residents live, of whom 1,470 or 66.07% qualify as low- to moderate-income.
5	<b>Goal Name</b>	Hiller Park Master Plan Implementation
	<b>Goal Description</b>	As funds allow, the City plans to implement comprehensive improvements at Hiller Park in Central Biloxi to improve public safety through enhanced lighting, signage and access and to improve public health through expanded recreational opportunities in this area that is located in close proximity to low- to moderate-income neighborhoods, the VA Medical Center and Keesler Air Force Base housing.  Through non-CDBG grant sources, the City is in the process of improving access to low- to moderate-income residential areas east of Hiller Park (general funds and general obligation bonds) and non-CDBG funds have been used during 2015-2018 to enhance and expand existing pedestrian/cyclist trails throughout the park (MS Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks grant) and to enhance the public's access to the waterfront (MS Tidelands Trust Fund grant). No CDBG funds have been budgeted to address this goal. Should PY2019 CDBG funds be budgeted to address this goal, a specific project service area will be defined so that projected beneficiaries may be identified; that information is not available at this time.

6	<b>Goal Name</b>	Howard Avenue Streetscape Improvements
	<b>Goal Description</b>	The City anticipates that it eventually will complete Howard Avenue Streetscape Improvements to benefit a primarily low- to moderate-income area in East Biloxi, but no CDBG funds have been budgeted to address this goal 2015 - 2018. In response to the urgent need to enhance public safety in East Biloxi, CDBG funds instead were budgeted to rehabilitate an existing building as a police substation and to close a railroad crossing and construction a neighborhood access road just north of and parallel to Howard Avenue.
7	<b>Goal Name</b>	Public Services
	<b>Goal Description</b>	<p>As funds allow, the City plans to support public services provided by local or regional nonprofit agencies to address &amp; prevent homelessness; expand access to affordable, quality early childcare &amp; education services; to provide special needs recreational equipment; expand access to ESL programs; &amp; public transportation expansion to better serve LMI residents. In PY2016-2017, \$113,000 in CDBG funds was expended for public service activities for 251 LMI people &amp; 48 households. In PY2018, \$65,000 is budgeted for public services to benefit 252 people.</p> <p>The ConPlan was substantially amended in June 2020 to expand public services activities to include the use of CDBG &amp; other allocated federal resources for housing services to income-eligible residents impacted by natural disasters or emergencies, as defined by HUD. The 2019 Action Plan also was amended to budget \$272,001 from its first CARES Act allocation to address and prevent increased homelessness in Biloxi caused by COVID-19 through a new public services activity to provide rent, utility and security deposit assistance administered by the Open Doors Homeless Coalition. CDBG-CV funds totaling \$54,404 were expended for the rent assistance program to benefit 25 qualified households negatively impacted by COVID-19 before the Jackson Field Office directed the City to suspend the program while researching eligibility.</p>

8	<b>Goal Name</b>	Public Facilities and Improvements
	<b>Goal Description</b>	<p>Through substantial amendment #5 to the Consolidated Plan and substantial amendment #2 to the 2019 Action Plan, a CARES Act allocation of \$722,212 was budgeted to fund rehabilitation of a building acquired by Open Doors Homeless Coalition as a coordinated entry center to help prevent and address the spread of the coronavirus in Biloxi. This public facilities and improvements project was planned to provide a safe environment for homeless and near-homeless individuals &amp; families in Biloxi, allowing social distancing to prevent &amp; address the spread of coronavirus while seeking housing assistance &amp; related services. The project was not implemented based on input from the HUD Field Office that project completion likely would not be possible by the CDBG-CV expenditure deadline.</p> <p>Substantial amendment #6 clarified that CDBG and/or CDBG-CV resources may be used by the City to fund public facilities improvement projects to support efforts to prepare for future federally-declared disasters by providing public facilities and spaces to protect and/or improve the health and safety of residents living in a designated project's service area in addition to homeless and near-homeless populations in Biloxi. At the same time with substantial amendment #6 to the ConPlan, substantial amendment #4 to the 2019 Action Plan reallocated \$939,809, the total unexpended balance of the City's CARES Act funds (\$217,597 from the 1<sup>st</sup> CARES Act allocation and \$722,212 from the 3<sup>rd</sup> allocation), to improve the dual function of the Gruich Center as a community center and local disaster response facility for the benefit of project service area residents in addition to homeless and near-homeless populations in Biloxi.</p> <p><u>Substantial Amendment #7 to the Consolidated Plan proposes to add a new Public Facilities Improvement Project as part of the City's overall effort to prepare for future disasters. The proposed project involves installing filtered water stations (FWS) in qualified locations throughout the City to ensure residents have access to safe drinking water during future disasters. Concurrently, substantial amendment #5 to the 2019 Action Plan proposes to reallocate \$300,059, the remaining balance of the City's CARES Act funds, to support the new Public Facilities Improvement FWS Project.</u></p>

