

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA



CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT

JULY 1, 2014 – JUNE 30, 2015

August 12, 2015

**FISCAL YEAR 2014
CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE
AND
EVALUATION REPORT
JULY 1, 2014 – JUNE 30, 2015**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1	Narrative Required by All Grantees
Section 2	SCBG Narrative
Section 3	HOME Narrative
Section 4	ESG Narrative
Section 5	Citizen Participation Information
Section 6	Fair Housing / Equal Opportunity Information
Section 7	IDIS Summary Report
Section 8	Public Comment / Attachment A

**CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE
AND EVALUATION REPORT
NARRATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

SECTION 1 – NARRATIVE REQUIRED BY ALL GRANTEES

A. ASSESSMENT OF THE FIVE-YEAR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In order to facilitate planned improvements to the quality of life and to strengthen and expand the economic base of all West Virginia citizens and communities consistent with the Consolidated Plan, the 2014 program was designed to provide support to activities directed toward the following State objectives described in this report.

Funds were made available to address the housing and community development needs described in the strategies, priority needs, and objectives section of the five-year consolidated plan.

As required by 24 CFR 570.91.320(b), the State of West Virginia submitted a Fiscal Year 2015-2019 Consolidated Action Plan on May 15, 2015. The data provided below is a review of Fiscal Year 2014 funding. Future allocations are subject to change.

FISCAL YEAR 2014 PROGRAMS AND AVAILABLE FUNDS	
CDBG-Small Cities Block Grant	\$12,831,207
HOME Investment Partnerships Program	\$3,429,971
Emergency Solutions Grant	\$1,455,208
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS	\$321,686
TOTAL FORMULA ALLOCATION	\$18,038,072

Small Cities Block Grant Program:

The West Virginia Development Office (WVDO) received 62 applications for Fiscal Year 2014 Small Cities Block Grant (SCBG) funding. These requests totaled \$72,126,651 for projects throughout the State.

During Fiscal Year 2014, the State awarded more than \$12.3 million in SCBG funds for 14 critical infrastructure projects. More than \$27 million in other federal, state, and local funds will be leveraged to complete these projects. These projects will serve approximately 7,300 citizens, of which approximately 4,800 will be low- and moderate-income individuals, representing an approximate 66 percent benefit to low- and moderate-income individuals. More than 1,300 households in these communities will receive improved or new service as a result of these investments.

The percent of low- and moderate-income projects funded to date is 100 percent. Funds allocated to low- and moderate-income activities to date (exclusive of administration) total \$12,346,271. The goals of the SCBG and performance measures are as follows:

- (1) Support job creation or retention efforts.
 - No projects were awarded in 2014 based on job creation or retention efforts.
- (2) Support local government efforts to provide affordable water and wastewater systems, to strengthen the foundations for economic growth, and alleviate conditions that affect environmental quality, public health, or welfare.
 - Invested \$12,346,271 in 14 public infrastructure projects that will serve approximately 7,364 low- to moderate-income persons throughout the State.
 - Requested “Letters of Intent” from 4 current projects for \$4,750,000 to be allocated from FY 2015 funds.
- (3) Support local community development efforts to assist lower-income citizens to achieve an improved quality of life by supporting locally developed strategies to increase access to facilities and services and to revitalize deteriorating downtown and residential neighborhood areas.
 - Each infrastructure project that received SCBG funding will assist low- to moderate-income citizens in achieving an improved quality of life

through the development of clean, reliable water systems and wastewater systems.

- These projects have either improved the current infrastructure or extended services to previously unserved areas, and this continues to be a critical need in many areas of West Virginia.

HOME Investment Partnerships Program:

HOME funds are allocated by formula to the State and are administered by the West Virginia Housing Development Fund (WVHDF). In FY 2014, the \$3,429,971 allocated to the HOME Program was allocated to projects and programs that support the State's goal of providing decent, affordable housing for all low- and moderate-income families consistent with the Consolidated Plan. A summary of our activities and accomplishments during 2014 has been set forth hereafter.

(1) Expand homeownership opportunities.

In FY 2014, the WVHDF financed 33 single-family housing units at a total cost of \$4,630,571 through the NewHOME Program. The 33 single-family housing units that were financed through the NewHOME Program represented the construction of 6 new units (\$867,448) and the acquisition of 27 existing units (\$3,763,123). The WVHDF used Program Income to finance \$1,227,679 or 26.5% of the \$4,630,571 spent on homeownership units. The Program Income was derived from loan repayments earned through the NewHome program.

(2) Increase the supply of affordable rental housing units.

