

2025-2029 Five Year Consolidated Plan
and
2025 Annual Action Plan



City of Hazleton, Pennsylvania

October 2025

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Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The City of Hazleton has been a designated entitlement community by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for many years. As such, the City receives Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) on an annual basis. Every five years the City must outline its strategy for the use of the funds through the preparation of a Consolidated Plan and transitioning homeless persons and families into housing.

The purpose of the Consolidated Plan (CP) is to guide federal funding decisions in the next five years. The CP is guided by three overarching goals that are applied according to a community's needs. The goals are:

- To provide decent housing by preserving the affordable housing stock, increasing the availability of affordable housing, reducing discriminatory barriers, increasing the supply of supportive housing for those with special needs, and transitioning homeless persons and families into housing.
- To provide a suitable living environment through safer, more livable neighborhoods, greater integration of low- and moderate- income residents throughout the City, increased housing opportunities, and reinvestment in deteriorating neighborhoods.
- To expand economic opportunities through more jobs paying self-sufficient wages, homeownership opportunities, development activities that promote long-term community viability, and the empowerment of low- and moderate- income persons to achieve self-sufficiency.

The primary federal funding resource in the 2025-2029 CP is the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The primary objective of this program is to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and economic opportunities, principally for persons of low- and moderate- income levels. Funds can be used for a wide array of activities, including housing rehabilitation, homeownership assistance, construction or rehabilitation of public facilities and infrastructure, removal of architectural barriers, public services, rehabilitation of commercial or industrial buildings, and loans or grants to businesses.

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

Overview

The Strategic Plan provides a framework to address the needs of the City for the next five years using approximately \$3.2 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The remainder would be used for program administration. HUD has provided three overarching objectives for use of the funding:

- Providing decent affordable housing
- Creating suitable living environments
- Creating economic opportunities

Outcomes show how programs and activities benefit a community or the people served. The three outcomes that will illustrate the benefits of each activity funded by the CDBG program are:

- Improve availability/accessibility
- Improve affordability
- Improve sustainability

The City of Hazleton has identified the following priority needs:

- Public Facilities and Infrastructure Improvements
- Reduce Blight
- Public Services
- Improve Access and Quality of Affordable Housing
- Planning and Administration

The City of Hazelton set several goals to meet these priority needs:

-

3. Evaluation of past performance

The following are highlights of past performance based on the 2023 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) submitted to HUD in March 2024. The next CAPER for FY 2024 will be prepared for submission to HUD by March 30, 2025.

For FY 2023, the City received CDBG funds in the amount of \$644,961.00 and had funds remaining from prior years. During the year, the City expended \$822,100.01. The CDBG funds were expended on high priority activities as follows:

Active Category	Total Activities Disbursed
Clearance and Demolition	\$6,041.58
Total Acquisition	\$6,041.58
Parks, Recreational Facilities	\$6,683.13
Street Improvements	\$563,292.10
Total Public Facilities and Improvements	\$569,975.23
Operating Costs of Homeless/AIDS	
Patients Programs	\$20,000.00
Crime Awareness	\$0.00
Total Public Services	\$20,000.00
General Program Administration	\$92,821.96
Total General Administration and Planning	\$92,821.96

Planned Repayment of Section 108 Loan Principal	\$133,261.24
Unplanned Repayment of Section 108 Loan Principal	\$0.00
Total Repayment of Section 108 Loans	\$133,261.24
Grand Total	\$822,100.01

4. Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process

The City of Hazleton’s goal for citizen participation is to ensure a broad participation of City residents and housing, economic, and service providers in the planning and implementation of the community development program. Citizen participation takes the form of advertised community meetings and public hearings.

The planning process for the preparation of the Five-Year Consolidated Plan and FY 2020 Annual Action Plan included the following distinct elements:

- Meetings and telephone interviews with City departmental staff, and local service providers to understand the current scope of programs, issues, and concerns. The one-on-one conversations helped to develop strategies to address the community needs that were identified in the focus group sessions.
- Review of existing community development-related planning documents, including Downtown Hazleton’s draft plan and the Continuum of Care application, and the incorporation of relevant findings and data into the Consolidated Plan.

5. Summary of public comments

Insert after display period

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

Insert after display period

7. Summary

Insert after display period

The Process

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

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

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
CDBG Administrator	HAZLETON	Department of Community and Economic Development

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative

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)

1. Introduction

The consultation process for the development of the Consolidated Plan is outlined in the Citizen Participation policy of the City.

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)).

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

Catholic Social Services (CSS) takes the lead agency role with the Luzerne County Continuum of Care (COC). Representatives from the City of Hazleton participate in the process, specifically Catholic Social Services. During preparation of the Consolidated Plan, the City discussed the COC goals with the COC Coordinator and incorporated the goals of the COC in the Plan. A copy of the draft plan was provided to the COC for review and comment.

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 Hazleton is not a recipient of Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding.

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

1	Agency/Group/Organization	Hazleton Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	PHA
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Housing Needs Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy

	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	A meeting was held with the Hazleton Housing Authority Director and staff. The City and the Housing Authority have a good working relationship and are supportive of the goals of one another.
2	Agency/Group/Organization	Catholic Social Services
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Catholic Social Services is the lead agency for services in the City of Hazleton and recently expanded its mission to provide a homeless shelter and special needs housing. The City provides funding for the homeless shelter case manager and is supportive of CSS and its goals.

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

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

All agency types have been consulted.

Will update after final public meeting.

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?
2019-2024 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Five-Year Plan for Northeastern Pennsylvania	Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance (NEPA)	The need for Affordable Housing and Public Infrastructure improvements.
2020 Luzerne County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update	Luzern County Department of Planning and Zoning and Emergency Management Agency	Hazard Mitigation
A Strategic Approach to Growing the Region’s Economy (2023)	The Institute for Public Policy and Economic Development	The need for Affordable Housing and Public Infrastructure improvements.

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))

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 of Hazleton’s goal for citizen participation is to ensure a broad participation of residents, housing, economic, and service providers in the planning and implementation of community development program.

For the development of the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and the FY 2025 Action Plan, a public notice was published in newspapers in August editions and in the *Hazleton Standard Speaker* on August 26, 2024. The first public needs hearing was held on September 12, 2024. A letter inviting participation in the hearings was sent to social service agencies that address the needs of persons with low- and moderate-income, persons with disabilities and those with limited English-speaking abilities. Surrounding municipalities were also invited to submit comments on the City’s plan.

The City of Hazleton included language in the Notice published in the Standard Speaker to indicate that the plan could be made available in alternative languages or formats upon request to meet the needs of non-English speaking or disabled individuals. The notice was also published in a Spanish language newspaper.

The availability of the draft Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan, with notice of the public hearing and start of the 30-day public comment period, was published in the Standard Speaker on October 4, 2024. The 30-day public comment period ran from October 4, 2024 through November 4, 2024, and a 2nd public hearing was advertised to be held on October 17th to solicit public comment on the draft plan.

A summary of comments received, oral and written, will be included in the appendices of this plan.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (if applicable)
1	Public Meeting	All Residents	There was one agency representative	Catholic Social Services provided an overview of issues with affordable housing in the city and articulated priority needs for the 2025-2029 Consolidated plan.	None	
2	Newspaper Ad	Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish	The public hearing notices were run in two Spanish Language newspapers	No comments were received. none	None	

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Needs Assessment

NA-05 Overview

Needs Assessment Overview

The needs assessment is based on an analysis of housing problems across the City of Hazleton by income level among renters, owners, and households with special needs. Additionally, needs were identified through a public outreach process that included stakeholder consultations/interviews and public meetings.

Data in this section was drawn primarily from HUD's Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data set, which is a special tabulation of 2016-2020 American Community Survey (ACS) data from the Census Bureau. The CHAS data describes housing problems, such as overcrowding or incomplete kitchen and/or plumbing facilities, as well as cost burden, which occurs when a household pays more than 30% of its gross income on housing costs. Extreme cost burden occurs when a household pays more than 50% of its gross income on housing costs.

Supplemental data were drawn from the 2016-2020 ACS 5-Year Estimates and other sources to provide additional context when needed.

The following conclusions can be made from data contained in this section regarding disproportionately greater needs among certain populations:

NA-10 Housing Needs Assessment - 24 CFR 91.205 (a,b,c)

Summary of Housing Needs

High housing costs and poor quality of housing stock reduce opportunities and access to prosperity, especially among lower-income households in the City of Hazleton. Real incomes in the area have declined while rental housing costs have risen, resulting in an increase in the need for affordable housing options. Between 2009 and 2020, the median income for City residents declined by -2.1% after adjusting for inflation, while median rent increased by 20.6%. Median home value decreased by 10.7% after adjusting for inflation during this same period.

Housing problems are broken down into four categories. The four housing problems include: cost burden, lack of complete plumbing or kitchen facilities, overcrowding, and zero/negative income.

As the data below show, the most significant housing issues identified are cost burden and severe cost burden. Cost burden is defined as spending over 30% of household income on housing costs, such as mortgage and rent payments. According to CHAS data, 20.68% of households in the City are cost burdened. Similarly, severe cost burden is defined as spending over 50% of household income on housing. In Hazleton, 17% of households are severely cost burdened. Cost burden is greatest among renter households earning less than 50% of HAMFI.

The following bullet points summarize the tables found on the following pages:

Demographics	Base Year: 2009	Most Recent Year: 2020	% Change
Population	25,340	24,805	-2.1%
Households	9,150	9,670	5.7%
Median Income	\$35,753.00	\$38,010.00	6.3%

Table 5 - Housing Needs Assessment Demographics

Data Source: 2000 Census (Base Year), 2016-2020 ACS (Most Recent Year)

Housing Cost Table (Supplemental)

	Base Year: 2009	Most Recent Year: 2020	% Change
Median Home Value	\$91,200 (\$110,020 in 2020)	\$98,300	-10.7% (7.8% adjusted)
Median Contract Rent	\$567 (\$684 in 2020)	\$687	-2.1% (+21.2% adjusted)

The following tables are HUD-generated tables within the IDIS eCon Planning Suite using 2016-2020 CHAS data. HAMFI refers to "HUD Adjusted Median Family Income," which is the median family income calculated by HUD for each jurisdiction in order to determine Fair Market Rents and income limits for HUD programs.

Number of Households Table

	0-30% HAMFI	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	>80-100% HAMFI	>100% HAMFI
Total Households	1,740	1,555	2,315	1,035	3,020
Small Family Households	495	745	680	355	1,220
Large Family Households	85	175	230	90	425
Household contains at least one person 62-74 years of age	285	375	395	185	745
Household contains at least one person age 75 or older	185	375	570	175	225
Households with one or more children 6 years old or younger	344	439	399	115	250

Table 6 - Total Households Table

Data 2016-2020 CHAS
Source:

Housing Needs Summary Tables

1. Housing Problems (Households with one of the listed needs)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Substandard Housing - Lacking complete plumbing or kitchen facilities	100	20	0	0	120	20	0	0	0	20
Severely Overcrowded - With >1.51 people per room (and complete kitchen and plumbing)	0	0	25	0	25	0	0	0	0	0
Overcrowded - With 1.01-1.5 people per room (and none of the above problems)	65	45	0	60	170	25	0	0	10	35
Housing cost burden greater than 50% of income (and none of the above problems)	805	225	40	25	1,095	215	110	55	0	380

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
Housing cost burden greater than 30% of income (and none of the above problems)	115	505	190	0	810	65	165	255	40	525
Zero/negative Income (and none of the above problems)	180	0	0	0	180	60	0	0	0	60

Table 7 – Housing Problems Table

Data 2016-2020 CHAS
Source:

2. Housing Problems 2 (Households with one or more Severe Housing Problems: Lacks kitchen or complete plumbing, severe overcrowding, severe cost burden)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Having 1 or more of four housing problems	970	285	60	85	1,400	255	110	55	10	430
Having none of four housing problems	390	720	1,130	380	2,620	125	435	1,075	560	2,195
Household has negative income, but none of the other housing problems	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 8 – Housing Problems 2

Data 2016-2020 CHAS
Source:

3. Cost Burden > 30%

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS								
Small Related	425	460	80	965	8	95	105	208
Large Related	55	105	0	160	4	40	0	44
Elderly	185	115	85	385	180	125	180	485
Other	425	95	65	585	95	14	30	139
Total need by income	1,090	775	230	2,095	287	274	315	876

Table 9 – Cost Burden > 30%

Data 2016-2020 CHAS
Source:

4. Cost Burden > 50%

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS								
Small Related	0	0	155	155	4	50	0	54
Large Related	0	0	20	20	4	0	0	4
Elderly	170	50	0	220	105	50	35	190
Other	0	425	10	435	95	0	0	95
Total need by income	170	475	185	830	208	100	35	343

Table 10 – Cost Burden > 50%

Data 2016-2020 CHAS
Source:

5. Crowding (More than one person per room)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Single family households	65	50	25	60	200	25	0	0	10	35

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
Multiple, unrelated family households	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Other, non-family households	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total need by income	65	54	25	60	204	25	0	0	10	35

Table 11 – Crowding Information – 1/2

Data 2016-2020 CHAS
Source:

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
Households with Children Present								

Table 12 – Crowding Information – 2/2

Describe the number and type of single person households in need of housing assistance.

No data is available regarding the housing cost burden of single person households; however, there are 3,187 single-person households in Hazleton, representing 33.0% of the population. The median income of single person households in the City is \$38,010, per 2020 ACS data. Given this is below the 50% Income Limit for HUD programs, it can reasonably be assumed there is a level of cost burden and other housing problems faced by single-person households.

Estimate the number and type of families in need of housing assistance who are disabled or victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

The Census Bureau reports disability status for non-institutionalized disabled persons from age 5 and over. As defined by the Census Bureau, a disability is a long-lasting physical, mental, or emotional condition that can make it difficult for a person to do activities such as walking, climbing stairs, dressing, bathing, learning, or remembering. This condition can also impede a person from being able to go outside the home alone or to work at a job or business.

The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination based on physical, mental, or emotional handicap, provided “reasonable accommodation” can be made. Reasonable accommodation may include changes to address the needs of disabled persons, including adaptive structural or administrative changes.

During public stakeholder sessions, social service representatives stated that there is a growing population of elderly with disabilities in the City of Hazleton. This subset of the population does not have many housing options in the City due to the cost of rent, inaccessibility of available homes, and the lack of resources at affordable homes. Stakeholders stated that there is a need for more affordable assisted housing for this population in the City of Kingston.

What are the most common housing problems?

Cost-burden remains the most common housing problem in the City, particularly among households earning below 50% AMI. There is also a need for accessible housing units across all age groups, in particular for the elderly hoping to age in place, as well as supportive housing units for mental/behavioral health consumers and those with other disabilities.

Are any populations/household types more affected than others by these problems?

Cost burden and severe cost burden affect households across the income spectrum, though the need for affordable housing is felt most acutely by the lowest income households. The rate of cost burden declines as household income increases. Renters earning below 50% HAMFI are also more likely to be cost burdened and severely cost burdened than homeowners in this income tier. Across the income spectrum, elderly and small related families are most likely to experience cost burden and severe cost burden.

Describe the characteristics and needs of Low-income individuals and families with children (especially extremely low-income) who are currently housed but are at imminent risk of either residing in shelters or becoming unsheltered 91.205(c)/91.305(c)). Also discuss the needs of formerly homeless families and individuals who are receiving rapid re-housing assistance and are nearing the termination of that assistance

No specific data is available on the characteristics and needs of low-income individuals and families with children who are currently housed but are at imminent risk of homelessness. However, it can reasonably be assumed that households that are already cost-burdened and have low incomes are going to be the first to be forced from the housing market by escalating housing costs. The City does not receive Emergency Solutions Grant dollars for rapid rehousing activities.

If a jurisdiction provides estimates of the at-risk population(s), it should also include a description of the operational definition of the at-risk group and the methodology used to generate the estimates:

No specific data is available to provide estimates of at-risk populations.

Specify particular housing characteristics that have been linked with instability and an increased risk of homelessness

The lowest income households are also the highest concentrations of minorities that experience challenges accessing healthcare, housing, and services. There remains a strong need for decent, affordable housing. Further, overcrowding, a lack of affordable housing, and lack of job skills and transportation to work are some of the key factors in instability and an increased risk of homelessness. Substance abuse and mental health diagnoses also contribute to instability.

NA-15 Disproportionately Greater Need: Housing Problems – 91.205 (b)(2)

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

Introduction

HUD defines a disproportionately greater housing need when a racial or ethnic group experiences housing problems at a rate 10 percentage points or greater than for the income level as a whole. The 2016-2020 CHAS data table below summarizes the percentage of each racial/ethnic group experiencing housing problems by HUD Adjusted Median Family Income (AMFI) levels. Housing problems include:

- Housing units lacking complete kitchen facilities and/or complete plumbing facilities
- Overcrowding (more than 1.5 persons per room)
- Housing costs greater than 50% of income (i.e., cost burden)

In general, the percentage of households with a housing problem is highest for the lowest income brackets (0-50% AMI) and decreases as income increases. According to the above definitions, Black/African American households across income brackets (up to 80% AMI) in the City of Hazleton experience one or more housing problems at a disproportionate level. While a relatively small sample size, this is still significant in that for all income tiers, Black/African Americans experience this at a disproportionate level.

