



Town of Christiansburg

2018

Community Development Block Group

Consolidated Annual

Performance and

Evaluation Report

(CAPER)

Presented to
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD
October 10, 2019 – November 12, 2019

DRAFT

CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

Progress the jurisdiction has made in carrying out its strategic plan and its action plan. 91.520(a)

This could be an overview that includes major initiatives and highlights that were proposed and executed throughout the program year.

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The Town of Christiansburg utilized all of the CDBG allocations for the the previous Program Year for construction of the Park Street sidewalk project. Construction began in spring of 2017 and was completed in late fall of 2017. The improvements included a 5-foot sidewalk on Park Street from east of Hagan Street NE to Depot Street. Other major items accomplished as part of the project included:

- Formal approval from Norfolk Southern was gained to permit sidewalk and drainage improvements through its track right-of-way at the Park Street intersection with Depot Street NE;
- Relocation of several utility poles by the power company, AEP, in order to allow for the construction of the sidewalk on the western side of project near Hagan Street NE; and
- Curb and gutter installation (and other related drainage improvements) necessary to install the sidewalk.

The Park Street project repaired several years of Town CDBG funding allocations plus an equal match of Town General Fund allocation and also state Revenue Sharing dollars attained by the Town. The Main Street sidewalk project was the next project long identified in the Town's LMI area--the Park District. This project had a similar cost to the last Park Street project so it was noted by Town staff that CDBG dollars alone could not finance this project. The Town applied for State funding through the Transportation Alternatives and Revenue Sharing programs (both run by the Virginia Department of Transportation) in 2018. In early summer of 2018, Town staff learned that this project was not funded by either program. Given this news, the Town continues to explore options for matching funds for this project and is also looking at other infrastructure projects that may be feasible within a shorter timeframe. The Town has not expended any CDBG dollars for this program year

Comparison of the proposed versus actual outcomes for each outcome measure submitted with the consolidated plan and explain, if applicable, why progress was not made toward meeting goals and objectives. 91.520(g)
 Categories, priority levels, funding sources and amounts, outcomes/objectives, goal outcome indicators, units of measure, targets, actual outcomes/outputs, and percentage completed for each of the grantee's program year goals.

Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected – Strategic Plan	Actual – Strategic Plan	Percent Complete	Expected – Program Year	Actual – Program Year	Percent Complete
Infrastructure	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$111703	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	841	0	0.00%	3925	0	0.00%

Table 1 - Accomplishments – Program Year & Strategic Plan to Date

Assess how the jurisdiction's use of funds, particularly CDBG, addresses the priorities and specific objectives identified in the plan, giving special attention to the highest priority activities identified.

The Town continues to pursue the highest priority project that had been identified by the Town for almost the last 10 years. Unfortunately the cost of projects requires leveraging other funding resources and hence requires multiple years to coordinate a comprehensive financing plan for costly sidewalk/drainage projects.

CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted

Describe the families assisted (including the racial and ethnic status of families assisted).

91.520(a)

	CDBG
White	1,732
Black or African American	112
Asian	12
American Indian or American Native	3
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0
Total	1,859
Hispanic	0
Not Hispanic	0

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

Narrative

According to the 2010 Census, Christiansburg’s population consisted of 89.5% white, 6.2% African American, 1.4% Asian and 2.2% Hispanic. An area of minority concentration in Town would be any racial group in a single census tract that comprises a percentage that is greater than the groups’ percentage as a whole.

The Town of Christiansburg continues to utilize CDBG funds in the Census Tract 208-Block Group 02. This census block group is bordered by Roanoke Street, East Main Street and Depot Street. The total population of this block group is 1,929 persons. For the numbers available, 1,013 persons live in renter-occupied housing compared—or a little over half—compared to 837 persons living in owner-occupied housing. Of this population, 10% would be considered a minority – some other race than white. In the census block group 208-02, 112 persons reported being African American; 12 reported being Asian; 3 reported being American Indian-Alaska Native; 17 reported as “some other race”; and 53 reported as two or more races. The largest concentration of race in the block group is white – 1,732 persons. These numbers trend consistently with Christiansburg’s overall population of 21,041 persons, where 18, 831 persons were reported as white alone. According to the 2010 Census, Christiansburg population consisted of 89.5% White, 6.2% Black, 1.4% Asian and 2.2% Hispanic. *Based on previous data collected for past consolidated plans, Staff’s understanding is Hispanic/Non-Hispanic populations were not available at the block group level for 2010.

CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

Identify the resources made available

Source of Funds	Source	Resources Made Available	Amount Expended During Program Year
CDBG	public - federal	111,703	0

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
Park Street District	100	0	

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

Leveraging

Explain how federal funds leveraged additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements were satisfied, as well as how any publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that were used to address the needs identified in the plan.

Not applicable for this program year.

CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

Evaluation of the jurisdiction's progress in providing affordable housing, including the number and types of families served, the number of extremely low-income, low-income, moderate-income, and middle-income persons served.

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Total	0	0

Table 5 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	0	0
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	0	0
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	0	0
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
Total	0	0

Table 6 – Number of Households Supported

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

There is not a difference to point out given that this was not an affordable housing goal set forth. The emphasis for the Town’s CDBG program has been sidewalk and drainage improvements primarily on Park Street. Given the level of funding provided through the CDBG program, it is not sufficient to establish initiative to address affordable housing issues directly.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

Given the level of funding provided through the CDBG program, it is not sufficient to establish initiative to address affordable housing issues directly.

Include the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income persons served by each activity where information on income by family size is required to determine the eligibility of the activity.

Number of Households Served	CDBG Actual	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income	0	0
Low-income	0	0
Moderate-income	0	0
Total	0	0

Table 7 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

As indicated above, there are not any households served since the CDBG program focusses on infrastructure improvements within a LMI community instead of focusing on affordable housing. At this time, Staff believes that the CDBG funding available to the Town is more feasible to leverage public infrastructure projects in a LMI area given the Town’s available funding sources and its past experiences than to pursue affordable housing at this time. These goals will be revisited as the Town reevaluates its consolidated plan in the next year.

CR-25 - Homeless and Other Special Needs 91.220(d, e); 91.320(d, e); 91.520(c)

Evaluate the jurisdiction's progress in meeting its specific objectives for reducing and ending homelessness through:

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

A comprehensive continuum of care system is necessary to effectively address homeless needs. This system must provide three basic components. First, there must be an immediate alternative to being unsheltered including not only emergency shelter, but an assessment of an individual's or family's needs. Second, there is a need for transitional housing and rehabilitative services. This aspect of the system should include services such as substance abuse treatment, interim mental health services, training in independent living skills, and many others dependent upon the individual needs. The final step is permanent housing that includes permanent supportive housing arrangements.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Homeless individuals and families will not necessarily need access to all of the above components, but this coordinated system is critical as an overall effort to overcome homelessness. In addition, there must be a strong homeless prevention strategy to ensure increasing numbers of homeless does not overwhelm the above system. In fact, prevention of homelessness, by stabilizing precarious housing arrangements, is significantly less costly than providing emergency shelter and food.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: likely to become homeless after being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections programs and institutions); and, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs

Though limited by local funding and dependent upon State and Federal Grant Assistance for many of our local endeavors, homelessness is a problem we would like to eliminate in our region. The Town of Christiansburg recognizes the need to assist low and moderate income households in danger of becoming homeless, and is committed to assisting those families by continued support of local agencies, the regional Housing Partnership, Continuum of Care and HOME Consortium.

Since the Town of Christiansburg does not have social service programs to directly assist the homeless, we are fortunate to have the New River Community Action, a local agency that administers the Homeless Intervention Program (HIP) for the region. The HIP program prevents the displacement of low and moderate-income households who are in danger of becoming homeless, assists those who are homeless to secure permanent housing, and assists individuals to regain self-sufficiency. The program provides no interest loans for mortgages and deposit assistance, as well as rent-payment grants to eligible people in the New River Valley. Not only does New River Community Action administer the HIP program, but the agency has also taken the lead to develop a Homeless Prevention Plan for the New River Valley. Many religious institutions and the regional community services organization have combined to create a "thermal shelter" during the coldest months to house homeless men in the New River Valley. This year the program will open its doors to women for the first time.

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 Town of Christiansburg will generally support applications for related programs and resources to assist in the prevention of homelessness from eligible non-profit organizations and other groups. When the Town is also an eligible applicant, it will seek to coordinate any application with other relevant organizations so program benefits will be delivered to citizens as effectively and seamlessly as possible.