In FY 2014, the WVHDF reserved or committed approximately \$1,849,492 to eligible HOME Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) projects to finance the construction of 8 single-family housing units and 3 rental housing units during the upcoming year. In response to the increased demand for affordable rental housing in rural areas of the State, the WVHDF committed \$11,624,514 to 8 HOMErent projects during the reporting period. The projects assisted with HOMErent funds will contain a total of 234 units that will serve tenants at or below 80% AMI. The lack of private equity for low-income rental housing has increased the importance of the HOME program funds in the development of for-profit low income rental housing through the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program.

In FY 2014, the WVHDF committed \$300,000 in HOME CHDO Operating Assistance Grants to 15 HOME CHDOs. The principal purpose of the Operating Assistance Grants was to finance the eligible operating costs incurred by HOME CHDOs that are involved with the preparation of either a single-family homeownership housing proposal or rental housing proposal that will be submitted for consideration and financing by the WVHDF. The operating expense grant funds are limited by the HOME Program regulations to costs such as salaries, fringe benefits, insurance, rent, staff travel, staff training, materials and supplies and office equipment. The operating expense grants have enabled the CHDOs to offset a portion of their operating costs and increase their capacity to develop housing programs and projects that will increase the supply of affordable rental housing units in rural areas of the State.

Emergency Solutions Grants Program:

The Office of Economic Opportunity, through the 2014 Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG), funded 20 political subdivisions and/or non-profit providers and 33 homeless assistance providers with a service area encompassing the entire State of West Virginia. These homeless assistance programs assisted 12,021 (unduplicated) persons with housing assistance.

This year, \$455,208 was distributed to West Virginia homeless assistance providers to operate transitional housing programs, permanent housing placement assistance, homeless prevention, rapid re-housing, emergency accommodation vouchers, food pantries, physical and mental health care programs, substance abuse assistance, drop-in centers, domestic violence shelters, educational assistance, life skills tutoring, case management, and HIV/AIDS specific programs. ESG funding was used to prevent low- and extremely low-income families and individuals from becoming homeless. In situations where families or individuals were experiencing homelessness, the emergency shelter or housing needs were addressed in turn, making the transition into permanent housing and independent living possible.

West Virginia understands the integral part that correct and unduplicated reporting play in continued success of all service oriented programs. In 2014, all 33 ESG funded programs, with the exception of domestic violence providers, are reporting client-level data on a statewide HUD approved Homeless Management Information System.

B. DESCRIPTION SUMMARIZING STATE AND LOCAL EFFORTS, ACTIONS, AND RESULTS IN AFFIRMATIVELY FURTHERING FAIR HOUSING

CDBG Subgrantees are required by the Title 1 certification not to discriminate in the provision of housing and not to discriminate in CDBG-funded activities that provide housing, housing services, or housing-related facilities. Subgrantees are

required to administer housing and community development programs in a manner to affirmatively promote Fair Housing in the sale or rental of housing, the financing of housing, and the provision of brokerage services. Both HUD and the State have a legislative mandate to carry out all programs in a manner to affirmatively further Fair Housing.

The West Virginia Development Office (WVDO), West Virginia Housing Development Fund (WVHDF) and the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), have continued to seek opportunities to provide training and outreach on various aspects of Fair Housing and related topics.

The West Virginia Housing Development Fund completed a Statewide Housing Needs Assessment on April 15, 2014. The Housing Needs Assessment, which provides a profile of housing in each of the State's 55 counties, will be used in conjunction with other housing and population statistics, as a "baseline" reference document in the completion of future updates to the Analysis of Impediments. The WVHDF will collaborate with both the WVDO and the OEO in the development of an updated Analysis of Impediments.

In FY 2014, the State agencies listed above continued to obtain community input regarding the impediments to Fair Housing choice to provide an interim update to the existing Analysis of Impediments in preparation for the enactment of HUD's new rule regarding the process for conducting an Assessment of Fair Housing.

HUD released the final rule to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing on July 8, 2015. The existing Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice will be replaced with a new Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH). HUD will provide grantees with data, tools and templates to incorporate fair housing into the consolidated plan. However the tools for States are not yet available and State grantees are not required to file the new AFH at this time.

The West Virginia Housing Development Fund worked with the WVDO in updating the existing Analysis of Impediments to coincide with the State of West Virginia's Five-Year Consolidated Action Plan, which will be in effect from 2015 to 2019. Interim activities such as the Housing Needs Assessment will expedite the update of the Analysis of Impediments.

As part of this interim update, the WVDO and WVHDF provided a survey to community stakeholders, conducted training and asked for feedback regarding previously identified impediments. Our agencies also asked for the identification of any new impediments. A complete review of this initiative is provided in Section 6 of this report. This information was also presented as part of the public hearings concerning the FY 2014 Action Plan.