Stakeholders stated that there is a lack of affordable housing in the City of Hazleton. Rehabilitation efforts of the City’s housing stock are needed city-wide. rehabilitation programs could target units to bring them into code and Housing Quality Standards so that Housing Choice Vouchers may be used to aid in affordability for City residents.

This information is summarized in the following table based on the HUD-generated tables in the subsequent pages. Cells highlighted in red indicate certain racial or ethnic groups which are experiencing disproportionately greater housing need:

	0-30% AMI	30-50% AMI	50-80% AMI	80-100% AMI
Racial/ Ethnic Group	% with one or more housing problems			
White	78.3%	51.1%	33.7%	7.3%
Black/ African American	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Asian	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Hispanic	96.1%	74.8%	34.6%	34.0%*
Jurisdiction as a Whole	87.3%	63.2%	33.6%	14.7%

Source: CHAS 2016 – 2020

*Even though this value is not 10 percentage points greater than the jurisdiction as a whole value, there is still a large difference between the highlighted value it still highlights a group that is potentially facing disproportionately greater housing need.

0%-30% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	1,205	175	240
White	505	140	110
Black / African American	75	0	20
Asian	0	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	615	25	95

Table 13 - Disproportionally Greater Need 0 - 30% AMI

Data 2016-2020 CHAS
Source:

*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than one person per room, 4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

30%-50% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	910	530	0
White	355	340	0
Black / African American	0	0	0
Asian	20	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	535	180	0

Table 14 - Disproportionally Greater Need 30 - 50% AMI

Data 2016-2020 CHAS
Source:

*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than one person per room, 4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

50%-80% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	575	1,135	0
White	305	600	0
Black / African American	0	10	0
Asian	0	15	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	270	510	0

Table 15 - Disproportionally Greater Need 50 - 80% AMI

Data 2016-2020 CHAS
Source:

*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities,
2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities,
3. More than one person per room,
4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

80%-100% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	125	725	0
White	40	510	0
Black / African American	0	45	0
Asian	0	10	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	85	165	0

Table 16 - Disproportionally Greater Need 80 - 100% AMI

Data 2016-2020 CHAS
Source:

*The four housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities,
2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities,
3. More than one person per room,
4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

NA-20 Disproportionately Greater Need: Severe Housing Problems – 91.205 (b)(2)

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

Introduction

HUD defines a disproportionately greater housing need when a racial or ethnic group experiences housing problems at a rate over 10 percentage points than that of the corresponding income level as a whole. The data table below summarizes the percentage of each racial/ethnic group experiencing severe housing problems by HUD Adjusted Median Family Income (HAMFI) levels. Where the HUD tables below report AMI, they refer to HAMFI. Severe housing problems include:

- Housing units lacking complete kitchen facilities and/or complete plumbing facilities
- Overcrowding (more than 1.5 persons per room)
- Housing costs greater than 50% of income (i.e., cost burden)

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole. In general, the percentage of households with a severe housing problem is high for the lowest income brackets (0-50% AMI) and decreases as income increases. According to the above definitions, Black/African American and Hispanic households earning 0-30% AMI experience one or more severe housing problems at a disproportionate level. Additionally, Hispanic Households earning 80-100% AMI experience one or more severe housing problems at a disproportionate level. Again, this population is a small sample size of the jurisdiction as a whole.

This information is summarized in the following table based on the HUD-generated tables in the subsequent pages. Cells highlighted in red indicate certain racial or ethnic groups which are experiencing disproportionately greater housing need:

	0-30% AMI	30-50% AMI	50-80% AMI	80-100% AMI
Racial/ Ethnic Group	% with one or more severe housing problems			
White	62.8%	20.9%	5.5%	0.0%
Black/ African American	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Asian	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
American Indian, Alaska Native	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Hispanic	88.4%	25.2%	3.2%	30.0%
Jurisdiction as a Whole	76.4%	22.6%	4.7%	8.8%

0%-30% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	1,055	325	240
White	405	240	110
Black / African American	75	0	20
Asian	0	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	570	75	95

Table 17 – Severe Housing Problems 0 - 30% AMI

Data 2016-2020 CHAS
Source:

*The four severe housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities,
2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities,
3. More than 1.5 persons per room,
4. Cost Burden over 50%

30%-50% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	325	1,115	0
White	145	550	0
Black / African American	0	0	0
Asian	0	20	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	180	535	0

Table 18 – Severe Housing Problems 30 - 50% AMI

Data 2016-2020 CHAS
Source:

*The four severe housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4. Cost Burden over 50%

50%-80% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	80	1,635	0
White	50	855	0
Black / African American	0	10	0
Asian	0	15	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	25	755	0

Table 19 – Severe Housing Problems 50 - 80% AMI

Data 2016-2020 CHAS
Source:

*The four severe housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4. Cost Burden over 50%

80%-100% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	75	775	0
White	0	550	0
Black / African American	0	45	0
Asian	0	10	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	75	175	0

Table 20 – Severe Housing Problems 80 - 100% AMI

Data 2016-2020 CHAS
Source:

*The four severe housing problems are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4. Cost Burden over 50%

NA-25 Disproportionately Greater Need: Housing Cost Burdens – 91.205 (b)(2)

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

Introduction:

HUD defines a disproportionately greater housing need when a racial or ethnic group experiences housing problems at a rate 10 percentage points or greater than for the income level as a whole. The table below summarizes the percentage of each racial/ethnic group experiencing housing cost burden. Racial/ethnic groups are sub-divided into the percentage of each racial/ethnic group paying less than 30% (no cost burden), between 30%-50% (cost burden), and above 50% (severely cost burden) of their gross income on housing costs. The column labeled no/negative income is the population paying 100% of their gross income on housing costs. This, however, assumes that these households have housing costs.

Based on these definitions, Asian households are cost burdened, paying more than 30% of income for housing-related costs. Black/African American households are severely cost burdened in the City of Hazleton, paying more than 50% of income for housing-related costs, at a disproportionate level.

This information is summarized in the following table based on the HUD-generated tables in the subsequent pages. Cells highlighted in red indicate certain racial or ethnic groups which are experiencing disproportionately greater housing need:

	Less than 30% (No Cost Burden)	30-50%	More than 50%	No/ negative income (not computed)
Racial/ Ethnic Group	% with housing cost burden			
White	73.4%	14.2%	12.4%	2.3%
Black/ African American	48.3%	0.0%	51.7%	13.8%
Asian	69.2%	30.8%	0.0%	0.0%
Hispanic	60.4%	19.9%	19.7%	2.6%
Jurisdiction as a Whole	67.6%	16.4%	16.0%	2.8%

Source: CHAS 2016-2020

Housing Cost Burden

Housing Cost Burden	<=30%	30-50%	>50%	No / negative income (not computed)
Jurisdiction as a whole	5,870	1,425	1,390	240
White	3,540	685	600	110
Black / African American	70	0	75	20
Asian	45	20	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0
Hispanic	2,195	725	715	95

Table 21 – Greater Need: Housing Cost Burdens AMI

Data 2016-2020 CHAS
Source:

NA-30 Disproportionately Greater Need: Discussion – 91.205(b)(2)

Are there any income categories in which a racial or ethnic group has disproportionately greater need than the needs of that income category as a whole?

The 2016-2020 American Community Survey (ACS) and 2016-2020 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) tracks various racial or ethnic demographic groups in the City of Hazleton. This data reveals that Black/African American, Asian, and Hispanic households, at different income categories, living in the City experience disproportionately greater housing needs. The following is an overall summary of the disproportionately greater needs in the City of Hazleton:

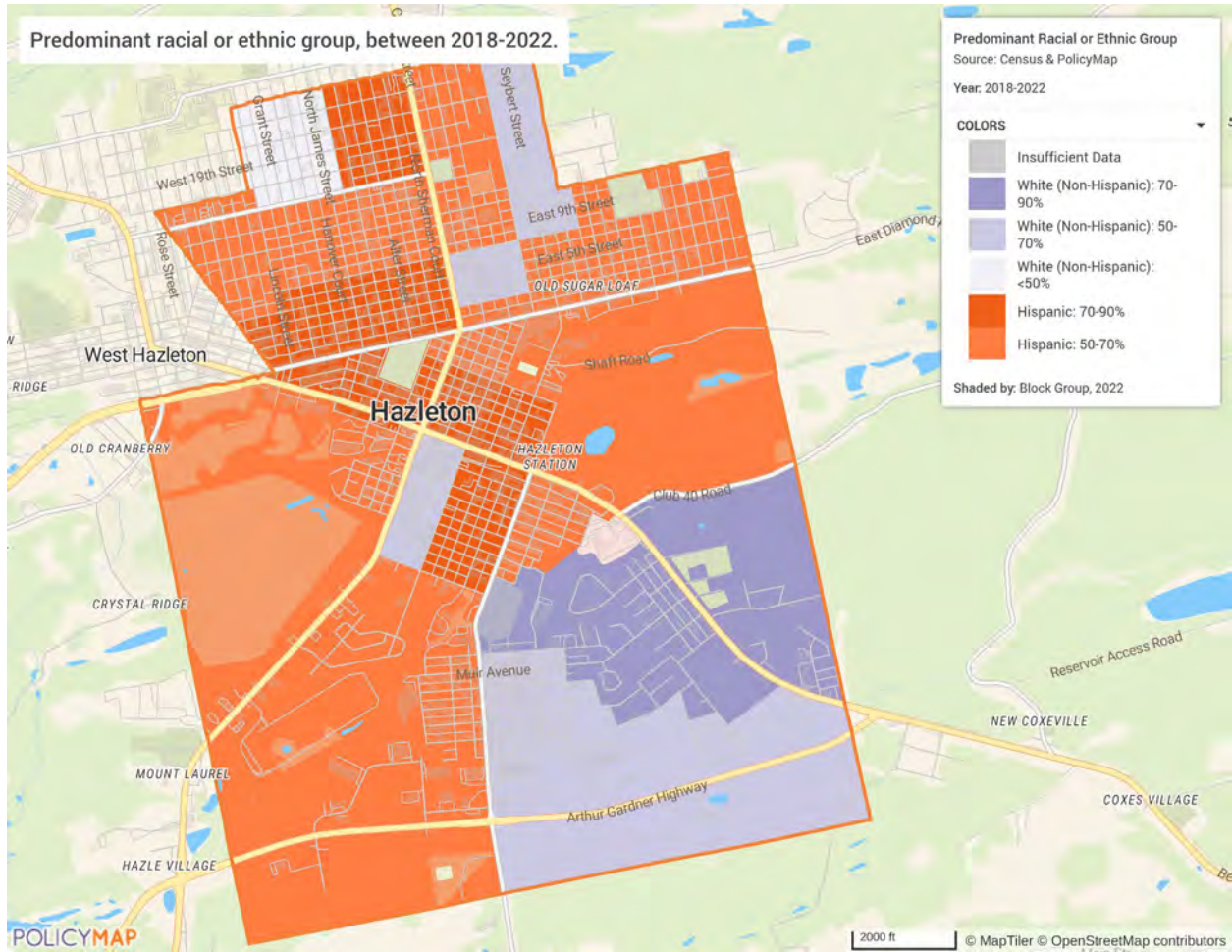
- Black/African American households below 50% AMI experience one or more severe housing problems at a disproportionate level. About half of Black/African American households in the City of Hazleton pay more than 50% of their income on housing costs.
- Asian Households earning 30-50% AMI disproportionately experience housing problems, and majority of Asian Households earning 0-30% AMI disproportionately experience severe housing problems. Over 30% of Asian households pay more than 30% of their income on housing costs.
- Hispanic households earning 80-100% AMI disproportionately experience housing problems and severe housing problems in the City of Hazleton.

If they have needs not identified above, what are those needs?

The needs are identified above.

Are any of those racial or ethnic groups located in specific areas or neighborhoods in your community?

Households with very low income are generally concentrated in the central core area of the City. This is also true for racial and ethnic areas of concentration, evidenced by the map on the following page.



NA-35 Public Housing – 91.205(b)

Introduction

The City’s public housing agency is the Hazleton Housing Authority (HHA). The Hazleton Housing Authority (HHA) owns and manages 299 assisted rental housing units in the City of Hazleton. HHA is the largest provider of assisted housing in the City of Hazleton. HHA’s Board is appointed by the Mayor of the City of Hazleton and ratified by City Council. HHA staff is hired through Civil Service priority. The Hazleton Housing Authority (HHA) owns and manages three public housing developments – Hazle Twins providing 100 units for elderly and disabled and Vine Manor and Vine West with 199 units of family housing. The Authority also administers a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program with authority to provide 260 housing vouchers. Public housing receives an allocation from HUD’s Capital Fund Program for maintenance and modernization. Funds are also received for operational costs.

The tables below were populated by IDIS eCON Planning Suite. Where data has been confirmed inaccurate, supplemental tables have been included with more up-to-date information generated by the Hazleton Housing Authority.

Totals in Use

	Program Type								
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers					
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
# of units vouchers in use	0	0	299	260	15	245	0	0	0

Table 22 - Public Housing by Program Type

*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Characteristics of Residents

	Program Type							
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers			Special Purpose Voucher	
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program
Average Annual Income	0	0	11,464	13,339	0	13,368	2,916	0
Average length of stay	0	0	5	5	0	5	0	0
Average Household size	0	0	1	2	0	2	1	0
# Homeless at admission	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
# of Elderly Program Participants (>62)	0	0	164	53	0	53	0	0
# of Disabled Families	0	0	77	76	0	75	1	0
# of Families requesting accessibility features	0	0	297	284	0	282	1	0
# of HIV/AIDS program participants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of DV victims	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 23 – Characteristics of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Race of Residents

Race	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Program Type					
				Vouchers			Special Purpose Voucher		
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
White	0	0	281	264	0	264	0	0	0
Black/African American	0	0	17	15	0	15	0	0	0
Asian	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	1	4	0	3	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition

Table 24 – Race of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Ethnicity of Residents

Ethnicity	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Program Type					
				Vouchers			Special Purpose Voucher		
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
Hispanic	0	0	176	152	0	151	0	0	0
Not Hispanic	0	0	212	132	0	131	1	0	0

*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition

Table 25 – Ethnicity of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Section 504 Needs Assessment: Describe the needs of public housing tenants and applicants on the waiting list for accessible units:

According to information gathered in 2024, there are 245 families on the waiting list for public housing. There were also 31 families on the waiting list for Section 8. Majority of these families earn less than 30% AMI, 4 are elderly families, and 5 are individuals/families with disabilities.

HHA provides 9 elderly units in the Hazle Twins elderly/disabled project that are accessible, including 5 for mobility and 4 for hearing disabled, and 5 units at each Vine Manor and Vine West, including 4 for mobility and 1 for hearing disabled. Currently all adapted units are occupied by persons with disabilities

Most immediate needs of residents of Public Housing and Housing Choice voucher holders

The waiting list for public housing is extraordinarily long and can take approximately five years to get to the top of the list. 31 families are waiting for Section 8 HCVs. The majority are small families with income below 30% of the median family income.

According to the HHA there is need for more family units in the City of Hazleton. This is a part of greater need for more affordable housing in the City. The City also faces challenges working with landlords that are not willing to accept Housing Vouchers.

How do these needs compare to the housing needs of the population at large

The need for independent living assistance is comparable to the need of elderly and disabled households living in the community. Likewise, the need for coordinated social services, job training and ESL for low-income families to achieve self-sufficiency is comparable to persons living in the community. In addition, the need for improvements to the housing quality are experienced across population and income groups.

NA-40 Homeless Needs Assessment – 91.205(c)

Introduction:

The Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO) is the designated Collaborative Applicant for the Luzerne County PA-503 CoC process and coordinates with 40 community agencies and private volunteers. CEO is a co-chair for the Luzerne County Homeless Coalition which evolved into the primary decision-making group for the overall Luzerne County PA-503 CoC process. The Luzerne County CoC is a community-wide planning collaborative comprised of Luzerne County Homeless providers and community volunteers that operates year-round bringing together state, local, private, and non-profit organization to reduce the incidence of homelessness and homeless prevention activities.

CEO is also the HMIS administrator.

Needs of Persons Threatened with Homelessness

It is difficult to accurately measure the number of persons “at-risk” of becoming homeless. It is impossible to gauge at any one time the number of people who are threatened with eviction, unemployment, foreclosure, or termination of utilities. Families and individuals are at risk of becoming homeless when they no longer have any cushion against the perils of life. Most commonly, a family is at risk when it lives paycheck-to-paycheck without any savings for sudden emergencies. An example of an individual at risk would be a person with a mental illness facing the threat of eviction because of improper behavior. If only one lost paycheck, a small rent increase, one stint of illness, a temporary layoff from work, or one “episode” can cause people to lose their housing, then they are considered “atrisk.” Furthermore, those who are vulnerable to residing in shelters or on the street and are at risk of becoming homeless include:

- Persons leaving institutions (detox, mental hospitals, prisons, etc.)
- Households with incomes less than 30% of the median family income
- Households paying in excess of 50% of income for housing costs
- Victims of domestic violence
- Special needs populations (i.e., persons with AIDS, disabilities, drug, and/or alcohol addiction, etc.)
- Single parent head of households who are unemployed
- Large low-income families
- Renters facing eviction
- Homeowners facing foreclosure

- Young adults aging out of foster care systems

Households that exhibit one or more of the characteristics listed constitute a population that is “at-risk” of becoming homeless. These individuals and families are considered at risk of becoming homeless because they have a lesser chance of being able to make economic improvements in their lives.