**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)**

The City does not plan to provide affordable housing during the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan period. However, it will continue to work in support of the Biloxi Housing Authority's efforts to provide housing to qualifying residents. At this time, it is anticipated that the Biloxi Housing Authority will continue to provide the current level of service for the next several years.

**SP-50 Public Housing Accessibility and Involvement – 91.215(c)**

**Need to Increase the Number of Accessible Units (if Required by a Section 504 Voluntary Compliance Agreement)**

The Biloxi Housing Authority meets Section 504 compliance requirements.

**Activities to Increase Resident Involvements**

The Biloxi Housing Authority has established resident councils at its Affordable Housing Communities and has an active Community Supportive Services Division.

**Is the public housing agency designated as troubled under 24 CFR part 902?**

No

**Plan to remove the ‘troubled’ designation**

Not Applicable

**SP-55 Barriers to affordable housing – 91.215(h)**

**Barriers to Affordable Housing**

Among the most significant barriers to affordable housing in the City of Biloxi is the high cost of land, construction and insurance. One of the ways the City has worked to counter these obstacles is by maintaining property tax rates at the same level for more than 20 years. City officials also are working with federal and state elected officials to address the cost of property insurance that is disproportionately high compared to other areas of the United States that have suffered damage from natural disasters.

By allowing a diversity of residential uses throughout the City, rather than clustered in one area, Biloxi public policy - as expressed through its Land Development Ordinance - encourages development of affordable housing that includes group homes and various densities of multifamily developments as well as single-family housing on a variety of lot sizes.

### **Strategy to Remove or Ameliorate the Barriers to Affordable Housing**

The City plans to implement a Public Information Fair Housing Outreach Campaign to reduce or eliminate impediments to fair housing choice, which are a barrier to purchasing and renting affordable homes. The City also will continue to work with the Open Doors Homeless Coalition, Biloxi Housing Authority, Back Bay Mission and other housing-related nonprofit agencies to support their efforts to provide and expand Tenant Based Rental Programs, expand availability of housing assistance vouchers, and provide grants for utility and security deposits to help address disproportionately high housing costs for many low- to moderate-income individuals and households.

### **SP-60 Homelessness Strategy – 91.215(d)**

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

The City will continue to work with the Open Doors Homeless Coalition, Biloxi Housing Authority, Back Bay Mission and other housing-support agencies to reduce and eventually eliminate homelessness in Biloxi.

#### **Addressing the emergency and transitional housing needs of homeless persons**

The City will continue to work with the Open Doors Homeless Coalition, Biloxi Housing Authority, Back Bay Mission, South MS AIDS Task Force, Gulf Coast Women's Center for Nonviolence and other housing-support agencies to expand availability of emergency shelter and transitional housing to meet the housing needs of homeless persons in Biloxi.

#### **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 City will continue to work with the Open Doors Homeless Coalition, Biloxi Housing Authority, Back Bay Mission and other housing-support agencies to reduce and eventually eliminate homelessness in Biloxi.

**Help low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families who are likely to become homeless after being discharged from a publicly funded institution or system of care, or who are receiving assistance from public and private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education or youth needs**

The City will continue to work with the Open Doors Homeless Coalition, Biloxi Housing Authority, Back Bay Mission and other housing-support agencies to reduce and eventually eliminate homelessness in Biloxi.

## **SP-65 Lead based paint Hazards – 91.215(i)**

### **Actions to address LBP hazards and increase access to housing without LBP hazards**

The City of Biloxi will continue to support efforts to address lead-based paint hazards and increase access to housing without these hazards by working with the Biloxi Housing Authority and other nonprofits to educate property owners about the hazards. The Biloxi Housing Authority's public housing units have all been assessed and, if required, abated of LBP hazards.