The original Impediments to Fair Housing identified in the State of West Virginia's Analysis of Impediments include:

1. Resistance to Group Home Location
2. Discrimination in Rental Housing
3. Infrastructure Quality in Areas with a Concentration of Minority Residents
4. Incidences of Hate Violence
5. Housing Brokerage Services
6. Incidences of Possible Redlining by Lending Institutions
7. Discrimination Against Victims of Domestic Violence
8. Resistance to Low-Income Housing Development

The State is committed to outreach and education regarding Fair Housing, as this continues to be a key issue in increasing knowledge about Fair Housing and related impediments. Without knowledge of Fair Housing laws, people cannot understand how and why protected classes of people suffer from limited housing choices and what can be done to create fair housing opportunities for all state citizens.

The State plans to continue its current activities to promote Fair Housing choice, including education and enforcement of state and federal Fair Housing laws. The need for education in regard to Fair Housing issues is a priority with the State. There is a continued effort to educate, not only ourselves, but also grantees, property managers, and the general public.

These training opportunities were similar to the events conducted in FY 2013, and are described below. Several samples of these training agendas are also provided for reference.

On April 23, 2015 the WVHDF held a day long training session on ADA requirements, Section 504 and the Fair Housing Act. This training was attended by approximately 60 developers, architects and other individuals responsible for the design and construction of multi-family housing.

On April 27, 2015 the WVHDF presented training at the West Virginia Human Rights Commissions' annual Fair Housing event at the Charleston Civic Center. This training focused on Basic Fair Housing issues including, prohibitions under the Fair Housing Act, the complaint process, the history of Fair Housing and management issues related to fair housing. Also during this training event the WVHDF presented awards to area students who participated in the annual poster contest organized by the West Virginia Human Rights Commission and sponsored by the WVHDF. Approximately 100 property managers and the public attended this training. A copy of this agenda is provided with this letter.

On May 29, 2015 the WVHDF presented training for the Huntington Housing Authority, during their annual staff meeting. The training focused on maintenance

and managing maintenance requests without violating the fair housing laws. There were approximately 120 employees of the housing authority in attendance.

On June 24, 2015, the WVHDF presented training for the staff and management of the HOME program at our Charleston office. This training focused on common Fair Housing issues related to management of HOME properties and the Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan Forms 935.2A and 935.2B. A copy of this agenda is provided with this letter.

On November 5-6, 2014, the West Virginia Development Office and the West Virginia Association of Regional Planning and Development Councils (RPDCs) jointly sponsored an Application and Training Workshop. The programs that presented updates during the training were CDBG/SCBG, ARC, WV IJDC, WV WDA, DWTRF, CWSRF and USDA. As a component of the CDBG/SCBG update, a segment was devoted to Fair Housing and how it relates to the program. The relative topics were the definition of Fair Housing, examples of how to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing and their impediments, reporting requirements, and the protocol for fair housing complaints. The workshop hosted 61 participants from all of the designated regions.

The West Virginia Development Office staff continues to provide targeted training regarding Fair Housing to all new grantees funded through the Community Development Block Grant-Small Cities Block Grant Program. The WVDO staff utilized a two-page guide to Fair Housing as it relates to all grantees and presented this material as part of its implementation meeting for new projects. This training will continue into the new program year, along with the development and addition of new training materials. Chapter 7 (Civil Rights) of the West Virginia Small Cities Block Grant Handbook was also presented with emphasis on Fair Housing/EEO and 504 Compliance.

Since 1986, the State has annually, under the Governor's signature, issued and distributed a proclamation, which marks the anniversary of the Federal Fair Housing Law. This proclamation is issued with a cover letter to all communities/municipalities from the WVDO Community Development Director. SCBG recipients also carry out special activities. This proclamation is provided in Section 6.

As a result of the emphasis on Fair Housing training, the State achieved an increase in activity related to Fair Housing. It is believed that this increase in activity indicates some degree of effectiveness in outreach efforts. Primary actions taken by local grantees of SCBG funds to further Fair Housing during 2014:

- Passing or reaffirming Fair Housing Resolutions;
- Annually updating or adopting a Fair Housing Plan;
- Fair Housing Awareness meeting;

- Publish Public Service Announcements to educate the public concerning housing related issues including discrimination;
- Notifying local newspapers of Fair Housing initiatives;
- Notifying local realtors of Fair Housing initiatives;
- Sending information to town halls and county commission offices educating citizens about impediments to Fair Housing choice; and
- Declaring April as Fair Housing Month in __ cities and __ counties in the current program year, for a total of __ participants, increasing from a total __ participants from the previous program year.

These direct and indirect initiatives are important aspects of the entire approach to the development of affordable housing and Fair Housing throughout the State. Each of these components contribute to our ability, as a State, to properly address Fair Housing. This challenging, multi-faceted issue, requires the involvement of many individuals, organizations, local governments and advocacy groups

Based upon the level of participation at training events conducted during the program year, it is evident that there is interest in learning more about issues related to Fair Housing. The WVDO, WVHDF, and the OEO will continue to provide training regarding Fair Housing issues in West Virginia.

C. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The WVDO partners with the West Virginia Housing Development Fund (WVHDF) and the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) in the provision of decent affordable housing. The WVDO feels strongly that the provision of decent, affordable housing opportunities cannot exist without the necessary infrastructure in place. We have instituted a standing quarterly meeting to promote further cooperation among these agencies.

The WVHDF continues to use the original Housing Needs Assessment and other census data to identify and address the affordability of housing in each of the State's 55 counties even though the State is only responsible for the administration of the HOME Program in the 44 rural or non-consortia counties. The staff will use the new Housing Needs Assessment to plan initiatives and programs that will address the housing affordability needs of the residents of the State of West Virginia. In addition, the Housing Needs Assessment is available on the WVHDF website for the convenience of the HOME housing partners to more accurately determine the demands in each county.

The WVHDF sponsored four National Development Council trainings at a significantly reduced rate so that HOME housing partners could affordably attend sessions involving Home Ownership Finance and Rental Housing Development Finance. Each multi-day session was accompanied by a test, and the successful completion of all sessions resulted in the attendee receiving National

Development Council's certification as a Housing Development Finance Professional.

The WVHDF continues to work with the Interagency Housing Council for the Disability Community and other special population service providers in an effort to more accurately assess and address the housing needs of disabled persons. The State continues to provide deep subsidy mortgage loans through its NewHOME program to a limited number of disabled persons that are capable of independent living. In FY 2014, the WVHDF set-aside \$500,000 of the NewHOME program funding and its own financial resources for this special population group. The WVHDF will continue to work with service providers and non-profit organizations to support the development of decent housing for developmentally disabled persons.

The WVHDF will continue to enforce the Universal Design Standards to promote the development of accessible housing. The Universal Design Standards, which reflect the principal construction standards established under the Fair Housing Act, continue to be incorporated into every new single family unit constructed through the NewHOME Program. While the WVHDF currently enforces Section 504, Fair Housing and the other accessibility standards required under the HOME Program regulations, it has been encouraged by some groups to require that all units financed through HOME Program meet the Universal Design Standards. This requirement is currently being considered by the WVHDF.

Every year, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) estimates a Median Family Income (MFI) for use with the Section 8 program. MFIs are set for metropolitan areas, for counties, and at the state level. HUD uses census income data updated with more recent economic data to determine MFIs and intends them to be used to determine eligibility for HUD programs.

MFI is the income level that divides the distribution of family incomes in a given area in half. This means that half of the families in the area have more income than the median, and half have less. MFIs are established for families consisting of 1 to 8 people. MFIs are useful for understanding the income levels in a given area, and for comparing between areas.

The MFI established for West Virginia in 2013 was \$51,596 compared to the national MFI of \$65,334. West Virginia had the third lowest MFI of all 50 states (Mississippi had the lowest MFI of \$47,615 and Arkansas had the second lowest MFI at \$50,415). There was considerable variation between the MFI for metropolitan areas versus non-metropolitan areas. The MFI in West Virginia varies from a low of \$34,800 in McDowell County, a non-metro county in Southern West Virginia, to a high of \$56,500 in Jefferson County, a metro county in the Eastern Panhandle. The MFI in most of West Virginia's southern counties was well below the State MFI of \$51,596.

Every year, the federal government also establishes a definition of poverty. It uses income thresholds based on household size: everyone who is in a household that is below the income threshold for that household size is considered to be living in poverty. In 2014, the poverty threshold for a single person under age 65 was \$12,316 per year, equivalent to \$1,026 per month. For a family of 4, including 2 related children, the poverty threshold was \$24,008 per year, equivalent to \$2,000 per month.

In West Virginia in 2013, 331,674 persons or 18.4 percent of the state's residents were living below the poverty level. The poverty rate ranged from a low of 11 percent in Putnam County to a high of 36.5 percent in McDowell County. (The 2014 County statistics were not available.)

Housing affordability is determined by the relationship of housing cost to income. HUD considers housing to be affordable if it costs 30 percent or less of the renter's gross income. An area with very high average incomes can still be unaffordable if rents are typically very high; conversely, very low rents can be unaffordable in areas where incomes are low.

In West Virginia, the 2014 Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment was \$629. In order to afford this level of rent and utilities, without paying more than 30 percent of income on housing, a household must earn \$2,098 a month, or \$25,178 annually. Assuming a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year, and this level of income translates into a Housing Wage of \$12.10.

Effective December 31, 2014, in West Virginia, a minimum wage worker earns an hourly wage of \$8.00. In order to afford the FMR for a two-bedroom apartment, a minimum wage earner must work 61 hours per week, 52 weeks per year. Or, a household must include 1.6 minimum wage earner(s) working 40 hours per week annually in order to make the two-bedroom FMR affordable.