Currently, the number of persons in each of the groups identified above is unknown. It is recognized that these populations exist in the City but is impossible to quantify.

Population	Estimate the # of persons experiencing homelessness on a given night		Estimate the # experiencing homelessness each year	Estimate the # becoming homeless each year	Estimate the # exiting homelessness each year	Estimate the # of days persons experience homelessness
	Sheltered	Unsheltered				
Persons in Households with Adult(s) and Child(ren)	25	1				
Persons in Households with Only Children	0	0				
Persons in Households with Only Adults	67	1				
Chronically Homeless Individuals	1	0				
Chronically Homeless Families	0	0				
Veterans	5	0				
Unaccompanied Child	10	0				
Persons with HIV	0	0				
Severely Mentally Ill	29	0				
Chronic Substance Abuse	15	0				
Victims of Domestic Violence	22	0				

If data is not available for the categories "number of persons becoming and exiting homelessness each year," and "number of days that persons experience homelessness," describe these categories for each homeless population type (including chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth):

The 2023 Point In Time Count is the most recently available data. During the Count on January 25, 2023, 138 persons were identified in the Wilkes Barre/Hazleton/Luzerne County Continuum of Care; of those, 137 were sheltered and 1 was unsheltered. The Count identified 1 homeless family which was sheltered. The PIT identified 5 homeless Veterans, all of which were sheltered. There were also 10 unaccompanied youth identified; all were sheltered. Three parenting youth were identified during the 2023 PIT residing in shelters and 1 parenting youth with 1 child in transitional housing. There was 1 chronically homeless individual who had received shelter identified during the 2023 PIT.

Nature and Extent of Homelessness: (Optional)

Race:	Sheltered:	Unsheltered (optional)
Ethnicity:	Sheltered:	Unsheltered (optional)

Estimate the number and type of families in need of housing assistance for families with children and the families of veterans.

Families with children in need of housing assistance can be estimated based upon the number on the waiting list for public housing and vouchers. The Hazleton Housing Authority current waiting list has a total of 63 small families (2-4 members) and 15 large families (5 or more members) on its waiting list for public housing units. The Section 8 voucher waiting list has significantly more families on the waiting list, with 185 small families and 50 large families awaiting the availability of vouchers.

For the estimate of families with veterans in need of housing assistance, the 2023 CoC Homeless Populations and Subpopulations report for the region indicate veterans experiencing homelessness were all sheltered as of the PIT report, with 2 in emergency shelter and 3 in transitional housing.

Describe the Nature and Extent of Homelessness by Racial and Ethnic Group.

The information from the 2023 CoC Homeless Populations and Subpopulations report for the Wilkes-Barre, Hazleton/Luzerne County CoC region provides some insight into the race and ethnicity of individuals and families experiencing homelessness. While the report is for the broader region, it includes the City of Hazleton within the reporting area.

Of the total 138 persons experiencing homelessness at the time of the report, 58 (42%) were Black/African American, 69 (50%) were white, and 11 (8%) reported as multiple races. The number of Hispanic/Latino experiencing homelessness was 33 (24%) and 105 reported as Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino.

The subject report only reported 1 unsheltered individual at the time of the PIT count, and that individual was a White, Non-Hispanic/Latino male.

Describe the Nature and Extent of Unsheltered and Sheltered Homelessness.

The 2023 Point in Time Count is the most recently available data as of the development of this Consolidated Plan. During the PIT count in January 2023, there were a total of 138 persons identified in the Wilkes Barre/Hazleton/Luzerne County Continuum of Care; of those, 137 were sheltered and 1 was unsheltered. The Count identified 70 homeless families with at least 1 adult and 1 child, all of which were sheltered in either emergency shelter or transitional housing. The PIT identified 5 homeless Veterans, all of which were sheltered. The 2023 PIT count did not identify any unaccompanied youth under 18 experiencing homelessness but reported 10 for the 18-24 age group. Three parenting youth and 3 children of parenting youth were identified during the 2023 PIT residing in shelters and transitional housing. There was 1 person identified as chronically homeless in the 2023 PIT, and that individual was sheltered in emergency shelter.

Of the 138 persons, 29 (21%) had serious mental illness, 15 (10.9%) had chronic substance abuse, 22 (15.9%) were victims of domestic violence, 5 (3.6%) were Veterans and 0 with HIV/AIDS. The lack of an adequate household income presents a problem in maintaining housing. Many homeless persons need case management and other supportive services to achieve self-sufficiency.

The CoC has taken steps to incorporate a Prepared Renters Training (PREP) with its rapid rehousing and permanent housing programs as a potential strategy to assist households in retaining permanent housing. In addition, participants in the CoC and ESG Rapid Rehousing Programs are now eligible for a full year of rental assistance for consistency, and as a result have seen a slight 1% increase in housing retention in these programs and will continue monitoring outcomes. Case managers are encouraging homeless participants to seek employment and the CoC has an MOU with the Luzerne/Schuylkill Workforce Investment Board to provide employment assistance. Caseworkers also encourage homeless participants to apply for Section 8 when the waiting list is open and provide assistance applying for mainstream benefits to supplement income.

NA-45 Non-Homeless Special Needs Assessment - 91.205 (b,d)

Introduction:

Persons with special needs include the elderly and frail elderly, persons with severe mental illness, developmentally disabled, physically disabled, persons with alcohol/other drug addictions, and public housing residents. Special housing options for segments of these populations have not been quantified. Many persons with such special needs also have very low incomes. Therefore, their needs may have already been taken into account in estimating the housing needs of persons with very low incomes. However, for some people, supportive housing – housing with supportive services – is needed as they are unable to undertake the activities of daily living (ADL) without assistance.

Describe the characteristics of special needs populations in your community:

Elderly

Elderly persons are more likely to live on fixed, very low incomes or require special supportive service to complete their daily routines. This means elderly residents especially need affordable housing options and easy access to service providers.

According to ACS 2016-2020 estimates, 15.4% of households consist of at least one person aged 65 or over. In addition, the Census reported that 32.6% of persons between 65-75 years, and 36.8% of persons 75 years and over had at least one disability in 2020; 14.2% of whom experienced an independent living difficulty and 6.5% experienced a self-care disability.

Persons with Disabilities

In 2020, 16.9% of the population had a disability. Individuals with ambulatory disabilities generally require accessible housing units, and individuals with independent living disabilities may require assisted living facilities. Data from the 2020 ACS indicates that 8.4% indicated an ambulatory difficulty; 6.9% reported a cognitive difficulty.

In Hazleton, 20.8% of all adults live below the poverty line. However, there are differences in the incidence of poverty by disability status. For those with a disability, 31.9% live below the poverty line as compared to 68.1% of those without a disability.

According to information gathered during public stakeholder sessions, there is a growing population of elderly persons with disabilities in the City of Hazleton. This population is cost burdened and lacks access to quality and affordable housing. Programs that serve this population in the City of Hazleton are in need of more funding to address the needs of this growing population.

Substance Abuse and Addiction

Specific data regarding substance abuse and addiction rates in Hazleton are unavailable. However, Luzerne County's Drug and Alcohol Program indicated the need for implementation of opioid addiction services.

Individuals who have special needs are typically extremely low income and face tremendous challenges finding housing that they can afford. Individuals with special needs also require supportive services in addition to housing that they can afford. Public and private sources have much smaller funds available for these purposes, making it difficult for non-profit organizations to develop and operate housing and supportive service programs.

The special needs population in the City of Hazleton is served by Luzerne County programs for persons with disabilities. The programs are extensive and cover a wide range of disabilities including developmentally disabled, physically disabled, persons with mental illness and persons with substance abuse disorder. There are also programs for the elderly, many of whom are disabled or require assistance with daily living skills or simply telephone reassurance or transportation.

What are the housing and supportive service needs of these populations and how are these needs determined?

Summarizing the above estimates the most significant needs for these populations are:

- Decent, affordable housing, including rental vouchers.
- Designated Supportive Housing units for the severely mentally ill and substance abuse discharges.
- Employment training/self-sufficiency programs.
- Permanent supportive housing.

Discuss the size and characteristics of the population with HIV/AIDS and their families within the Eligible Metropolitan Statistical Area:

The Pennsylvania Department of Health maintains a registry of reported HIV/AIDS cases by county of residence. As of the end of 2023, 739 cases of HIV had been reported in Luzerne County since 1980. The Department of Health presumes there are 653 persons living with AIDS in Luzerne County. Based on data from the Department of Health's Annual HIV Surveillance Report, there has been a slight decline in the number of annual diagnoses and rate of HIV disease in Luzerne County, with 28 being reported in 2021 and 18 being reported in 2023. Overall, there are 6.4 individuals with HIV for every 100,000 residents in Luzern County.

If the PJ will establish a preference for a HOME TBRA activity for persons with a specific category of disabilities (e.g., persons with HIV/AIDS or chronic mental illness), describe their unmet need for housing and services needed to narrow the gap in benefits and services received by such persons. (See 24 CFR 92.209(c)(2) (ii))

The City of Hazleton does not use HOME funds.

NA-50 Non-Housing Community Development Needs – 91.215 (f)

Describe the jurisdiction’s need for Public Facilities:

Through CDBG funds, the City of Hazleton can fund the construction, rehabilitation, or installation of public facilities. Eligible public facilities include neighborhood facilities (such as educational centers, parks, recreation centers, and libraries) and facilities for special needs populations (such as homeless shelters, elderly facilities, or centers for disabled persons). Public facilities in the City continue to require upgrades and improvements to meet current needs, in particular handicap accessibility. The City lacks the financial resources to improve public facilities to meet on-going demands.

Public Facilities needs include:

- ADA improvements to municipal buildings to increase accessibility.
- Rehabilitation of senior and community centers, including ADA accessibility improvements.
- Construction and rehabilitation of neighborhood parks.

The City lacks the financial resources to make improvements to the City’s physical infrastructure: Street, sidewalks, parks, storm water, etc. As a result, the general aging of the infrastructure and wear from use has started to deteriorate the quality of these facilities. Specifically, street improvements are lagging. The streets must be reconstructed to extend their useful life. Maintaining the quality of life in the City is critically important to encouraging private investment by homeowners, commercial and industrial concerns, institutions, and other landowners.

How were these needs determined?

Discussions with City staff and other stakeholders provided an overview on the extent of the need for public facility improvements.

Describe the jurisdiction’s need for Public Improvements:

The greatest need in the City is to address the aging infrastructure. Through CDBG funds, the City can fund the construction, rehabilitation, or installation of public improvements. Public improvements include, but are not limited to, street and sidewalk improvements, water and sewer installation, and maintenance and ADA compliance construction and rehabilitation.

Public Improvements needs include:

- ADA compliance construction and rehabilitation in low-moderate income areas.
- Resurface and reconstruct streets in low-income areas of the City
- Sewer and waterline installation and or replacement in low-moderate income areas.

How were these needs determined?

Discussions with City staff and other stakeholders provided an overview on the extent of the need for public improvements.

Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Services:

The growing population of elderly homeless individuals with disabilities is placing strain on existing social services and housing providers. The lack of affordable housing and adequate transportation exacerbates existing socio-economic disparities and social issues.

How were these needs determined?

Discussions with social service stakeholders indicated that the need for services is growing.

Housing Market Analysis

MA-05 Overview

Housing Market Analysis Overview:

This market analysis identifies the need to preserve existing affordable housing opportunities while advancing efforts to create a diverse supply of additional affordable units. Ideally, the City of Hazleton will have a mix of housing types to accommodate households of all types and income levels. The City’s housing strategies will be especially guided by the increasing mismatch between incomes and housing costs and the specific accommodations necessary to ensure that special needs populations have adequate affordable housing options with appropriate supportive services where needed.

Cost of Housing:

Between 2009 and 2020, the median income for City residents declined by 2.1% after adjusting for inflation, while median rent increased by 20.6%. Median home value decreased by 10.7% after adjusting for inflation during this same period.

Lead Based Paint Hazards:

HUD estimates that there are 4,260 owner-occupied units with the likelihood of finding lead-based paint and 3,735 renter-occupied units.

Public and Assisted Housing:

The Hazleton Housing Authority (HHA) owns and manages 299 assisted rental housing units in the City of Hazleton, providing 100 units for elderly and disabled and 199 units of family housing. The Authority also administers a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program with authority to provide 260 vouchers.

In addition, there are four publicly assisted private housing developments with 530 units. One of these units are expected to be lost from the affordable housing inventory in the next five years.

MA-10 Number of Housing Units – 91.210(a)&(b)(2)

Introduction

According to 2020 ACS data, the City of Hazleton has 10,872 occupied housing units that are primarily owner-occupied, with 46.4% of the units owner-occupied and 53.5% renter-occupied. Almost 13.3% of the City’s 11,160 total units are vacant. The majority of the units in Hazleton are single-family.

The City’s owner-occupied units, 13.8%, consist of four or more bedrooms. Among renter-occupied units, 60.6% have two or three bedrooms. These data are consistent; single family units – which tend to be larger than multi-family units – are about 70% of the housing stock. There is a need for more multifamily housing units which tend to be more affordable, particularly for small families with children, a demographic group particularly prone to cost burden and severe cost burden.

The rental vacancy dropped from 8.3% in 2016 to 13.3% in 2020. Homeowner vacancy rate dropped from 4.1% in 2016 to in 1.0% 2020

All residential properties by number of units

Property Type	Number	%
1-unit detached structure	4,295	38%
1-unit, attached structure	3,255	29%
2-4 units	2,240	20%
5-19 units	780	7%
20 or more units	435	4%
Mobile Home, boat, RV, van, etc	155	1%
Total	11,160	100%

Table 26 – Residential Properties by Unit Number

Data Source: 2016-2020 ACS

Unit Size by Tenure

	Owners		Renters	
	Number	%	Number	%
No bedroom				
1 bedroom				
2 bedrooms				
3 or more bedrooms				

Table 27 – Unit Size by Tenure - CHART BELOW

Data Source: 2016-2020 ACS

Unit Size by Tenure

	Owners		Renters	
	Number	%	Number	%
No bedroom	8	0.2%	156	3.0%
1 bedroom	201	4.4%	1,156	22.5%
2 or 3 bedrooms	3,03	68.4%	3,112	60.6%
4 or more bedrooms	1,226	27.0%	710	13.8%

Table 28 – Unit Size by Tenure

Data Source: 2016-2020 ACS

Describe the number and targeting (income level/type of family served) of units assisted with federal, state, and local programs

There are six privately owned, publicly assisted housing developments in the City of Hazleton as identified by the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency:

Development	Total Units	Units		
		Elderly	Family/General	Accessible
Center City Apartments	175	157	0	18
Hazleton Apartments	236	0	236	0
Hazlewood Apartments	99	89	0	10
Thomas Court	20	0	20	0
Gennaro Gardens	36	36	0	
St. Gabriel House	12	0	12	0
Total	578	282	268	28

Data Source: Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, 2019

Provide an assessment of units expected to be lost from the affordable housing inventory for any reason, such as expiration of Section 8 contracts.

Based on the LIHTC compliance period for the above referenced projects, as well as review of Section 8 and Multifamily assistance expiring contracts database maintained by HUD, there is no expectation that units will be lost from the affordable housing inventory over the next five years.

Does the availability of housing units meet the needs of the population?

Availability does not meet the need for affordable housing in the City of Hazleton. Given the cost-burden faced by so many City residents, multifamily units that tend to be more affordable are a need throughout the City.

Describe the need for specific types of housing:

There is a need for safe, sanitary, accessible, and affordable housing throughout the City. Specifically, there is a strong need for housing affordable to households earning less than 50% of the median income including family housing, and practical options are needed to ensure the availability of accessible units for the elderly and people with physical disabilities. CHAS and ACS data revealed that a significant proportion of single-person households are cost burdened/severely cost burdened.

MA-15 Housing Market Analysis: Cost of Housing - 91.210(a)

Introduction

The HUD-provided table below (Table 35) indicates the number of affordable units available to households with various income levels. The 270 rental units identified as affordable to households below 30% of the HUD-adjusted Median Family Income (HAMFI) represent only 5% of the rental housing inventory in the City of Hazleton. Based on the same data, 3,625 rental units are only affordable to households earning between 50% - 80% of HAMFI. This sharp contrast in the number of rental units indicates a clear and demanding need for additional affordable housing units in Hazleton.

Cost-burdened households refer to households that pay 30% or more on housing costs. Data from the 2020 ACS revealed 54% of renter households and 77.4% of owner households are considered cost burdened. For renters, 8.4% are severely cost-burdened, meaning they pay more than 50% of gross monthly income for housing.

The Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom unit in the City of Hazleton is \$803 per month. To avoid being cost burdened, a household needs to earn \$2,677 each month. This translates to \$15.43 per hour. According to HUD, monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payment is \$841. Households for which this is the sole source of income can spend \$300 monthly on housing, which is more than a quarter of the cost of renting a one-bedroom unit.

The following tables are HUD tables generated in IDIS.