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

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

The Town of Christiansburg does not have a public housing authority. There are a number of publicly-assisted housing projects within the corporate limits. Community Housing Partners, a private, non-profit organization located at 446 Depot Street, NE in Christiansburg provides housing assistance through the Section 8 Existing Program and other similar programs. Housing Connections(formerly Pembroke Management, Inc.) is a private, non-profit organization located in Christiansburg which contracts with VHDA to provide services for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program in Montgomery, Floyd, Giles, and Pulaski Counties

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

There are homeownership purchasing programs available to Town residents in general. Community Housing Partners (CHP) runs classes in town which are conveniently located for many residents of subsidized housing. The Town is supportive of these efforts, and others efforts such those of Habitat for Humanity to support home-ownership opportunities

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

Since the Town does not have a public housing authority, there are no actions to provide assistance to troubled PHAs.

CR-35 - Other Actions 91.220(j)-(k); 91.320(i)-(j)

Actions taken to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment. 91.220 (j); 91.320 (i)

Removal of barriers to affordable housing must be done with a full analysis of potential ramifications. In this regard, the Town's Zoning Ordinance will be continued to be amended to protect and strengthen residential districts. The Town's Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2013 and is beginning a 5 year review in early 2019. This is always an opportunity to ensure that the Comprehensive Plan--a principal guiding document for development and land use for the Town--supports policies that promote affordable housing options. The Town's current zoning ordinance provides flexibility of housing types within the CDBG focus area as well as throughout the Town. Furthermore, the current zoning is conducive to permitting different size lots and homes. Staff believes that this has assisted in providing a variety of housing options at different pricing levels to its residents. In addition, Christiansburg has opportunities in the areas of Continuum of Care and the HOME Consortium. The Town also encourages and supports the actions of the area community housing development organizations such as Community Housing Partners and Habitat for Humanity to provide further affordable housing opportunities throughout Town but especially within older neighborhoods or low to moderate income communities.

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

No actions were taken this program year.

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

No actions were taken this program year.

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

No actions were taken this program year.

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

No actions were taken this program year.

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

No actions were taken this program year.

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

The sidewalk project on Park Street was completed in the fall of 2017. This project has been listed as the highest priority of the Goals and Objectives for many years. Additional improvements to water and sewer infrastructure have been listed as a medium priority. This project was able to address some utility improvements as part of the sidewalk and drainage project. The Town of Christiansburg has not utilized CDBG funds to set goals to address affordable housing. The low to moderate residents—as well as all other residents-- have direct access to the new sidewalks and the renovated existing sidewalks along Roanoke Street, East Main Street, and Park Street. Developing sidewalks will encourage a walkable community providing access to grocery stores, medical offices (including a free clinic), and government offices such social services and Town Hall.

CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230

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

Christiansburg's Office of the Town Manager is the lead agency overseeing the development of the Consolidated Plan and is responsible for coordinating with area organizations, citizens and other interested parties.

In addition to overseeing the development of the plan, the Town of Christiansburg coordinates any infrastructure project through the Engineering, Public Works, and Finance Departments.

The CDBG program monitors high risk projects as a first priority. The areas reviewed to determine the risk level includes meeting goals, management procedures, record keeping, financial status, construction and labor standards (if applicable), and beneficiary data.

The Town of Christiansburg will monitor its own performance in meeting the goals by conducting frequent reviews with members of Town Council, Town Council appointed Street Committee, and citizens. By gathering beneficiary information, we are able to measure our success. Changes in policies and economic trends may affect a project's ability to meet proposed goals.

The Town of Christiansburg will continue to work with citizens and committees to address various community needs and goals. Through the Town's participation in the Consolidated Plan process, goals have been developed based on current needs.

Citizen Participation Plan 91.105(d); 91.115(d)

Describe the efforts to provide citizens with reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on performance reports.

The 2018 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) is to be available for the 30-day review. To ensure the public is fully informed of the process and given every opportunity to provide comment and input, print copies were available at the Christiansburg Public Library, located at 125 Sheltman Street, during the review process. Additional copies can be obtained from the Christiansburg Office of the Town Manager, located at the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 E. Main Street or on the Town's website at www.christiansburg.org. The Town of Christiansburg advertises the 30-day public review process in a local newspaper and on the Town's website. The Town also uses its social media outlets to promote citizen participation. Public input will be requested at a Town Council public hearing

to solicit additional comments on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 7PM at the Town Hall at 100 East Main Street. Citizens unable to attend the public input meeting are invited to offer comments and suggestions to the Planning staff either by telephone, mail, or email.

CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

Specify the nature of, and reasons for, any changes in the jurisdiction's program objectives and indications of how the jurisdiction would change its programs as a result of its experiences.

N/A

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

No

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

CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

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N/A

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