The information compiled by the National Low Income Housing Coalition confirms that affordable single-family and rental housing are still out of reach of most low-income families in West Virginia.

D. CONTINUUM OF CARE NARRATIVE

The West Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness (WVCEH) was founded in 2002 by homeless service providers throughout the State and is focused on providing a seamless array of homeless services through rapid rehousing efforts. The Coalition has three roles: serving as a force for statewide advocacy for homeless issues and needs; the lead agency for the Balance of State Continuum of Care; and the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) grantee for the Balance of State Continuum of Care. The Balance of State Continuum of Care is one of four Continuums of Care in West Virginia and covers a geographic area comprised of 44 of West Virginia's 55 counties. The remaining three

Continuums of Care provide services in the following areas: Wheeling/Weirton CoC (Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall, and Wetzel counties, and the Cities of Wheeling and Weirton), Cabell, Huntington, Wayne CoC (the City of Huntington and Cabell and Wayne counties), and the Kanawha Valley Collective (the City of Charleston and Kanawha, Clay, Putnam, and Boone counties).

The goals of the WVCEH are to:

- Integrate a variety of housing options, with services, for homeless individuals and families;
- Provide information, technical assistance, and data analysis to State homeless programs, both housing and service-focused;
- Provide a network to prevent extremely-low- and low-income families and individuals from becoming homeless;
- Address the current lack of adequate, affordable rental housing in West Virginia through data analysis and advocacy. Experience has shown that there is an extreme shortage of affordable housing that meets housing quality standards;
- End chronic, family, and veteran homelessness in West Virginia;
- Influence service providers to assist homeless persons obtain and maintain permanent housing, increase their skills and income, and improve their overall self-determination and independence;
- Provide quality, usable data to all homeless service providers and partners in West Virginia; and
- Foster relationships, best practices, and increased communication among the four Continuums of Care in West Virginia.

Continuums of Care in West Virginia have been responsible for the following type of housing in West Virginia:

Wheeling/Weirton Area CoC: 103 beds of Emergency Shelter, 40 beds of Transitional Housing, 58 beds of Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing, and 16 beds of Permanent Supportive Housing for the Homeless Disabled.

Kanawha Valley Collective: 308 beds of Emergency Shelter, 133 beds of Transitional Housing, 26 beds of Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing, and 95 beds of Permanent Supportive Housing for the Homeless Disabled.

Cabell, Huntington, Wayne CoC: 185 beds of Emergency Shelter, 127 beds of Transitional Housing, and 395 beds of Permanent Supportive Housing for the Homeless Disabled.

Balance of State CoC: 637 beds of Emergency Shelter, 336 beds of Transitional Housing, 1,036 beds of Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing, and 259 beds of Permanent Supportive Housing for the Homeless Disabled.

According to the 2014 Emergency Solutions Grant end year reports from providers, characteristics of persons served with ESG in West Virginia included: 3,942 adults and 1,102 children under 18 were assisted with housing through shelter, transitional housing, street outreach, homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing. Another 3,937 adults and 1,047 children were assisted through a day shelter/drop-in center. Of those assisted with housing, 714 were chronically homeless persons, 230 veterans and 1,358 victims of domestic violence.

The West Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness (WVCEH) works closely with primarily three state agencies, including the West Virginia Office of Economic Opportunity, the West Virginia Housing Development Fund, and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources. These agencies assist the Coalition with resources that improve both the housing options and service arrays provided to homeless persons and families in West Virginia.

The WVCEH acts as the only formal entity that provides data and advocacy to examine needs, lack of resources, and the need for changes in policy, as they relate to homelessness. This role is especially crucial as communities adjust to the changes mandated by the Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act, an amendment to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. HEARTH has ushered in a new era of accountability and efficiency in homeless services by consolidating HUD's competitive grant programs, creating a Rural Housing Stability Program, changing HUD's definition of homelessness and chronic homelessness and aligning the definition of homelessness across several Federal Agencies, simplifying HUD's match requirement, increasing resources for Homeless Prevention, and vastly increasing the emphasis on Continuum of Care performance.

As the economy worsens, the role of the WVCEH will be more vital than ever. Family homelessness, chronic homelessness, and veteran homelessness, are anticipated to be on the rise in the coming years in West Virginia. The three vital roles of the Coalition over the coming years will be: (1) breaking down the myth that homelessness does not exist in West Virginia; (2) advocating for greater resources and coordination among all providers for both housing and services; and (3) re-enacting the Interagency Council to improve policy considerations regarding homeless services in West Virginia.

E. OTHER ACTIONS

- Obstacles to Underserved Needs:

The primary obstacle is still the lack of available funds; however, all of the programs have leveraged other private, local, state, and federal resources to help alleviate this obstacle.