Cost of Housing

	Base Year: 2009	Most Recent Year: 2020	% Change
Median Home Value	\$91,200 (\$110,020 in 2020)	\$98,300	7.8% (-10.7% adjusted)
Median Contract Rent	\$567 (\$684 in 2020)	\$687	21.2% (0.4% adjusted)

Table 29 – Cost of Housing

Rent Paid	Number	%
Less than \$500	886	17%
\$500-999	3800	74%
\$1,000-1,499	291	6%
\$1,500-1,999	0	0%
\$2,000 or more	0	0%

Table 30 - Rent Paid

Data Source: 2016-2020 ACS

Housing Affordability

Number of Units affordable to Households earning	Renter	Owner
30% HAMFI	270	No Data
50% HAMFI	1,440	720
80% HAMFI	3,625	2,044
100% HAMFI	No Data	2,648
Total	5,335	5,412

Table 31 – Housing Affordability

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

Monthly Rent

Monthly Rent (\$)	Efficiency (no bedroom)	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom
Fair Market Rent	\$566	\$657	\$803	\$1,040	\$1,109
High HOME Rent	\$566	\$657	\$803	\$1,040	\$1,109
Low HOME Rent	\$566	\$657	\$803	\$932	\$1,040

Table 32 – Monthly Rent

Data Source: HUD FMR and HOME Rents

Is there sufficient housing for households at all income levels?

There is not sufficient housing for all income levels. The table above shows that there is insufficient housing for extremely low- and low- income households in the City. According to CHAS data analyzed in the Needs Assessment, there are 3,295 households earning between 0% and 50% of the median family income in the City. However, there are only 2430 housing units (both renter and owner-occupied) affordable to these households, accommodating 73% of this population.

Stakeholders indicated during interviews that there is insufficient quality affordable housing in the City of Kingston. Available housing in the city is unaffordable for low- and moderate-income families and inaccessible for elderly residents with disabilities.

How is affordability of housing likely to change considering changes to home values and/or rents?

According to the table provided in the Needs Assessment section, between 2009 and 2020, the median income for County residents increased by 6.3% after adjusting for inflation, while median rent increased by 0.4% and median home values decreased by 10.7%. If these trends continue, then housing affordability will become an even higher barrier for most residents.

How do HOME rents / Fair Market Rent compare to Area Median Rent? How might this impact your strategy to produce or preserve affordable housing?

The Monthly Rent Table, Table 36, was populated via the IDIS eCon Planning Suite. Even though fair market rents reflect local rental rates, the median rent is not attainable for most lower-income households. As stated, housing costs are increasing while median incomes are decreasing. As housing construction and rehabilitation costs rise, it will be increasingly difficult to produce much needed affordable housing. Further, the low level of rents makes it difficult to support and improve the rental housing stock. Creation of new affordable units will help to offset the cost burden faced by so many households in the City of Hazleton; however, deeper subsidies are needed to encourage development.

MA-20 Housing Market Analysis: Condition of Housing – 91.210(a)

Introduction

Housing conditions in the City of Hazleton vary from very good to very poor. The following data provides an overview on the condition of housing in the City.

Definitions

Standard Condition

No major structural defects; adequate plumbing and kitchen facilities; appearance which does not create a blighting influence; and the house meets additional, more stringent, local standards and building codes, including lead-based paint clearance.

Substandard Condition but Suitable for Rehabilitation

The nature of the substandard condition makes rehabilitation both financially and structurally feasible.

Housing Conditions

Condition of units is assessed using the same criteria as in the Needs Assessment. This includes:

- 1) lacks complete plumbing facilities
- 2) lacks complete kitchen facilities
- 3) more than one person per room
- 4) cost burden (amount of income allocated to housing) is greater than 30%
- 5) complies with applicable building code standards.

Condition of Units

Condition of Units	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
With one selected Condition	1,022	22.5%	2,048	39.9%
With two selected Conditions	18	0.4%	246	4.8%
With three selected Conditions	0	0.0%	28	0.55%
With four selected Conditions	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
No selected Conditions	3,498	77.1%	2,812	54.8%
Total	4,538	100%	5,134	100%

Table 33 - Condition of Units

Data Source: 2016-2020 ACS

Year Unit Built

Year Unit Built	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
2000 or later				
1980-1999				
1950-1979				
Before 1950				
Total				

Table 34 – Year Unit Built – CHART BELOW

Year Unit Built	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
2000 or later	60	1%	215	4%
1980-1999	265	6%	405	8%
1960-1979	1045	23%	1365	27%
1940-1959	1610	36%	1075	21%
Before 1939	1555	34%	2070	40%
Total	4535	100%	5130	100%

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

Risk of Lead-Based Paint Hazard

Risk of Lead-Based Paint Hazard	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total Number of Units Built Before 1980	4,211	92.8%	4,514	87.9%
Housing units built before 1980 with children present	409	9.0%	1,020	19.9%

Table 35 – Risk of Lead-Based Paint

Data Source: 2016-2020 ACS (Total Units) 2016-2020 CHAS (Units with Children present)

Vacant Units

	Suitable for Rehabilitation	Not Suitable for Rehabilitation	Total
Vacant Units			
Abandoned Vacant Units			
REO Properties			
Abandoned REO Properties			

Table 36 - Vacant Units

The American Community Survey provided the following data on vacant units for the City of Hazleton:

	Number	Percent
Vacant Housing Units	1490	100%
For Rent	403	27.1%
Rented, not occupied	32	2.2%
For sale only	48	3.2%
Sold, not occupied	103	6.9%
For seasonal, recreational, or occasional use	93	6.2%
For migrant workers	0	0.0%
All other vacant	811	54.4%

Data Source: 2020: ACS 5-Year Estimates

Need for Owner and Rental Rehabilitation

There is a tremendous need for rehabilitation of the housing stock in the City of Hazleton. Older housing typically requires more continual maintenance. In the absence of routine maintenance, older housing can quickly become substandard. A common age threshold used to signal a potential deficiency is approximately 50 years or more. In the City, 36% of the housing units were built between 1940-1959. Another 23% of all units were built between 1960 and 1979. The age of housing coupled with lower incomes of residents often results in a disinvestment in the housing stock.

Owner- and renter-occupied housing units have different percentages of units built in the four time periods presented in the table above. Although both owner and rental units likely require rehabilitation from normal wear and tear, the need is slightly greater for owner units – 36% were built between 1940 and 1959, compared to 21% for renter-occupied units.

Renter-occupied units have a much higher prevalence (39.9%) of having at least one selected condition than owner-occupied units (22.5%). It is uncommon for both owner- and renter-occupied units to have more than one selected condition. This may indicate that more renter-occupied units than owner-occupied units require rehabilitation, although “selected condition” includes cost burden and overcrowding, which are not reflections of the physical state of the unit.

Estimated Number of Housing Units Occupied by Low or Moderate Income Families with LBP Hazards

HUD estimates that there are 409 owner-occupied and 45 renter-occupied units built prior to 1980 where children are present

MA-25 Public and Assisted Housing – 91.210(b)

Introduction

The Hazleton Housing Authority (HHA) owns and manages three public housing developments – Hazle Twins providing 100 units for elderly and disabled and Vine Manor and Vine West with 199 units of family housing. The Authority also administers a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program with authority to provide 260 vouchers.

Totals Number of Units

	Program Type								
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers					
				Total	Project -based	Tenant -based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
# of units vouchers available	0	0	299	260	15	245	0	0	0
# of accessible units									
*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition									

Table 37 – Total Number of Units by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Describe the supply of public housing developments:

There are three public housing developments: Hazle Twins providing 100 units for elderly and disabled and Vine Manor and Vine West with 199 units of family housing. According to the Hazleton Housing Authority (HHA), there are no vacancies or issues with occupancy at any of their public housing developments. The HHA intends to increase the number of project-based units over the next three years.

Describe the number and physical condition of public housing units in the jurisdiction, including those that are participating in an approved Public Housing Agency Plan:

Public Housing Condition

Public Housing Development	Average Inspection Score
Hazle Twins	93
Vine Manor	94
Vine West	95

Table 38 - Public Housing Condition

Describe the restoration and revitalization needs of public housing units in the jurisdiction:

The HHA received approximately \$633,190.00 (\$3,165,950.00 for FY2025 -FY2029) for Capital Fund for FY 2025. The HHA will use the Capital Fund to initiate a multi-year project to renovate housing units. Renovations include upgrades to kitchens, and bath upgrades, and other improvements. Over the next five years, through 2029, the Capital Fund will be used for additional upgrades.

Specifically, Hazle Twins will use Capital Funds to replace gas boilers, hot water heaters, replace kitchen cabinets, counters, ranges, and refrigerators.

Vine Manor will use Capital Funds to upgrade elevators, replace kitchen cabinets, counters, ranges, and refrigerators, resurface parking lots, and improve dumpsters.

Vine West funds will use Capital Funds to replace power washes, kitchen cabinets, counters, ranges and refrigerators, and roofs.

Describe the public housing agency's strategy for improving the living environment of low- and moderate-income families residing in public housing:

The HHA works closely with the Resident Council to address the quality of life in the housing developments. An open door to the Director ensures that residents will have their needs addressed. The Resident Council at the elderly/disabled apartments is a strong organization providing social events.

As mentioned above, the HHA will use Capital Funds to renovate all three public housing units in the City of Hazleton during FY 2025-FY 2029. Most of the residents of these unit's house low- income families. The HHA has hired new maintenance staff to improve the operations and maintenance issues in public housing, and a part-time housing inspector to inspect all public housing units.

MA-30 Homeless Facilities and Services – 91.210(c)

Introduction

Luzerne County has a mix of facilities for emergency, transitional and permanent supportive housing. There are seven emergency shelters; one for a mixed population (adult men and/or women); one for men only; one for women only; one for women with children under age 12; one for victim of domestic violence and two voucher programs- one ESG hotel/motel and one Red Cross for disaster victims.

There are 6 transitional housing facilities: one for families with children; two for Veterans; one for women with or without children; one for youth aged 18 to 24 and one for victims for domestic violence. The COC has 12 total Permanent Supportive Housing Programs; two specifically for chronic homeless; three for individuals; five for both families and individuals; one for Veteran individuals; one for Veteran Families. There are four CoC Rapid Rehousing Programs – one for individuals; two for families and one for youth aged 18 to 24. There are 47 Rapid Re-housing beds for individuals and 100 Rapid Re-Housing beds for families with children. In addition, there is an ESG Rapid Rehousing Program and a Supportive Service for Veterans Families (SSVF) Rapid Rehousing Program as well as VASH through the VA Medical Center.

Facilities and Housing Targeted to Homeless Households

	Emergency Shelter Beds		Transitional Housing Beds	Permanent Supportive Housing Beds	
	Year Round Beds (Current & New)	Voucher / Seasonal / Overflow Beds	Current & New	Current & New	Under Development
Households with Adult(s) and Child(ren)	33	10	79	353	
Households with Only Adults	71		31	163	
Chronically Homeless Households	0		0	52	
Veterans	0		6	111	
Unaccompanied Youth	0		8	48	

Table 39 - Facilities and Housing Targeted to Homeless Households

Describe mainstream services, such as health, mental health, and employment services to the extent those services are use to complement services targeted to homeless persons

Service providers in the smaller urban areas such as Hazleton tend to provide a wider range of services since they lack the numbers needed to specialize in one particular type of service. County operated services, Catholic Social Service and the Commission on Equal Opportunity provide an abundance of services.

Mental health services include suicide prevention, children and adolescent services, mental health forensic services for adults, substance abuse services and services for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Often, the need for these types of services acts as a barrier to obtaining and maintaining permanent housing, so services are targeted and often consumed by homeless individuals and families. In addition, employment services offered by CareerLink in Luzerne County aid homeless persons identifying job availability, application and on the job training opportunities in order to increase earned income that will in turn assist in maintaining stability in housing.

List and describe services and facilities that meet the needs of homeless persons, particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth. If the services and facilities are listed on screen SP-40 Institutional Delivery Structure or screen MA-35 Special Needs Facilities and Services, describe how these facilities and services specifically address the needs of these populations.

The number of beds available to persons experiencing homelessness has data available for the entire CoC, which City of Hazleton residents can access and receive services. The most recent Housing Inventory County (HIC) data is used from 2023. The total number of beds for the region which can provide housing for persons experiencing homelessness for all categories is approximately 730, and includes all emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing. Of those beds, 465 are available for households with children, 265 for households without children, 117 for veterans with and without children, 52 for chronically homeless, and 48 for youth. The types of services for persons who are homeless, homeless shelters and voucher programs and transitional and permanent supportive housing programs were identified in section NA-40.

These facilities and services are not specific to the homeless population but provide services as needed.

MA-35 Special Needs Facilities and Services – 91.210(d)

Introduction

As described in NA-45, needs are generally determined by the social service and housing agencies most directly in contact with special needs populations in the City of Hazleton. Luzerne County is the largest provider of such services. Persons with special needs include the elderly and frail elderly, persons with severe mental illness, developmentally disabled, physically disabled, persons with alcohol/other drug addictions, and public housing residents. Special housing options for segments of these populations have not been quantified. Many persons with such special needs also have very low incomes. Therefore, their needs may have already been taken into account in estimating the housing needs of persons with very low incomes. However, for some people, supportive housing – housing with supportive services – is needed as they are unable to undertake the activities of daily living (ADL) without assistance.

Including the elderly, frail elderly, persons with disabilities (mental, physical, developmental), persons with alcohol or other drug addictions, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, public housing residents and any other categories the jurisdiction may specify, and describe their supportive housing needs

There is an inadequate supply of affordable, accessible, decent code-compliant and supportive housing for populations with special needs within the City of Hazleton.

Elderly and Frail Elderly

The City intends to continue to support activities that address affordable housing for the elderly in the community. This will include continuing to provide and maintain public housing units for the elderly and disabled. Turnover of elderly/disabled units is very low, with households generally needing to wait at least three years for a unit.

Persons with Disabilities (Mental, Physical, Developmental)

Issues in housing for persons with disabilities are as follows:

- Affordable, safe, and appropriate housing.
- More home modification programs for those who acquire a disability as they age or through accident or illness.
- Accessible housing, particularly for those with severe disabilities.
- Assistance with rental and security deposits.
- Varying levels of supportive services adaptable to individual requirements.
- Effective pathways to ensure consumer information on existing housing and services programs.
- Services for those who are dually-diagnosed.

- Outreach to individuals who resist or cannot access the traditional mental health service system.

Persons With Alcohol Or Other Drug Addictions

As with other lower income populations, people who struggle with addiction have a difficult time paying for housing. The drug problem in Hazleton is growing. Pathways to Recovery/Serento Gardens is a Hazleton –based treatment provider.

Persons With HIV/AIDS And Their Families

The Wyoming Valley AIDS Council, Inc. serves the Hazleton area and is the recipient of Ryan White funding and HOPWA. Federal funding comes through the Northeastern HIV Regional Planning Coalition, which is administered by the United Way of Wyoming Valley. The Regional Planning Coalition oversees planning and service coordination in a multi-county area.

The number of persons with positive diagnosis of HIV+ in the Hazleton area has been growing. There is an increasing number of persons from the NY area that are HIV+. Many are Hispanic so the language barrier has become a problem. However, the largest problem facing persons living with HIV/AIDS is lack an infectious disease physician. The Wyoming Valley AIDS Council, Inc. has been working with the Lehigh Valley Medical Center to address this problem and bring medical care to those in southern Luzerne County.

The Wyoming Valley AIDS Council, Inc. provides services in Hazleton by either transporting clients to their facility in Scranton or bringing the services to Hazleton such as food distribution. Transportation is a huge barrier to service delivery.

Public Housing Residents

Families in public housing must continue to work toward self-sufficiency. Elderly in public housing need supportive services to remain independent. Both populations have a difficult time navigating services located in Wilkes-Barre and not easily accessible by public transportation. For the elderly, funding and services for in-home care is very limited.

Describe programs for ensuring that persons returning from mental and physical health institutions receive appropriate supportive housing

Hospitals, including mental health institutions, in PA must have written discharge policies such as appropriate referral and transfer plans including evaluation of a patient’s capacity for self-care and the possibility of being cared for in the environment from which s/he entered the hospital. The actual discharge varies with the individual, their primary and behavioral health needs, and their resources and supports available. While planners try to send individuals home or to family, sometimes they discharge to a nursing home, rehab hospital or as last resort, non-HUD funded shelter, but some shelters have protocols against accepting certain individuals directly from a hospital. The Luzerne Co. CoC requires hospital planners to

make phone contact with a given shelter/agency prior to a discharge so an appropriate housing placement can be arranged. While discharge planners attempt to send individuals back to a home, family, or friends, sometimes they discharge to a nursing home, personal care home, rehab facility or as a last resort to an emergency shelter.

Specify the activities that the jurisdiction plans to undertake during the next year to address the housing and supportive services needs identified in accordance with 91.215(e) with respect to persons who are not homeless but have other special needs. Link to one-year goals. 91.315(e)

The City does not receive funding for housing development but will continue to support developments that incorporate units for persons with special needs, including those needs outlined above.

For entitlement/consortia grantees: Specify the activities that the jurisdiction plans to undertake during the next year to address the housing and supportive services needs identified in accordance with 91.215(e) with respect to persons who are not homeless but have other special needs. Link to one-year goals. (91.220(2))

Not applicable; not consortia.

MA-45 Non-Housing Community Development Assets – 91.215 (f)

Introduction

According to the 2023 report prepared by The Institute at Wilkes University, titled *A Strategic Approach to Growing the Region’s Economy* the top four industries in the Scranton—Wilkes-Barre—Hazleton area are healthcare, transportation and warehousing, retail trade, and manufacturing . The data below, which are tables prepopulated by the IDIS eCON Planning Suite, indicate that manufacturing provided 24% of jobs in the City of Hazleton, followed by management services and retail trade.