### **How are the actions listed above related to the extent of lead poisoning and hazards?**

According to the Mississippi State Department of Health, residents of the City of Biloxi do not suffer from a high level of lead poisoning and LBP hazards are not considered a priority concern. The last reported case of a lead-based paint hazard in Biloxi, which led to an inspection by MSDH, was before Hurricane Katrina made landfall in 2005.

All applicants that are accepted into Biloxi Housing Authority programs are provided current LBP informational brochures addressing LBP hazards and prevention.

**How are the actions listed above integrated into housing policies and procedures?**

LBP is required to be contained or removed in compliance with federal regulations since Mississippi has no law requiring the remediation of LBP.

**SP-70 Anti-Poverty Strategy – 91.215(j)**

**Jurisdiction Goals, Programs and Policies for reducing the number of Poverty-Level Families**

The City of Biloxi will continue to work to reduce the number of poverty-level families by redeveloping and diversifying the local economy, which will provide expanded employment opportunities. While no official goals, programs or policies have been adopted, the City actively recruits new businesses and facilitates expansion of existing businesses through an expedited development review process and the provision of technical assistance by staff throughout the development process.

The City also will continue to support participation of the Biloxi Housing Authority in the HUD/HCV/Family Self Sufficiency Program as part of its effort to reduce the number of poverty-level families.

**How are the Jurisdiction poverty reducing goals, programs, and policies coordinated with this affordable housing plan**

The City of Biloxi will continue to work in support of the Biloxi Housing Authority and the Open Doors Homeless Coalition and its member agencies to reduce the number of poverty-level families. Comprehensive support by these agencies includes providing appropriate clothing for job interviews, career counseling, childcare, communication equipment access, and access to information about available employment opportunities. By filling the gap in the service delivery system through expanded tenant-based rental assistance programs in Biloxi, the number of poverty-level families will begin to decrease as those most in need are enabled to secure and retain gainful employment.

## **SP-80 Monitoring – 91.230**

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

The City of Biloxi has systems in place to ensure long-term compliance with CDBG Program requirements, such a system of checks and balances used for drawdown and disbursement of federal funds; internal accounting reports generated and reviewed on a regular basis to track expenditures against each Action Plan budget and to monitor timeliness compliance; an objective review and rating committee for the selection of contractors; a system for notifying minority businesses of contract opportunities; and annual audit reviews.

The City has a long and successful history of implementing its CDBG Entitlement Program to meet HUD's national goals and objectives and utilizes its Consolidated Plan as a comprehensive planning tool to identify and address community needs.

## **SP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)**

### **Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs**

The City of Biloxi will continue to work with other local units of government and area nonprofits to share information about the needs of underserved members of the community in an effort to encourage private support to address these needs.

### **Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing**

The City of Biloxi is not planning a property tax increase in an effort to maintain affordable housing. It will continue to work with housing developers and realtors to consider infill housing development and to provide a diverse range of affordable housing units throughout the City, especially to meet the needs of the elderly and those with special needs.

### **Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards**

The City will continue to share information about LBP hazards as part of its fair housing outreach strategy to educate the public. Information about LBP hazards also will continue to be shared by the Biloxi Housing Authority with voucher holders.

**Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families**

Through its business development and recruitment efforts, the City will continue to work expanding the local economy to create a diversity of full-time and part-time jobs. By expanding employment opportunities, the City will help reduce the number of poverty-level families in Biloxi.

**Actions planned to develop institutional structure**

By continuing to participate as an active member of the Open Doors Homeless Coalition, the City will stay informed about the activities and services of area nonprofits who play a role in the institutional structure. Staff will maintain ongoing communications with the Biloxi Housing Authority and others as it encourages development and implementation of a tenant-based rental program to make existing rental housing stock more accessible to low- to moderate-income households as well as the homeless.

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

Participation in the Open Doors Homeless Coalition activities enhances coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies. The annual Point in Time homeless population count and other programs are supported by numerous agencies, including the City of Biloxi. Food, clothing and toy drives are well coordinated by community agencies to maximize their impact on underserved citizens.

**Citizen Participation Documentation, Maps & HUD Forms & Certifications  
will be attached to the Final Document for submittal to HUD**