- Foster and Maintain Affordable Housing:

The State continues to focus HOME Program resources on three principal areas: 1) homeownership through direct loans and leverage loans; 2) Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs); and 3) HOMErent with loans to promote the improvement and creation of rental housing opportunities for low- and very low-income families.

Limited economic development and unemployment continues to underline the need for decent single family housing and rental housing opportunities for low-income families in the rural areas of West Virginia. The replacement of existing substandard housing through the construction of new single family housing and rental housing, as well as the rehabilitation of existing rental housing, that meets the State building code increases the quality housing opportunities and choices for low-income families in rural areas.

The WVHDF, OEO and the WVDO will continue to partner together to foster and maintain affordable housing. The WVDO is a member of the West Virginia Housing Trust Fund (Trust Fund), a legal entity established by the State of West Virginia, which was established to provide financial assistance in the form of grants to State non-profit organizations involved in the development of housing for low-income families. The Trust Fund provides financing through a Request for Proposal to finance market studies and other predevelopment activities, as well as supplemental financing for low-income housing projects that have already secured financing from other resources such as the WVHDF or HUD.

Most recently, the State of West Virginia demonstrated its growing understanding of the importance of housing for low- and moderate-income families through the creation of the House and Senate Select Committees on Children and Poverty.

In 2015, the West Virginia Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board of Directors (Trust Fund) awarded \$870,000 to fund fifteen projects in the state. The completed projects will create 191 affordable housing units for low to moderate income state citizens. The funding will also provide homebuyer

counseling to many West Virginians as they consider purchasing and maintaining a home.

Since its creation in 2001 by the WV Legislature, the Trust Fund has provided more than \$7 million to 52 local government and nonprofit agencies for a total of 147 projects throughout the state. For each dollar of Trust Fund money, an average of \$3 is leveraged in other federal, state, or private funding. The Trust Fund works with housing providers in the state to finance capacity building efforts, homebuyer counseling programs, new construction and rehabilitation projects, and predevelopment needs through a request for proposal program.

Over the past 14 years, the Trust Fund has focused on providing gap or leverage funding with the HUD 202 and 811 Programs, HOME Program, Federal Home Loan Bank, homeless providers, and the private sector in providing affordable housing opportunities.

The Trust fund has worked to become instrumental in the creation or preservation of affordable housing that strengthens families and stabilizes communities and has become a vital part of the economy in West Virginia.

Learn more about the West Virginia Affordable Housing Trust Fund online at www.wvaht.org.

- Eliminate Barriers to Affordable Housing:

The WVHDF, OEO and the WVDO will continue to provide technical assistance to communities on the use of these federal funds for affordable housing. In addition, the WVDO staff provides planning grants to assist communities with comprehensive planning needs that can contain housing and community development components. While low-income families do not have to contend with traditional barriers to affordable housing, such as zoning, impact fees, homeowners associations and real property taxes; these families are faced with limited access to traditional mortgage loans, a limited supply of decent, affordable, existing housing and the limited availability of adequate building lots.

The WVHDF has provided deep subsidy mortgage loans through the NewHOME Loan Program and the HOME Leverage Loan program to finance the construction of new single family housing units and acquisition of existing single family housing units. The WVHDF continues to provide construction/permanent loans to finance the construction of rental units through both the CHDO Program and the HOMErent Program to address the demand for decent, affordable housing units for low-income families. The WVHDF has also provided loans through the WVHDF Land Development Loan Program so that eligible non-profit organizations can finance the

acquisition and development of land for low-income housing. The terms of the Land Development Loan Program loans are designed so that the non-profit organizations can afford to market lots over an extended period of time.

- Overcome Gaps In Institutional Structure and Enhance Coordination:

In November 2012, The West Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness (WVCEH) hosted a statewide HEARTH Performance Improvement Clinic, facilitated by the National Alliance to End Homelessness. Three statewide HEARTH Committees were formed – Expanding Rapid Re-housing, Diversion and Prevention, and Coordinated Intake and Assessment. Shortly after the formation of these committees, the Center for Social Innovation and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WVDHHR) office approached the WVCEH with an opportunity to take part in a Coordinated Intake and Assessment Technical Assistance engagement. In April 2014, the Coordinated Intake and Assessment Committee gathered for an initial kick-off meeting and workday, facilitated by the WVCEH and the Center for Social Innovation. In 2014 all ESG funded service providers began using the same homelessness information database – Service Point. This switch to a statewide system has allowed a streamlining of data, better collaboration between statewide partners as well as a tremendous cut in the number of duplicated data.