Economic Development Market Analysis

Business Activity

Business by Sector	Number of Workers	Number of Jobs	Share of Workers %	Share of Jobs %	Jobs less workers %
Agriculture, Mining, Oil & Gas Extraction	122	26	1%	0%	-1%
Arts, Entertainment, Accommodations	776	113	7%	1%	-6%
Construction	484	1,008	4%	11%	7%
Education and Health Care Services	1,796	1,007	16%	11%	-5%
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	296	536	3%	6%	3%
Information	78	266	1%	3%	2%
Manufacturing	3,083	2,189	27%	24%	-3%
Other Services	332	754	3%	8%	6%
Professional, Scientific, Management Services	760	1,250	7%	14%	7%
Public Administration	243	0	2%	0%	-2%
Retail Trade	1,911	1,127	17%	13%	-4%
Transportation & Warehousing	1,261	106	11%	1%	-10%
Wholesale Trade	333	632	3%	7%	4%
Grand Total	11,475	9,014	-	-	-

Table 40 - Business Activity

Data Source: 2016-2020 ACS (Workers), 2020 Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (Jobs)

Labor Force

Total Population in the Civilian Labor Force	12,467
Civilian Employed Population 16 years and over	11,475
Unemployment Rate	8.0%
Unemployment Rate for Ages 16-24	40.2%
Unemployment Rate for Ages 25-65	39.0%

Table 41 - Labor Force

Data Source: 2016-2020 ACS

Occupations by Sector	Number of People
Management, business and financial	632
Farming, fisheries and forestry occupations	136
Service	1,535
Sales and office	1,844
Construction, extraction, maintenance and repair	744
Production, transportation and material moving	5,276

Table 42 – Occupations by Sector

Data Source: 2016-2020 ACS

Travel Time

Travel Time	Number	Percentage
< 30 Minutes	8943	77%
30-59 Minutes	1730	17%
60 or More Minutes	573	6%
Total	11,235	100%

Table 43 - Travel Time

Data Source: 2016-2020 ACS

Education:

Educational Attainment by Employment Status (Population 16 and Older)

Educational Attainment	In Labor Force		Not in Labor Force
	Civilian Employed	Unemployed	
Less than high school graduate	1,938	241	1,035
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	3,012	187	1,139
Some college or Associate's degree	2,684	90	610
Bachelor's degree or higher	1,395	34	207

Table 44 - Educational Attainment by Employment Status

Data Source: 2016-2020 ACS

Educational Attainment by Age

	Age				
	18-24 yrs	25-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-65 yrs	65+ yrs
Less than 9th grade	63	246	285	863	590
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	428	431	626	763	411
High school graduate, GED, or alternative	1,176	1,068	753	2,517	2,034
Some college, no degree	624	604	577	879	240
Associate's degree	8	495	369	460	136
Bachelor's degree	91	352	402	382	138
Graduate or professional degree	5	94	169	237	255

Table 45 - Educational Attainment by Age

Data Source: 2016-2020 ACS

Educational Attainment – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Educational Attainment	Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months
Less than high school graduate	\$25,728
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	\$27,488
Some college or Associate's degree	\$31,321
Bachelor's degree	\$31,014
Graduate or professional degree	\$52,583

Table 46 – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Data Source: 2016-2020 ACS

Based on the Business Activity table above, what are the major employment sectors within your jurisdiction?

The Economic Indicators report identified the same job generators for the region as can be found in Hazleton: Education and Health Care, Retail Trade, Manufacturing and Transportation and Warehousing. Based on data collected from the indicators report, the fastest growing industry in Luzerne County has been Transportation and Warehousing.

Describe the workforce and infrastructure needs of the business community:

The Workforce Investment Board (WIB) is a bi-county agency between Luzerne and Schuylkill Counties. The WIB plan indicates that while the transportation network in the region is good with several interstates and state highways, local roadways and public transit is an obstacle to employment.

Describe any major changes that may have an economic impact, such as planned local or regional public or private sector investments or initiatives that have affected or may affect job and business growth opportunities during the planning period. Describe any needs for workforce development, business support or infrastructure these changes may create.

According to the 2023 report prepared by The Institute at Wilkes University, titled *A Strategic Approach to Growing the Region's Economy* all major industries in the Scranton—Wilkes-Barre—Hazleton area have been impacted by global, national, and regional trends.

The healthcare and social assistance industries have been impacted by lack of resources and personnel which places significant administrative burden of service providers. The increased cost of living within the region has made it harder for low- and moderate- income individuals to obtain services from healthcare and social service providers. Additionally, the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have disrupted supply chains and the provision of services within the area. Despite staffing shortages and supply chain challenges, the healthcare industry is projected to continue growing.

In 2024, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties are projected to have 3,345 available positions in transportation and material moving, ranking fourth highest in the region. This presents significant challenges for existing transportation services, but also opportunities for residents in these cities looking for work.

Additionally, there has been increased demand for retail products due to excess in private savings. However, economic policies addressing growing inflation, enacted at the national and state level have lessened growth in the retail trade industry.

Similar to the retail sector, the manufacturing industry is facing challenges from rising inflation and strict economic policies designed to limit its growth.

How do the skills and education of the current workforce correspond to employment opportunities in the jurisdiction?

According to the 2023 Indicators Report, prepared by The Institute at Wilkes University, Luzerne county overall has seen an increase in graduate rates since 2021. As of 2022, 1,834 students from Luzerne County school districts have enrolled in Career and Technical Education Centers that offer career-based training that allow graduates to be ready to join a variety of different industries within the region.

According to the 2023 report prepared by The Institute at Wilkes University, titled *A Strategic Approach to Growing the Region's Economy*, Luzerne County's unemployment rate stood at 6.9%, indicating a recovery from the elevated unemployment levels experienced during the pandemic. The Scranton—Wilkes-Barre—Hazleton area is projected to have 4,386 available positions in healthcare support occupations. In 2024, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties are projected to have 3,345 available positions in transportation and material moving, an estimated 2,659 manufacturing jobs are anticipated to become available, and the retail trade industry is expected to have 3,572 positions open in 2024

According to the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI), measures of industry-based skills in the Hazleton Area saw a mix of increases and decreases since 2020.

Describe any current workforce training initiatives, including those supported by Workforce Investment Boards, community colleges and other organizations. Describe how these efforts will support the jurisdiction's Consolidated Plan.

The Workforce Investment Board (WIB) is a bi-county agency between Luzerne and Schuylkill Counties. The function of the WIB is to identify workforce challenges and develop strategies and solutions to address those challenges. The WIB provides youth training, WIA on-the Job Training (OJT), and YES Northeast and WorkKeys education programs teaching job readiness services. The PA CareerLinks provides direct contact with job seekers, employers, and others to implement these activities.

Career education is available through the regional institutions of higher learning: Penn State University, Lehigh Carbon Community College, Lackawanna College, Johnson College and several Career and Technological Centers. LCCC and Penn State University's involvement in the creation of the downtown Education and Cultural Cluster and the WIB programs will make the downtown revitalization a success and open many doors for the residents of Hazleton.

According to the 2023 Indicators Report, prepared by The Institute at Wilkes University, new Career and Technical Education Centers (CTCs) have been developed within Luzerne county. Programs provided CTCs provide career-based education to enrolled students. As of 2022, 1,834 students from Luzerne County school districts have enrolled in CTCs.

Does your jurisdiction participate in a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)?

The City of Hazleton, located in Luzerne County, is part of a seven-county regional CEDS prepared by The Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance (NEPA). The CEDS plan for 2019-2024 identified five goals for the region:

- Business Retention, Expansion and Attraction
- Small Business and Entrepreneurship
- Develop Workforce capacity and capabilities
- Improve Critical Infrastructure: Transportation, Broadband & Energy
- Community Placemaking, Development & Sustainability

If so, what economic development initiatives are you undertaking that may be coordinated with the Consolidated Plan? If not, describe other local/regional plans or initiatives that impact economic growth.

According to the 2019-2024 CEDS, Luzerne County will participate in regional efforts to promote business and workforce development. Efforts include collaborating with Northeastern Pennsylvania Manufacturing Partnership to address needs of regional manufacturing firms, attract new manufacturing firms to the region, establishing incentives for entrepreneurs to develop new businesses within the region, and

MA-40 Barriers to Affordable Housing – 91.210(e)

Negative Effects of Public Policies on Affordable Housing and Residential Investment

The City of Hazleton has not identified any public policies that negatively impact housing affordability. Its land use policies and investment strategies are designed to encourage private investment without imposing limitations. However, the primary obstacle for residents to obtain affordable housing in the City is low income. Even with relatively low rents and affordable housing options, many households in the city still struggle with housing costs. Despite limited resources, Hazleton is committed to enhancing affordability through programs offering rehabilitation assistance and affordable homeownership opportunities.

Luzerne County plans to form a coalition to address the affordable housing shortage fueled by ongoing commercial development. County officials highlighted the urgency of the issue and the need for collaborative action. The coalition, comprising county and municipal leaders, will engage non-profits and developers. Concerns raised by residents underscore the pressing need for affordable housing solutions. Emphasizing advocacy for policies and funding, the coalition aims to create a sustainable environment for affordable housing initiatives, drawing on successful past projects funded by county community development funds and federal grants. Regular progress reviews are planned to assess the coalition's impact on communities within the County, including the City of Hazleton.

During stakeholder session, housing providers stated that there are landlords in the City of Hazelton who are hesitant to provide housing to low-income residents. There are also reports of landlords including exclusionary language in advertisements of new housing opportunities. Such language includes telling potential renters that Section 8 vouchers and other assisted living programs will not be accepted.

The City completed an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice in 2018. The AI identified four impediments:

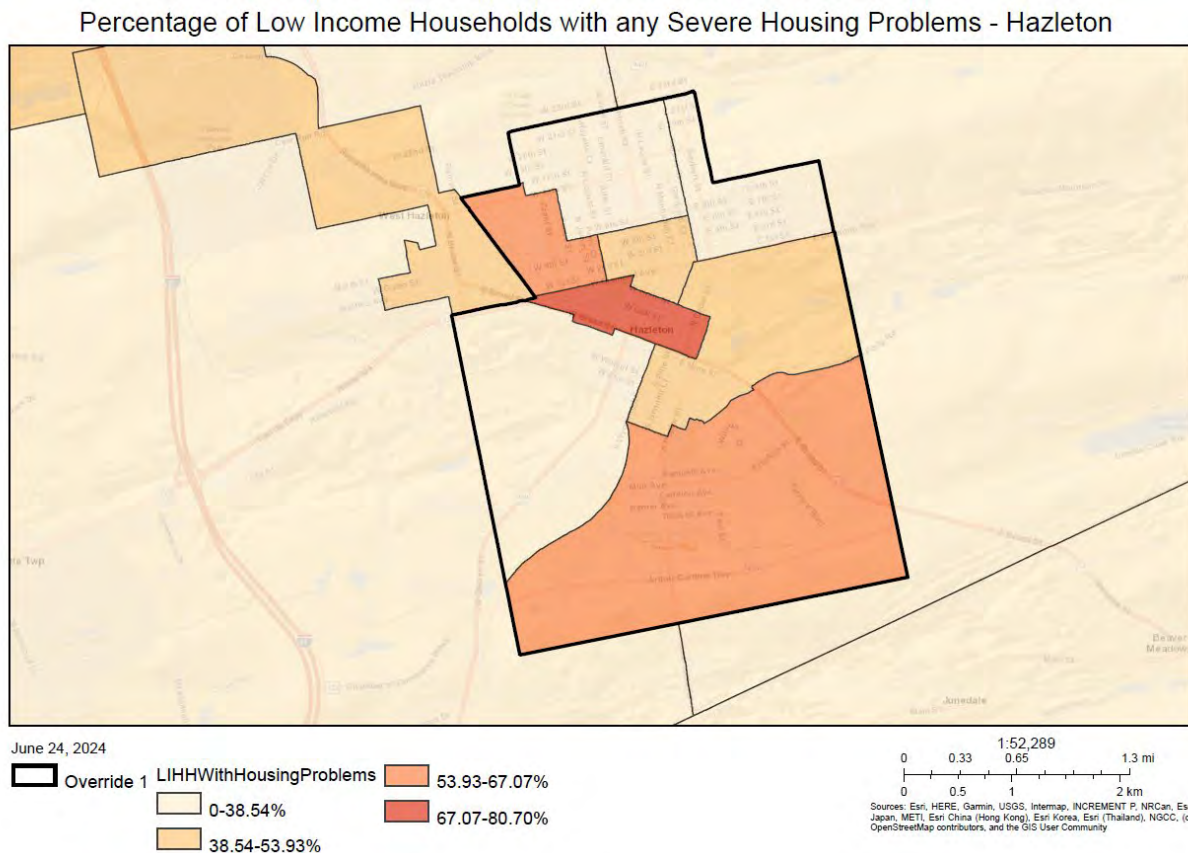
- Lack of knowledge among landlords and residents about what constitutes discrimination and reasonable accommodation obligations;
- Persons with limited English proficiency may not be able to fully access the City's housing and community development services and programs due to language barriers;
- An inadequate supply of affordable housing exists as evidenced by high demand for accessible units, cost burden borne by renter households, disproportionately greater need among Black and Hispanic households with incomes greater than 50% AMI;

The public transportation system in Hazleton restricts housing choice and access to employment and education opportunities for residents who are transit-dependent.

MA-50 Needs and Market Analysis Discussion

**Are there areas where households with multiple housing problems are concentrated?
(include a definition of "concentration")**

The map below, developed by using HUD's CPD map a clustering of low-income households experiencing one or more severe housing issues in the center of the City of Hazleton. This map utilizes current CHAS data to showcase the variation of severe housing problems in the City.



Are there any areas in the jurisdiction where racial or ethnic minorities or low-income families are concentrated? (include a definition of "concentration")

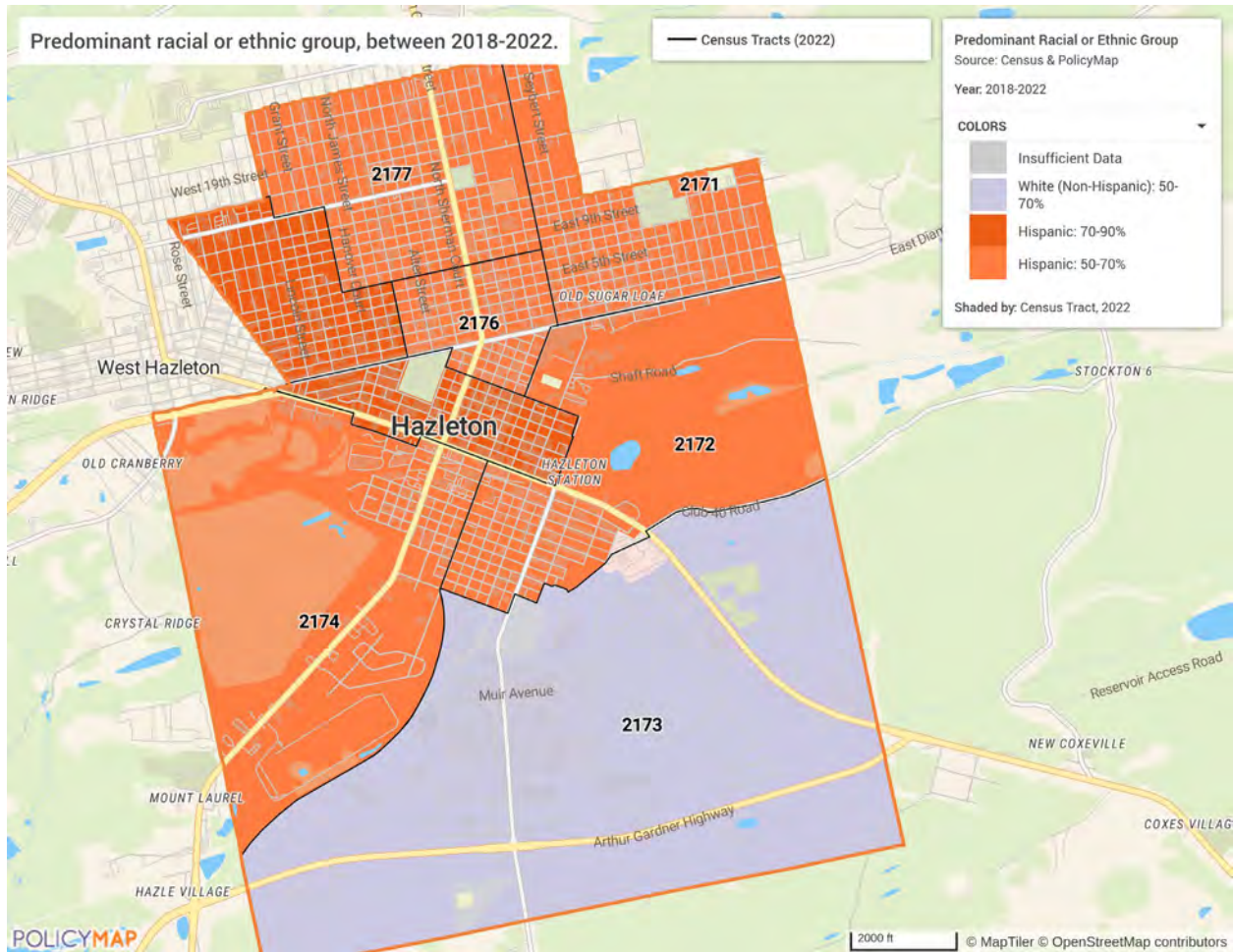
Minority concentrated areas of poverty (MCAPs) are those designated as low/moderate income (LMI) areas which also have a high percentage of non-White residents. Typically, areas of minority concentration are defined as block groups where the percentage of non-White residents is 10 percentage points above the citywide average.