Coordination with the Continuum of Care

Consultation with the four Continuums of Care (CoCs) in the State is ongoing as amendments are made to the ESG programs and as the Coordinated Intake and Assessment system is under development. The CoCs and the West Virginia Office of Economic Opportunity will fund ESG projects based on the following factors:

- a. Membership or Association with the local CoC – Agencies interested in applying for ESG funding must be active, participating members of the local CoC as coordination among those providing services or housing.
- b. Service Provision – Services provided by the interested agency must be in alignment with current HEARTH goals and established goals of the appropriate CoC and ESG funder.
- c. Collaboration and Coordination – Interested agencies must demonstrate active coordination with local homeless service providers, Faith Based Organizations, victim service providers, mental health agencies, public housing agencies, law enforcement, advocates, programs that serve veterans, mainstream service providers, and local government agencies. Diversity of Collaboration and Coordination at the community level will serve

to streamline the use of ESG with other existing resources, and ensure positive client outcomes.

- Improve Public Housing and Resident Initiatives:

The HUD requirement that all public housing authorities complete a Consolidated Plan has created an ongoing dialogue between the WVDO and the public housing authorities throughout the State. This relationship has also been strengthened through the WVDO's role in the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, through which the State developed more than 200 units of affordable housing.

In 2014, the WVHDF reviewed and approved the Housing Assistance Plans (HAPS) of 11 different Public Housing Authorities for compliance with the State Consolidated Plan. In addition to the review of the HAPS, the WVHDF continues to review applications for housing reconstruction, the development of transitional housing, and numerous other projects where the public housing authority serves as the loan originator or grantee. The WVHDF did not allocate HOME funds to provide tenant based rental assistance through the HOME Program.

- Evaluate and Reduce Lead Based Paint Hazards:

The WVDO contracts with the WVHDF on the implementation of all SCBG housing projects and relies on its expertise and programs to address the evaluation and reduction of lead-based paint hazards. The WVHDF recognizes the severity of lead based paint (LBP) poisoning and believes that the existing federally required notification of buyers and renters and the readily available blood testing for elevated lead levels available at local health departments provides adequate warning and protection. The WVHDF has no enforcement or regulatory responsibility under these regulations. OSHA regulates contractors to ensure a safe environment for workers dealing with LBP, and the EPA and West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection regulate the disposal of hazardous waste. The WVHDF continues to prohibit the use of HOME funds for lead based paint hazard abatement and strictly limit the use of HOME funds for any housing units built before January 1, 1978. The WVHDF also requires that contractors involved in the development of housing through the HOME Program comply with the Repair, Replace and Paint Rule issued by the EPA and the HUD Lead Safe Housing Rule.

The OEO and all ESG subgrantees are committed to ongoing improvement of the ability to identify lead-based paint hazards. ESG Program providers are made aware of the LBP requirements through training opportunities, in the ESG funding application, program assurances, and program certifications. All units assisted with Emergency Solutions Grant Rapid Re-

Housing or Homelessness Prevention funding is assessed for lead based paint. If lead based paint is found in a unit where a pregnant woman or children under six-years old will reside, ESG funds are not used. All ESG re-housing and prevention program applicants receive the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home." The OEO strives to ensure child-occupied units are lead safe when housing a child less than six years of age.

- Ensure Compliance with Program and Comprehensive Planning Requirements:

The HOME, ESG and SCBG program requirements are strictly enforced to ensure compliance with all applicable regulations, policies, and guidelines. Technical assistance is provided to units of local government with State Code requirements (Chapter 8, Article 24) for planning and zoning.

- Reduce the Number of Persons Living in Poverty:

Every year, the federal government also establishes a definition of poverty. It uses income thresholds based on household size: everyone who is in a household that is below the income threshold for that household size is considered to be living in poverty. In 2012, the poverty threshold for a single person was \$11,170 per year, equivalent to \$930 per month. For a family of 4, including 2 related children, the poverty threshold was \$23,050 per year, equivalent to \$1,920 per month.

In West Virginia in 2013, 18.4 percent of residents were living in poverty compared to a national poverty level of 15.8 percent. The poverty rate ranged from a low of 11.0 percent in Putnam County in Central West Virginia to a high of 36.5 percent in McDowell County in Southern West Virginia.

One hundred percent of ESG funding is used to develop and maintain emergency shelter and supportive services for West Virginians below the poverty level. One of the largest shelters funded with ESG (among other) funds is in Raleigh County. It is imperative that ESG funding is also used at all ESG funded shelters to expand their services and allow those they serve an opportunity to avail themselves of programs that allow them to move out of poverty and into self-sufficiency.

Because the development of reliable water and wastewater systems continues to be a need within the State, SCBG funds allocated to the State were dedicated for this purpose. Many of the projects selected for funding addressed serious environmental and health concerns. All funds have been expended on projects that benefit low- to moderate-income persons and families. Many of these projects directly benefit families living within the

poverty level. This investment in the State's infrastructure is critical to the overall health and well-being of State residents, and is often the foundation of economic opportunities.