HUD defines areas of racial (minority) or ethnic concentration as geographical areas where the percentage of minorities or ethnic persons is 10% points higher than the City overall.

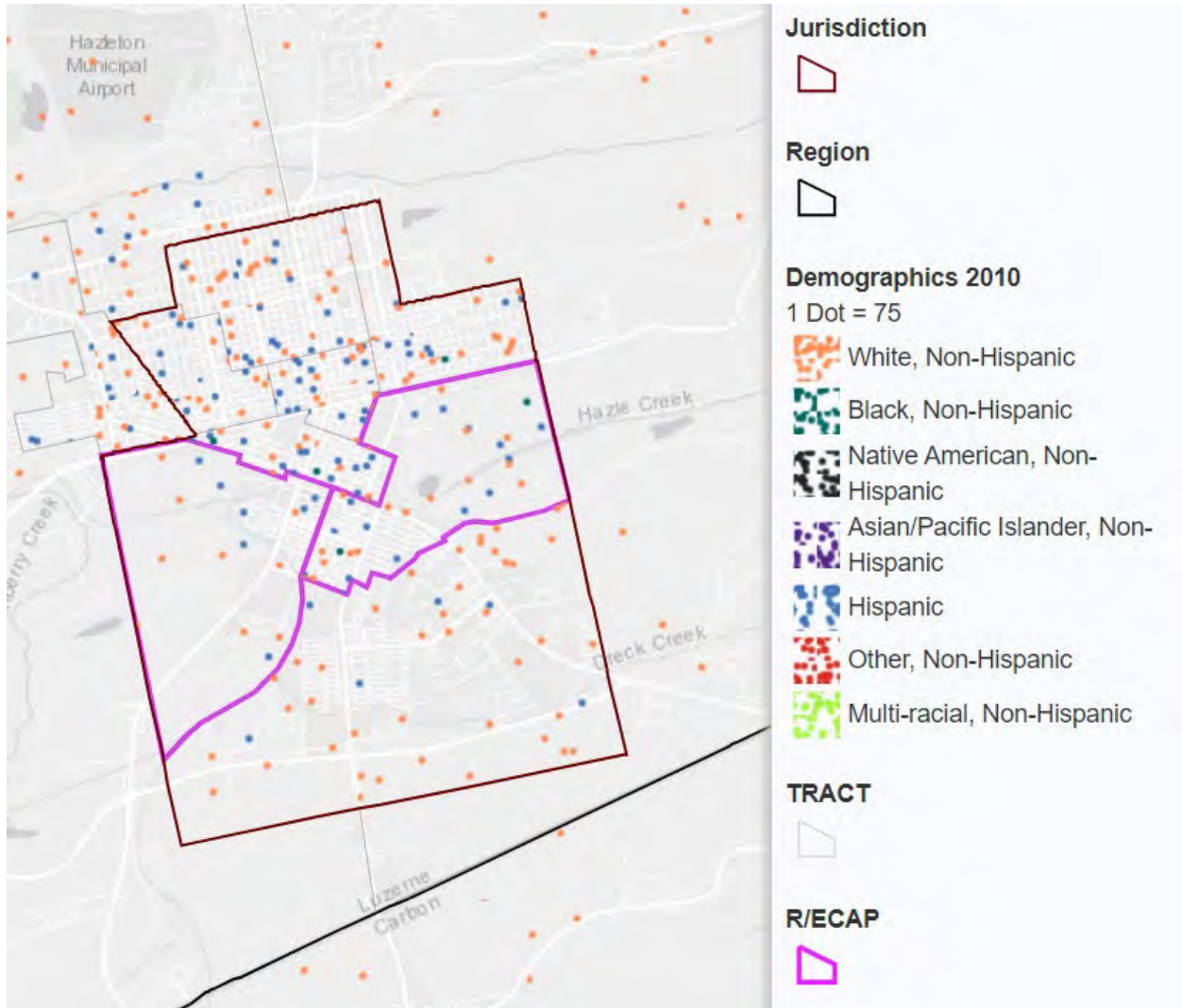
In the City of Hazleton, persons of Hispanic origin comprised 62.2% of the population based on 2022 ACS data. Therefore, an area of ethnic concentration includes census tracts where the percentage of Hispanics is 72.2% or higher. There are 2 census tracts where this threshold was met.

- Census Tract 2175
- Census Tract 2178

Most of City's Hispanic population is located in the northern area of the city. Initially, Hispanic residents represented less than five percent of the city's population at the turn of the century; by 2020, the Hispanic/Latino community had grown from just over 1,000 to an estimated 23,000 and now represents over half of Hazleton's total population. The following map shows concentrations of persons by race and ethnicity.



The map below, generated in HUD’s Affirmative Further Fair Housing (AFFH) Mapping Tool, shows the predominant racial or ethnic groups in the City of Hazleton. Two Census Tracts in the Northern Area (marked in orange) meets the threshold as a Racially and Ethnically Concentrated Areas of Poverty (R/ECAP) which is defined as an area where the Non-White population is 50 percent or more and the poverty rates is 40 percent or three times the poverty rate for the MSA, whichever is lower. It should be noted that CT 2174 contains the city’s largest public housing project, which results in skewed data.



What are the characteristics of the market in these areas/neighborhoods?

The City as a whole is lower income. It is a compact walkable city so proximity across the City to opportunity does not vary that widely. The Analysis of Impediments noted that the central area of Hazleton, the location of the main business district, shows a low job proximity index, with the outlying areas showing a greater availability of jobs.

Are there any community assets in these areas/neighborhoods?

The Downtown Hazleton Alliance is working to revitalize downtown and has worked to provide a branch campus of the community college and other opportunities downtown. Within the central area of the city are all the community amenities. The downtown is becoming more robust. The hospital anchors one end of Broad Street along which the central business district lies. The multi-modal transportation hub, the community library, the YMCA, and social services can all be found within the urban core.

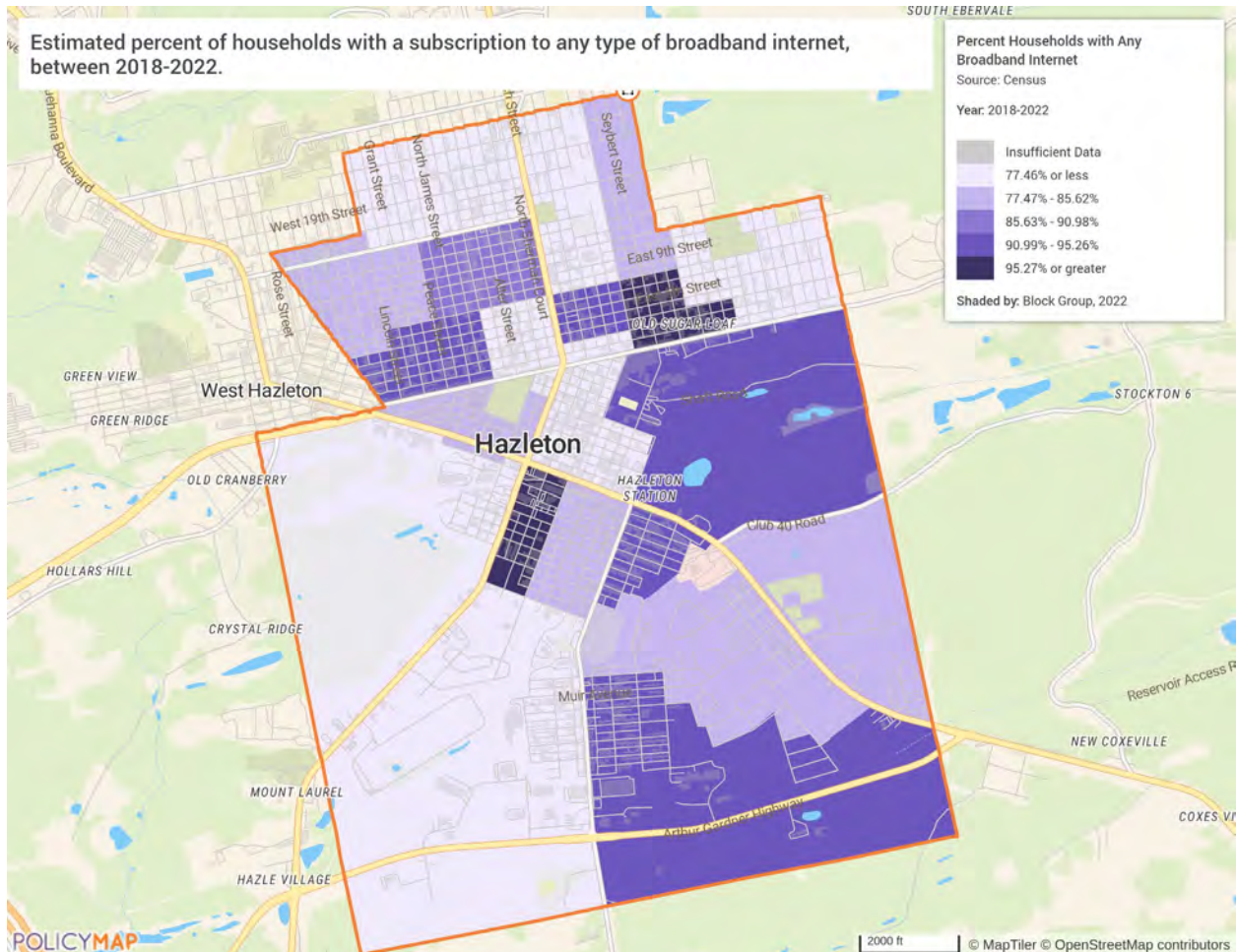
Are there other strategic opportunities in any of these areas?

The City is strategically located between I-81 and I-80 and has already attracted a warehouse distribution center to the federally designated Opportunity Zone. The Opportunity Zone spans Census tracts 2173, 2174, and 2175 in the southern portion of the City.

MA-60 Broadband Needs of Housing occupied by Low- and Moderate-Income Households - 91.210(a)(4), 91.310(a)(2)

Describe the need for broadband wiring and connections for households, including low- and moderate-income households and neighborhoods.

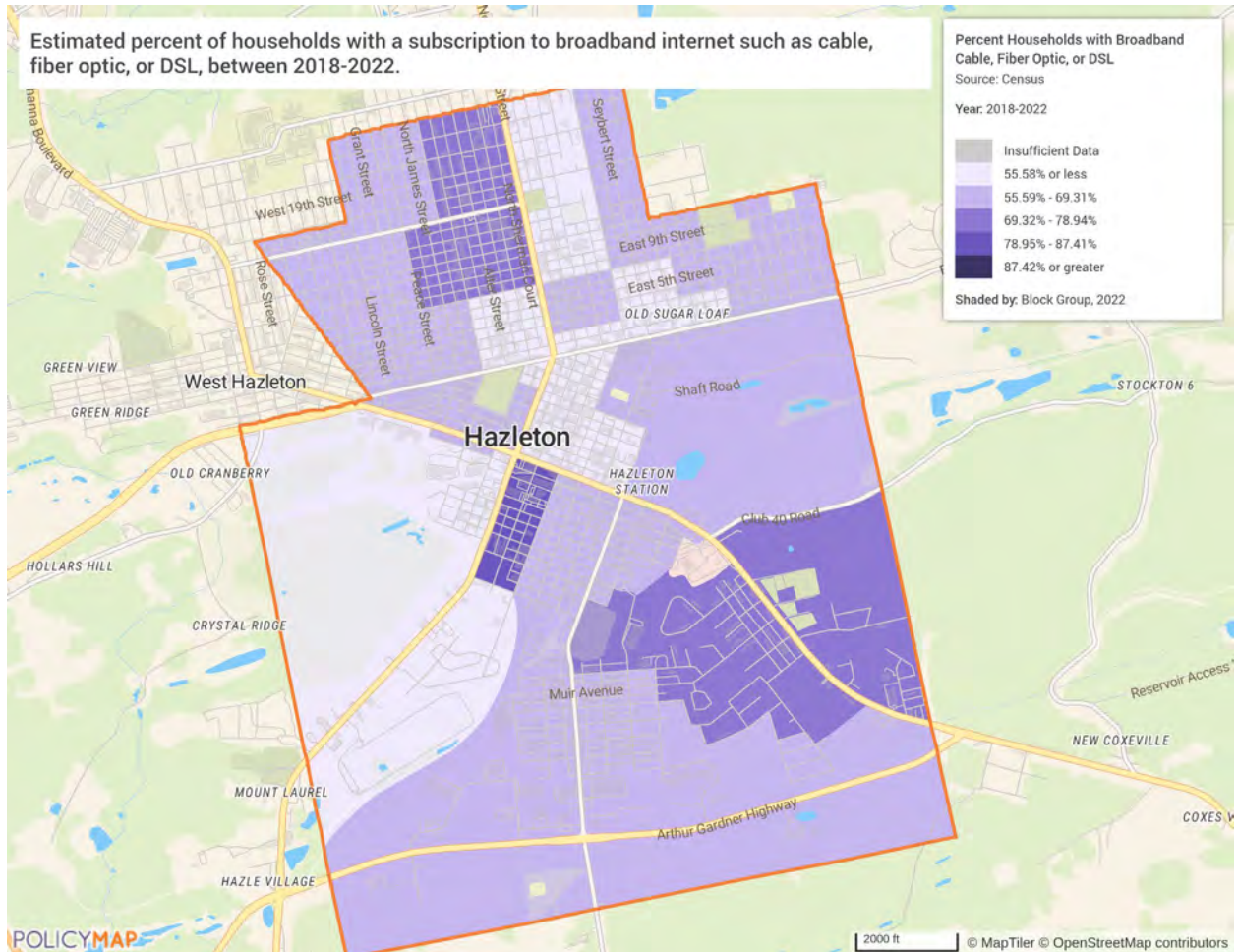
As shown on the map below generated in PolicyMap, the vast majority of Hazleton has access to broadband service indicating that there is not a digital divide among lower- and higher income neighborhoods.



Hazleton Area School District provided free internet access to 1,000 students using routers and broadband subscriptions funded by the federal Emergency Connectivity Fund. Routers, priced at \$799 each, come with a year's Verizon broadband subscription at \$480. The district also purchased 500 Chromebooks to bridge the digital gap exacerbated by COVID-19 pandemic. This program aimed to ensure continuous learning during virtual school days or emergencies. The district believes this will lead to increased enrollment in the Hazleton Area Cyber Academy and plans to establish a physical office at Laurel Mall to support cyber students and promote extracurricular activities like esports.

Describe the need for increased competition by having more than one broadband Internet service provider serve the jurisdiction.

The second map indicates that despite availability of broadband, income may restrict a household's ability to afford access. These areas are similar to areas of the City where a concentration of low-income households reside.



MA-65 Hazard Mitigation - 91.210(a)(5), 91.310(a)(3)

Describe the jurisdiction's increased natural hazard risks associated with climate change.

The Luzerne County Department of Emergency Management completed their Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2020. This update to the 2014-2019 plan provides guidance to municipalities in Luzerne, such as the City of Hazleton. Municipalities which adopt this plan during its' five-year period (2020-2025) are eligible to receive state and federal hazard mitigation grant funding.

The 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan for Luzerne County found ten naturally occurring events and profiled each hazard and potential action plan to mitigate the risk and hazards. They include flooding, drought and crop failure, land subsidence, winter weather, landslides, earthquakes, tornados, windstorms, hurricanes, tropical storms, nor'easters, wildfires, radon, hailstorms. Additionally, the 2020 plan found five human made hazards which include cyber-terrorism, hazardous material release, dam failure, nuclear release, and opioid addiction.

Describe the vulnerability to these risks of housing occupied by low- and moderate-income households based on an analysis of data, findings, and methods.

In case of any storm damage, losses sustained will leave low-income households less likely to have resources or access to resources to aid in resiliency and recovery. Additionally, low-income households tend to live in older housing which is not prepared for changing climate risks.

Strategic Plan

SP-05 Overview

Strategic Plan Overview

The City is focused on improving the Quality of Life for all residents in the City. That goal includes upgrading public infrastructure and facilities so that the community is safe. The City receives a small federal grant and will select projects each year that provide the maximum impact for the community in the area of housing and/or infrastructure.

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

Geographic Area

The City will focus its resources in areas of the City that have the greatest need for investment in infrastructure, public facility and housing improvements. CDBG funds will be focused on the low-income neighborhoods in the City although the City is overall lower income as well.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
City	100

Table 47 - Geographic Priority Areas

General Allocation Priorities

Describe the basis for allocating investments geographically within the jurisdiction (or within the EMSA for HOPWA)

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

Priority Needs

1	Priority Need Name	Public Facilities and Infrastructure Improvements
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Non-Housing Community Development
	Associated Goals	Public Infrastructure and Facilities
	Description	There is a high level of support to replace antiquated infrastructure, public streets and sidewalks.
	Basis for Relative Priority	Maintaining and improving the aging infrastructure, including streets, sidewalks, water, sewer, and storm water, and making handicap accessibility improvements at curb intersections and other locations as needed continues to be a high priority. In addition, improvements to parks and recreation facilities will also continue to be a high priority.
2	Priority Need Name	Reduce Blight
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Non-Housing Community Development
	Associated Goals	Reduce Blight in Neighborhoods Demolition
	Description	There is a continued need for blight removal in the City's neighborhoods that detracts from quality of life and presents danger to residents nearby.

	Basis for Relative Priority	Blight presents a danger to the surrounding community and has a domino effect on neighborhoods.
3	Priority Need Name	Public Service
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Families with Children Public Housing Residents Homeless Individuals Homeless Families with Children Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Substance Abuse Veterans Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth
	Associated Goals	Public Service
	Description	The City will provide support for services that encourage economic self-sufficiency. Additionally, the city will prioritize projects and programs that improve access and quality of transportation in the City.
	Basis for Relative Priority	Priority was established in response to past program experience and as a result of community input, citizen participation and data analysis undertaken as part of the preparation of this Consolidated Plan as well as other local planning and needs analysis processes.
	4	Priority Need Name
Priority Level		High

	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Families with Children Large Families Elderly Public housing residents Chronic homeless Families with Children Individuals
	Associated Goals	Development of Affordable Housing
	Description	Create and improve housing for very low and low-income renters and homebuyers
	Basis for Relative Priority	Affordable housing was identified as a need by stakeholders as well as the Market Analysis and Needs Assessment sections of the Plan.
5	Priority Need Name	Planning/Administration
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Non-housing Community Development
	Associated Goals	Administration
	Description	Oversight and management of the City's CDBG program and community outreach.
	Basis for Relative Priority	Resources for oversight and management is critical to the success of the City's CDBG program.

Table 48 – Priority Needs Summary

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)	Not applicable – no HOME funds
TBRA for Non-Homeless Special Needs	Not applicable – no HOME funds
New Unit Production	Not applicable – no HOME funds
Rehabilitation	Although needed, funding levels are insufficient to have an impact
Acquisition, including preservation	Homebuyer assistance needed by funding levels are insufficient to have an impact

Table 49 – Influence of Market Conditions

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

Introduction

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	HUD	Infrastructure, Administration, and Housing	\$650,000			\$650,000	\$2,600,000	CDBG funds allocated annually by Congress will be used to address the priority housing and non-housing community needs.

Table 50 - 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 City will use CDBG funds whenever possible to leverage other grants and funds from State and Federal sources.

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 does not have any land or property resources that will be used for CDBG needs.

SP-40 Institutional Delivery Structure – 91.215(k)

Explain the institutional structure through which the jurisdiction will carry out its consolidated plan including private industry, non-profit organizations, and public institutions.

Responsible Entity	Responsible Entity Type	Role	Geographic Area Served

Table 51 - Institutional Delivery Structure

Assess of Strengths and Gaps in the Institutional Delivery System

The City of Hazleton Office of Community Development (OCD) is the facilitator for the activities described by this CP. The City of Hazleton has the authority to apply for and administer CDBG funds and other grants. The City will also support other activities by providing certifications of consistency with the CP.

The CDBG funds are administered under the direction of the Director of Community Development. The Director is able to effectively and efficiently coordinate community development activities in the City of Hazleton. The staff of the OCD will continue to avail themselves of HUD training and technical assistance to provide more efficient and comprehensive program management and oversight.

The Hazleton Housing Authority is another public entity in the community that utilizes funding from HUD. HHA’s board is appointed by the Mayor. HHA’s board hires its Executive Director and is responsible for managing its funds.

The Commission on Economic Opportunity is the lead agency for the Continuum of Care. There are no City agencies that receive funding from the HUD program other than those programs with county-wide scope. Catholic Social Services liaison’s with its Scranton office which is a grant recipient to keep abreast of CoC policies. Since most of the meetings for the CoC are held near Scranton, an hour away, more active participation is not feasible.

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
Homelessness Prevention Services			
Counseling/Advocacy	X	X	X
Legal Assistance	X		
Mortgage Assistance	X		
Rental Assistance	X		
Utilities Assistance	X		
Street Outreach Services			
Law Enforcement			
Mobile Clinics			
Other Street Outreach Services	X		
Supportive Services			
Alcohol & Drug Abuse	X		
Child Care	X		
Education	X		
Employment and Employment Training	X		
Healthcare	X		
HIV/AIDS	X		
Life Skills	X		
Mental Health Counseling	X		
Transportation	X		
Other			
Other			

Table 52 - 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)

Non-profit service providers implement the CoC’s strategies to address and end homelessness. The comprehensive scope of services addresses the needs of persons seeking to end homelessness and become self-sufficient or who require supportive housing.

One of the primary goals of the Continuum of Care is to link persons to mainstream resources. The mission statement of Luzerne County Homeless Coalition is:

- A seamless continuum of housing and supportive services for all people experiencing a housing crisis in Luzerne County, serving them with respect and dignity.
- Coordinated activities and respectful interactions among individuals experiencing a housing crisis, providers, and advocates.
- Linkages and creative responses to problems.

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

The Luzerne County CoC works to remove barriers to service. However, the large geographic separation within the County between Hazleton and the more populous cities to the north and limited transportation options makes it particularly difficult for persons who are threatened with homelessness to access services.

For those that are homeless, there are shelters and permanent supportive housing, particularly for those with severe mental illness. However, there is only one shelter in the City of Hazleton and no permanent supportive housing for individuals, particularly those with mental illness and/or substance abuse issues.

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 CoC is an independent board that utilizes the staff of the CEO for staffing support. To address service gaps the CoC has established a “no wrong door” coordinated assessment system. The Coordinated Entry list is updated weekly and sent to all housing providers. Any agency that is first contacted can make a referral for services to an appropriate provider. The CoC Board takes the lead in monitoring and adjusting policy to meet community needs.

In Hazleton, the housing and services providers are reinvigorating the Hazleton Housing Coalition. This group met for many years to identify service needs and solutions and is once again working together to address some of the growing concerns about homelessness and special needs populations. Their efforts will be reported to the CoC Board.

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	Improve Public Facilities and Infrastructure	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	City-wide	Public Facility and Infrastructure Improvements	CDBG: \$1,195,500.00	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit:
2	Remove or Rehabilitate Blighted Properties	2025	2029	Other – Blight Reduction	City-wide	Reduce Blight	CDBG: \$105,000	Buildings Demolished:
3	Increase Access to and Quality of Affordable Housing	2025	2029	Affordable Housing	City-wide	Improve Access to and Quality of Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$0	Homeowner Housing Added:
4	Expand Access to Public Services	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	City-wide	Public Services	CDBG: \$295,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit:
5	Strengthen Program Management	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	City-wide	Planning/Administration	CDBG: \$650,000 (not to exceed 20% of the grant)	Other: 1

Table 53 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

	Goal Name	Goal Description
1	Public Facilities and Infrastructure Improvements	Improve streets, parks, water, sewer, fire-fighting capacity, and facilities that serve the low-income community. Repayment of Section 108 loan that will be used for street improvements.
2	Reduce Blight	The City has numerous vacant and abandoned properties that are unsuitable for rehabilitation. The City will demolish these as needed.
3	Increase Access to and Quality of Affordable Housing	Work with local nonprofit organizations to create and improve housing for extremely low, very low-, and low-income renters and homebuyers.
5	Public Service	Provide funding to support services that encourage economic self-sufficiency.
6	Planning/ Administration	On-going oversight and management of the program and community outreach.

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)

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)

HHA has complied with the Section 504 requirements. As part of its five-year improvements program, HHA considers the needs of its disabled residents and schedules any necessary projects required by law and when funding is available. When an existing accessible unit becomes available, priority assignments are made to the next occupant. The vacated unit is made available to existing public housing residents who are in need of accessible housing. Once that list is exhausted, the unit is available to persons on the wait list. The HHA intends to increase the number of project-based units over the next three years.

Activities to Increase Resident Involvements

There is a resident council at Vine Manor and Hazle Twins that is engaged in tenant services for the elderly. There is a Headstart program in Vine West that provides family enrichment services. The HHA is currently in the process of forming a Resident Council that reviews agency plans and provides input on any planned capital improvements and services.

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

HHA is not identified as a “troubled” agency by HUD.

Plan to remove the ‘troubled’ designation

N/A

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

Barriers to Affordable Housing

Public policies have not been identified that have a negative effect on housing affordability. The City has land use policies and investment strategies that do not limit or impede private investment. The most significant barrier to affordable housing in the City of Hazleton is lack of income. Despite the comparatively low rents and low-cost housing for sale, households in the City of Hazleton are still cost burdened. Within the resource constraint, the City of Hazleton is working to make housing affordable by providing rehabilitation assistance and affordable homeownership opportunities available.

During public stakeholder sessions, that lack of affordable and quality transportation is an impediment for those want to live in relatively affordable areas while still having the means to commute to work or obtain social and health services in other parts on the City of Hazleton. Housing providers stated that there is a growing population of elderly residents with disabilities who cannot find affordable assisted living opportunities in the City. Even with financial assistance, this population has trouble locating accessible affordable housing that also offers adequate healthcare services.

The City of Hazleton will continue programs that increase and upgrade existing housing stock quality and value. Funds will also be provided for infrastructure and service improvements that complement improved housing. The City and Redevelopment Authority will acquire blighted properties and use the sites to create new housing opportunities.

The City completed an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice in 2018. The AI identified four impediments:

- Lack of knowledge among landlords and residents about what constitutes discrimination and reasonable accommodation obligations.
- Persons with limited English proficiency may not be able to fully access the City's housing and community development services and programs due to language barriers.
- An inadequate supply of affordable housing exists as evidenced by high demand for accessible units, cost burden borne by renter households, disproportionately greater need among Black and Hispanic households with incomes greater than 50% AMI.
- The public transportation system in Hazleton restricts housing choice and access to employment and education opportunities for residents who are transit dependent.

Along with the AI, the City developed an action plan to mitigate these negative effects. Action items include producing fair housing education and outreach; updating the City's Language Access Plan; expanding affordable housing opportunities for members of protected classes; advocating for public transit systems that connect lower income neighborhoods to major employment centers and education facilities.

Strategy to Remove or Ameliorate the Barriers to Affordable Housing

The City will support applications for new housing construction, rehabilitation, or conversion of nonresidential structure to create new housing in the City.

Further, the City will continue to seek job creation activities with living wage jobs that will provide households with incomes that support their families.

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 participate in the Hazleton Housing Coalition (HHC) to better represent Hazleton on the Luzerne County CoC and to coordinate services locally. The HHC meets periodically to discuss current homelessness issues. As a result of these meeting, Catholic Social Services (CSS) has created a permanent homeless shelter.

The Luzerne County CoC has established a coordinated assessment process in which the agency that is first approached by a homeless household will conduct an intake and screening to determine the household's needs. Referrals to appropriate providers will direct the household to the provider that can best meet those needs. Outreach is conducted by a number of agencies, including mental health providers and an HIV/AIDS provider.

Addressing the emergency and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The successful coordination of the community service providers in making sure any homeless family with children is provided with shelter means that there are no families on the street. This coordination operates with outreach through HELPLINE (the County's 24 hour information and referral network), police departments and HHC member agencies such as Children & Youth Services and Commission of Economic Opportunity (CEO).

Catholic Social Services has opened a homeless shelter and provides some transitional housing for youth aging out of foster care who have mental health diagnoses.

When a homeless family with children is identified, they are initially referred to one of the family shelters. If that shelter is inappropriate due to the shelter being full or unable to accept the family due to age of a male child, or the family is a two parent family with children, CEO has the ability to provide emergency sheltering services with hotel/motel vouchers. If a family is in need of shelter after hours, holidays or weekends, HELPLINE will authorize lodging in a hotel/motel. This network has been in existence since 1972 and remains effective in its operation to quickly identify and shelter homeless families with dependent children.

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 Luzerne Co. CoC has in place mechanisms to work with the service providers in the county to improve outcomes and stability upon leaving shelter, reducing the time that individuals and families are homeless, and preventing homelessness. The coordinated assessment process helps move those that are homeless or seeking prevention services to connect to the appropriate provider. Individual service and shelter providers are working at improving family stability through identification of barriers to stability that are identified in the assessment process.

Catholic Social Services will provide case management at the homeless shelter and transitional housing to help homeless persons find jobs and housing and stay housed within the community. CDBG funds are allocated to support this case manager.

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

Additional funding for prevention is needed to keep families and individuals from becoming homeless. The Hazleton Housing Coalition will continue to work on developing funding streams and coordination that will maximize the funding that is available.

Discharge planning to create a housing plan, connection to local services, case management and counseling is used to prevent homelessness and a return to homelessness.

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

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

The EPA guideline for renovation, paint and repair, effective April 22, 2010, requires that all contractors notify owners of properties constructed prior to 1978 of the potential for lead-based paint hazards and to perform work in a lead safe manner. Contractors must be trained and registered with EPA to do work in older homes that disturbs painted surfaces. Local building code officials are aware of these requirements.

The County's Health Department monitors children who have been reported with an elevated blood lead level to ensure the source of the lead poisoning is properly addressed. Educational programs are sponsored to provide parents with information on lead-based paint hazards.

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

There is a very high risk of lead-based paint in all housing in the City but particularly rental housing occupied by young children. When reported, the Health Department intercedes in removal of the child from the hazard. Educational training is the only avenue available to prevent the lead-based paint poisoning.

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

The City does not plan to administer a housing rehabilitation program but should there be a program, the guidelines must incorporate the lead-safe requirements.

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

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

The City of Hazleton will continue to invest in job-creating activities with an emphasis on the hiring of low-income residents. The City will continue to pursue economic development in all forms to increase the supply of good-paying jobs available to City residents.

The City's housing programs, and public service programs address the needs of persons who live in poverty. The Vacant Property program works to create new housing opportunities. The housing rehabilitation program for owner-occupied housing also targets lower income households, some of whom may be below the poverty limit. A new self-sufficiency program is being funded that will help families and individuals learn the basics of financial literacy and hopefully, become homebuyers.

The City will support applications to HUD and other agencies for funding such programs.

In the award of contracts, the City will continue to implement the Section 3 Plan which promotes the utilization of firms owned by low-income persons.

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

The City's goal to improve the downtown and economic opportunity in the community indirectly impact on anti-poverty goals. Creating opportunity for entrepreneurship and the resultant job creation will make housing more affordable and provides a path to financial stability.

Economic Development activities are directed toward the creation of new businesses and employment opportunities. The CDBG program provides the potential of generating jobs that may be filled by Section 3 residents or hire Section 3 business.

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 Community Development Office is responsible for ensuring that the recipients of federal funds meet the purposes of the appropriate legislation and regulations, and that funds are disbursed in a timely manner. OCD will monitor activities carried out each year and ensure long-term compliance with program requirements. The objectives of this monitoring are to make sure that activities

- 1) Comply with all regulations governing their administrative, financial, and programmatic operations.
- 2) Achieve their performance objectives within schedule and budget.
- 3) Comply with the Consolidated Plan.

Internal controls have been designed to ensure adequate segregation of duties. OCD prepares agreements for housing and non-housing activities supported by CDBG funds. Invoices are monitored for compliance with the approved spending plan and federal regulations. The OCD administers the Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS). OCD is also primarily responsible for setting up and administering activities. The City's monitoring standards and procedures ensure that statutory and regulatory requirements are being met and the information submitted to HUD is correct and complete.

The Community Development Office monitors the various programs and activities that are funded with CDBG dollars. A subrecipient monitoring plan has been put in place to ensure compliance by agencies funded with the CDBG public service and public facilities funding. The following key components of the monitoring process ensure that the city's CP goals are being met in a timely and efficient manner:

Recordkeeping Systems – Recordkeeping requirements outlined in 24CFR Part 570.506 are adhered to. Each project file is documented as to eligibility and national objective, the beneficiaries of the activity, procurements, agreements, and related compliance issues.

Financial Management – All financial transactions are carefully recorded and reconciled between the in-house system and IDIS.

Audit Management – All audits are conducted in accordance with federal and State regulations, specifically federal administrative requirements under 2 CFR Part 200.

Expected Resources

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

Introduction

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	Public-federal	Acquisition, Administration and Planning, Economic Development, Housing, Public Improvements, and Public Services	\$650,000	0	0	\$650,000	\$2,600,000	Funds will be used for eligible activities. This is the last year of the Consolidated Plan cycle.

Table 54 - 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 City will use CDBG funds whenever possible to leverage other grants and funds from State and Federal sources. The City has received funding from the State’s Local Community Account, set up to distribute the proceeds throughout the County from gambling establishments. The City also has been successful at leveraging state funds for recreation area improvements.

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

The City will use CDBG funds whenever possible to leverage other grants and funds from State and Federal sources. The City has received funding from the State's Local Community Account, set up to distribute the proceeds throughout the County from gambling establishments. The City also has been successful at leveraging state funds for recreation area and transportation improvements. The City, on behalf of New Roots, pursued state ESG funds; however, the application was unsuccessful.

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Improve Public Facilities and Infrastructure	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	City-wide	Public Facility and Infrastructure Improvements	CDBG: \$440,000	Public facilities 24,600 People Other: 1
2	Remove or Rehabilitate Blighted Properties	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	City-wide	Reduce Blight	CDBG: \$21,000	Buildings Demolished: 2 Buildings Demolished
3	Improve Public Services	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	City-wide	Public Service	CDBG: \$59,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 10 Persons Assisted
4	Strengthen Program Management	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	City-wide	Planning/ Administration	CDBG: \$130,000	Other: 1

Table 55 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Improve Public Facilities and Infrastructure
	Goal Description	Street improvements and Section 108 loan repayments
2	Goal Name	Remove or Rehabilitate Blighted Properties
	Goal Description	Remove blight by demolishing or rehabilitating dilapidated, buildings that are a danger to the community as needed.
3	Goal Name	Improve Public Services
	Goal Description	Case Management - Catholic Social Services will serve homeless persons
4	Goal Name	Strengthen Program Management
	Goal Description	Ongoing program oversight and management and citizen outreach

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The City intends to assist in the implementation of four activities including street reconstruction, demotion of one property and fund homeless services. 2025 funding will also allow the City to continue repayment on a Section 108 loan and CDBG program administration.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	Clearance/Demolition
2	Streetscape- Wyoming Street
3	Section 108 Loan Repayment
4	Homeless Services - Catholic Social Services
5	Hazleton Housing Authority Safety Improvements
6	Administration

Table 56 – Project Information

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

The allocations were selected based on eligibility of the activity, its ability to meet a national objective and the evidence of need in the community. In an effort to address blight in the community, the need for public infrastructure improvements, and increasing public services, more emphasis has been placed on sidewalk and street lighting improvements, clearance and demolition activities to improve blighted neighborhoods, and public services including services for persons experiencing homelessness, and safety improvements for public housing communities.

The City of Hazleton allocated its entitlement funds to provide assistance with activities that meet the underserved needs of the communities participating in the program. For public services activities, the City requested applications from interested parties and selected eligible activities based upon alignment with the priority needs and goals of the strategic plan.

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	Clearance/Demolition
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Reduce Blight
	Needs Addressed	Reduce Blight
	Funding	CDBG: \$21,000
	Description	Removal of blighted, vacant buildings that pose a threat to health and safety.
	Target Date	12/31/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	Scattered Site, Citywide
	Planned Activities	Demolition of vacant and blighted properties Matrix Code 04
2	Project Name	Streetscape- Wyoming Street
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Improve Public Facilities and Infrastructure
	Needs Addressed	Public Facilities and Infrastructure Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$289,250
	Description	Replacement of sidewalks and upgraded streetlight installation as funding allows.
	Target Date	12/31/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	2,335 residents are expected to benefit, which includes all those residing in CT 217.50

	Location Description	Wyoming Street
	Planned Activities	Sidewalk improvements and street lighting Street improvements with curb ramps constructed at intersections as needed. Matrix Codes 03L and 03K
3	Project Name	Public Facility & Improvement – Section 108 Loan Exempt
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Public Facilities and Infrastructure Improvements
	Needs Addressed	Public Facility and Infrastructure Improvements
	Funding	CDBG: \$150,750
	Description	Repay principal and interested owed to HUD for \$1 million loan to reconstruct City-wide streets
	Target Date	12/31/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Not applicable
	Location Description	City-Wide
	Planned Activities	Annual repayment of Section 108 loan. Matrix Code 19F
4	Project Name	Public Service - Homeless Services - Catholic Social Services
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Public Service
	Needs Addressed	Public Service
	Funding	CDBG: \$30,000
	Description	Case Manager and Operations for Homeless shelter.
	Target Date	12/31/2025

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 30 people will be provided homeless shelter beds during the year.
	Location Description	200 W. Chapel Street
	Planned Activities	Case Manager and Operations for Homeless shelter. Matrix Code 03T
5	Project Name	Public Service – Safety Improvements- Hazleton Housing Authority
	Target Area	City-wide
	Goals Supported	Improve Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	CDBG: \$29,000
	Description	Case Manager and Operations for Homeless shelter.
	Target Date	12/31/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 299 low-income households residing in public housing will benefit.
	Location Description	Various sites
	Planned Activities	Installation of safety equipment at three public housing complexes, including security cameras, to increase the safety of the residents and neighborhood. Matrix Code 05Z
	6	Project Name
Target Area		N/A
Goals Supported		Planning/Administration
Needs Addressed		Planning/Administration
Funding		CDBG: \$130,000
Description		Ongoing program oversight and management and Citizen outreach
Target Date		12/31/2025

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	N/A Admin
	Location Description	40 N. Church St. Hazleton
	Planned Activities	On-going program oversight and management and Citizen outreach Matrix Code 21A

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

While Hazleton’s population size has stayed roughly the same since 2000, its ethnic composition has shifted dramatically. Hispanic and Latino residents represented less than five percent of the city’s population in 2000. In 2020, the Hispanic/Latino community is an estimated 18,898 and now represents over half of Hazleton’s total population.

The growing Latino population coincided with a shrinking number of White, non-Hispanic residents. In 2016, White residents represented 48 percent of the population. As of 2020, a little more than 11,000 White residents make up only 38 percent of the city population.

Census Tract 2174 meets the threshold as an R/ECAP. As of the 2020 decennial census, census tract 2174 was home to 607 residents, 36.6 percent of whom were non-White. Census data indicates that just over half of the tract’s population live below the poverty line. The area is also characterized by lower incomes, a higher proportion of renters, and a larger supply of multi-family housing.

As of 2018, Census tracts 2173 and 2175 were added to the list of areas that meet the R/ECAP threshold. According to the ACS 2020 5-year estimates, Census tracts 2173-2175 house 7,509 (30%) of Hazleton’s population. The majority who live in these three tracts are Hispanic (55%). A total of 25.7% earned an income below the poverty level in the last 12 months. Almost 75% of the population who earned below the poverty level were Hispanic.

Census tracts 2173, 2174, and 2175 are part of the Federal Opportunity zone.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
City-wide	100

Table 57 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

Assistance is not directed to any specific geographic area in the City. There are no target areas. The City is largely low income and racially diverse. The City will address the highest priority needs on a year-by-year basis.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

The City completed an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice in 2018. The plan identified impediments due to language barriers, education of fair housing, inadequate supply of housing and lack of public transportation. To mitigate these negative effects; action items include fair housing education and outreach; updates to the City’s Language Access Plan; expanding affordable housing opportunities for members of protected classes; and advocacy for public transit systems that connect lower income neighborhoods to major employment centers and education facilities.

The City is working to improve employment opportunities so that residents can better afford housing. The LEP will be updated when updated data is available. The latest data, 2016 continues to under-represent the Hispanic population. However, the 2016 LEP does reflect the need to do outreach in Spanish which the City has started to do by advertising in a local Spanish newspaper publication. The City is looking to partner with a developer to provide expanded housing opportunities. Further, the City is working to improve employment opportunities so that residents can better afford housing.

Public policies have not been identified that have a negative effect on housing affordability. The City has land use policies and investment strategies that do not limit or impede private investment. The most significant barrier to affordable housing in the City of Hazleton is lack of income. Despite the comparatively low rents and low-cost housing for sale, households in the City of Hazleton are still cost- burdened.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	0
Special-Needs	0
Total	0

Table 58 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

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

Table 59 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The Hazleton Housing Authority continues to be an important asset in the community but has not requested CDBG funds. The HHA has partnered with a developer to create new affordable housing and may do so again in the future. There are no specific plans for 2025.

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

The Hazleton Housing Authority (HHA) is allocating Capital Funds to rehabilitate public housing. Specifically, Hazle Twins plans to replace gas boilers, hot water heaters, replace kitchen ranges and refrigerators. Vine Manor plans to upgrade elevators and replace kitchen ranges and refrigerators. Vine West plans to upgrade kitchens, replace kitchen ranges and refrigerators, and replace power washers. The HHA applied for CDBG funds for FY 2025 to complete necessary safety improvements to all three properties, including installation of security cameras to increase safety for the public housing communities and surrounding neighborhoods.

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

HHA is developing a resident council (Hazleton Coalition of Resident Councils) that reviews agency plans and provides input on any planned capital improvements and services. The HHA is encouraging the creation of a resident council or a resident advisory committee through distributing flyers to all residents. While a resident council is not currently in place, HHA holds meetings with residents to discuss management and modernization needs.

HHA has administered a ROSS Grant for homeownership utilizing Catholic Social Services to provide financial literacy and self-sufficiency. HHA has created a partnership with Catholic Social Services, Pennsylvania Association of Resident Councils, Commission on Economic Opportunity, Consumer Credit Counseling Services, and many other community agencies to promote homeownership for public housing residents. In addition, HHA is administering a Homeownership Program utilizing its Housing Choice Vouchers. Two families are participating in the program and have purchased homes.

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

The HHA is not designated as troubled, and is a Standard Performing agency.

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

Introduction

The City is part of the Luzerne County Continuum of Care (CoC).

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 Give Hope team at the VOAPA performs Street Outreach activities for the CoC, including all of Luzerne County and the Cities of Hazleton and Wilkes Barre. Outreach efforts are targeted to community "hot spots"—areas known to have large or small populations of unsheltered individuals such as “tent cities,” under bridges, along the railroad tracks, abandoned buildings, and community parks - to locate and then engage with any person they meet. Through conversations with the people encountered, VOA’s trained outreach workers identify if the person is unsheltered and homeless; complete a thorough assessment of the individual’s physical, behavioral, and mental health needs; housing and employment status; and other needs. The outreach staff then works to connect the individual to the relevant community-based services for shelter or service offered in our partner network. Outreach staff maintains contact with the person to provide extensive case management, including follow-up and individualized support. For persons experiencing homelessness who may be least likely to request assistance, the Give Hope street outreach workers are trained to provide trauma informed care and remain aware of the many co-occurring conditions the individuals they encounter experience.

Efforts are coupled with the CoC coordinated assessment process in which the agency that is first approached by a homeless household will conduct an intake and screening to determine the household’s needs. Referrals to appropriate providers will direct the household to the provider that can best meet those needs. Outreach is conducted by a number of agencies, including mental health providers and an HIV/AIDS provider.

In 2025, the City will continue to participate in the Hazleton Housing Coalition (HHC) to better represent Hazleton on the Luzerne County CoC and to coordinate services locally. The HHC meets periodically to discuss current homelessness issues.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The Luzerne Co. CoC has in place mechanisms to work with the service providers in the county to improve outcomes and stability upon leaving shelter, reducing the time that individuals and families are homeless, and preventing homelessness. The coordinated assessment process helps move those that are homeless or seeking prevention services to connect to the appropriate provider. Individual service and shelter providers are working at improving family stability through identification of barriers to stability that are identified in the assessment process.

Catholic Social Services will provide case management at the homeless shelter and transitional housing to help homeless persons find jobs and housing and stay housed within the community. CDBG funds are allocated to support this case manager.

The CoC prioritizes permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing, both of which offer services to help homeless individuals and households achieve and maintain stability once housed.

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 Luzerne Co. CoC has in place mechanisms to work with the service providers in the county to improve outcomes and stability upon leaving shelter, reducing the time that individuals and families are homeless, and preventing homelessness. The coordinated assessment process helps move those that are homeless or seeking prevention services to connect to the appropriate provider. Individual service and shelter providers are working at improving family stability through identification of barriers to stability that are identified in the assessment process.

Catholic Social Services will provide case management at the homeless shelter and transitional housing to help homeless persons find jobs and housing and stay housed within the community. CDBG funds are allocated to support this case manager.

The CoC prioritizes permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing, both of which offer services to help homeless individuals and households achieve and maintain stability once housed.

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

Additional funding for prevention is needed to keep families and individuals from becoming homeless. The Hazleton Housing Coalition will continue to work on developing funding streams and coordination that will maximize the funding that is available. The Coalition has several key initiatives: prepare a City housing plan, create better connections to local services, increase case management and counseling services needed to prevent homelessness and reduce the number of persons who return to homelessness. Discharge planning to create a housing plan, connection to local services, case management and counseling is used to prevent homelessness and a return to homelessness.

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

Introduction:

Hazleton is facing an ongoing housing problem - not enough housing. The large influx of Puerto Ricans and Spanish-speaking immigrants to the community has put a strain on housing resources.

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

The City completed an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice in 2018. An action plan identified impediments due to language barriers, education of fair housing, inadequate supply of housing and lack of public transportation. To mitigate these negative effects; action items include fair housing education and outreach; updates to the City's Language Access Plan; expanding affordable housing opportunities for members of protected classes; and advocacy for public transit systems that connect lower income neighborhoods to major employment centers and education facilities.

The City is working to improve employment opportunities so that residents can better afford housing. The LEP will be updated when updated data is available. The latest data, 2016 continues to under-represent the Hispanic population. However, the 2016 LEP does reflect the need to do outreach in Spanish which the City has started to do by advertising in the two local Spanish newspaper publications. The City is looking to partner with a developer to provide expanded housing opportunities. Further, the City is working to improve employment opportunities so that residents can better afford housing.

Public policies have not been identified that have a negative effect on housing affordability. The City has land use policies and investment strategies that do not limit or impede private investment. The most significant barrier to affordable housing in the City of Hazleton is lack of income. Despite the comparatively low rents and low-cost housing for sale, households in the City of Hazleton are still cost burdened.

The City completed an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice in 2018. The AI identified four impediments:

1. Lack of knowledge among landlords and residents about what constitutes discrimination and reasonable accommodation obligations
2. Persons with limited English proficiency may not be able to fully access the City's housing and community development services and programs due to language barriers
3. An inadequate supply of affordable housing exists as evidenced by high demand for accessible units, cost burden borne by renter households, disproportionately greater need among Black and Hispanic households with incomes greater than 50% AMI
4. The public transportation system in Hazleton restricts housing choice and access to employment and education opportunities for residents who are transit-dependent

Along with the AI, the City developed an action plan to mitigate these negative effects. Action items include fair housing education and outreach; updates to the City's Language Access Plan; expanding affordable housing opportunities for members of protected classes; advocate for public transit systems that connect lower income neighborhoods to major employment centers and education facilities.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

The City is limited by what can be accomplished by the limited resources at its disposal to address the scope actions outside of the projects funded by CDBG and other grants. We are working to improve living conditions in the city through improved jobs, public improvements, blight reduction and communication among residents.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The City of Hazleton will work with social service agencies and the County of Luzerne to identify and develop strategies to meet the needs of underserved populations. The City is not a social service delivery agency and does not address social service needs directly. However, should specific funding requests for programs that address such needs be recommended to the City of Hazleton, City Council will consider those requests.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

A majority of the City's housing stock is affordable, but often in poor condition. The City of Hazleton recognizes the need to enforce the current codes and ordinances pertaining to housing maintenance. While not implemented by the City, Luzerne County is the recipient of Whole Home Repair Program funds through PA DCED. Funds will be used to make repairs to eligible homeowner and renter-occupied properties to help improve the County's housing stock. Properties located in the City of Hazleton would be eligible to receive assistance.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

As of April 22, 2010, all contractors in the nation who work in homes constructed prior to 1978 must have an EPA Certification and have at least one person on each job site that has taken the EPA Certification 8-hour class on lead-based paint safety. The City will make available through the Building Code office the EPA Paint, Renovate, Repair, and Painting booklet available for interested residents.

The City's housing rehabilitation guidelines provide for the administration of the housing program in a manner consistent with the regulations. The City incorporated the EPA Paint and Renovation guidelines into its program as well. While the program is currently not active, if reinstated, Lead-based paint will be part of it.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The City of Hazleton will continue to invest in job-creating activities with an emphasis on the hiring of low-income residents. The City will continue to pursue economic development in all forms to increase the supply of good-paying jobs available to City residents.

The City will support applications to HUD and other agencies for funding such programs. While not implemented by the City, Luzerne County is the recipient of Whole Home Repair Program funds through

PA DCED. Award of these funds a workforce development component aimed at providing education in the construction and rehabilitation trades. Such program is designed to provide low-income workers with job training, education, and experience.

In the award of contracts, the City will continue to implement the Section 3 Plan which promotes the utilization of firms owned by low-income persons.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The City of Hazleton Office of Community Development (OCD) is the facilitator for the activities described by the Consolidated Plan (CP). The City of Hazleton has the authority to apply for and administer CDBG funds and other grants. The City will also support other activities by providing certifications of consistency with the CP.

The CDBG funds are administered by Director of Community Development. The Director is able to effectively and efficiently coordinate community development activities in the City of Hazleton. The staff of the OCD will continue to avail themselves of HUD training and technical assistance to provide more efficient and comprehensive program management and oversight.

The Hazleton Housing Authority is another public entity in the community that utilizes funding from HUD. HHA's board is appointed by the Mayor. HHA's board hires its executive director and is responsible for managing its funds.

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

During FY 2025, the City will continue to work with shelter organizations, affordable housing development groups, CoC and Hazleton Housing Coalition and local non-profit agencies to coordinate services and funding for important social programs and physical improvements in the City. The City funds and coordinates with Catholic Social Services as well as the Commission on Economic Opportunity on the needs of homeless and near homeless in the City and other special needs populations.

Program Specific Requirements

AP-90 Program Specific Requirements – 91.220(I)(1,2,4)

Introduction:

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
Total Program Income	0

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.	96%