Federal and state lending laws, in particular The SAFE Mortgage Act and The Dodd-Frank Act, and family credit problems continue to make it a challenge for the WVHDF to provide loans through the NewHOME Loan Program and HOME Leverage Loan Program to families with incomes at or below 65 percent of the Median Family Income (MFI). The fact that the WVHDF and the Local Originator may be held directly liable for any loans that are not "affordable" to a low-income family continue to limit the participation of low-income single-families in the NewHOME Loan Program. The disparity in the MFI and housing costs across the 44 rural counties has required the WVHDF to consider waivers for families who were below the 65 percent AMFI. In FY 2014, one (1) or .05 percent of the 17 families assisted through the NewHOME Program and HOME Leverage Loan Program had an income that was between 0 to 30 percent of the AMFI; three or 18 percent of the 17 families assisted through the NewHOME Program and HOME Leverage Loan Program had an income that was between 31 to 50 percent of the AMFI; while the remaining thirteen (13) or 76 percent of the 17 families assisted through the NewHOME Program and HOME Leverage Loan Program had incomes that were between 51 to 80 percent of the AMFI.

F. LEVERAGING RESOURCES

Please refer to the ESG specific narrative for leveraging information.

The WVHDF developed the HOME Leverage Loan Program to increase the number of families that could be assisted through the HOME Program. The leveraging of USDA RD Section 502 loans and private lender loans with HOME funds in the form of \$40,000 closing cost and down payment assistance loans enabled the WVHDF to assist three families that could not have qualified for financial assistance through the program in 2014.

The WVDO works with numerous federal, state, and local funding sources to leverage SCBG funds to the maximum extent possible. During the FY 2014 program year, more than \$27 million in other funds were leveraged with SCBG funds. This total includes new projects as well as projects that were funded in multiple years. Many of the units of local government also pledge local funds for these important projects.

The West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council (IJDC) promotes the coordination of infrastructure projects throughout the State. Enacted in 1994 by the West Virginia Legislature, the IJDC was created to be West Virginia's funding clearinghouse for water and wastewater projects. This coordination provides the opportunity for funding agencies to review all project applications

and determine strategies to maximize funding through all available state and federal sources.

This coordination of leveraged funding also ensures that units of local government receive ongoing technical assistance on both the regulatory requirements and project management. Implementation schedules are established that directly impact the local community and the state and federal agencies involved. As a result, project administrators, as well as funding and regulatory agencies representatives, are working as a team to complete projects within the established schedule.

The following agencies and programs provide the most frequently used sources of leveraged funds for SCBG water and sewer infrastructure projects:

Funding Source	Grant	Loan
USDA-Rural Utilities Service (USDA-RUS)	Grant	Loan
Abandoned Mine Lands (AML)	Grant	Loan
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Grant	
Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF)	Grant	Loan
Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF)	Grant	Loan
Water Development Authority	Grant	Loan
Appalachian Regional Commission	Grant	
U.S. Economic Development Authority	Grant	
U.S. Department of Environmental Protection	Grant	
WV Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council (IJDC)	Grant	Loan

G. CITIZEN COMMENTS

This CAPER will be advertised in six newspapers in the State – The Charleston Gazette, The State Journal, The Wheeling Intelligencer and News Register, The Beckley Register Herald, The Morgantown Dominion Post, and The Huntington Herald Dispatch -- and will be made available on at the offices of the WVDO, OEO, and the WVHDF for review and comment.

The CAPER will also be posted on the West Virginia Department of Commerce-West Virginia Development Office website. A 15-day review and comment period will begin on August 17, and concluded on September 3.

H. SELF-EVALUATION

The WVDO, in collaboration with the WVHDF and OEO is meeting the overall goals as established in the Consolidated Plan regulations at 24 CFR Section 91.1(a). Listed below are questions considered as part of a self-evaluation for each program:

Small Cities Block Grant:

1) Are the activities and strategies making an impact on the identified needs?

Yes. Infrastructure development continues to be a critical need within the State, therefore, the dedication of SCBG funds addresses the most critical needs.

The number of applications represents the continuing need for infrastructure investment in the State. Further, there are applications submitted in consecutive years, indicating an ongoing need and commitment to the project application.

To the extent possible, SCBG funds address the environmental and health deficiencies caused by inadequate infrastructure in the areas that have the highest need for grant funding.

2) What indicators would best describe the results?

SCBG funds were used to serve low- to moderate-income persons and families throughout the State. During Fiscal Year 2014, the State invested SCBG funds in 14 critical infrastructure projects. More than \$27 million in other federal, state, and local funds will be leveraged to complete these projects.

These projects will serve approximately 7,300 citizens, of which approximately 4,800 will be low- and moderate-income individuals, representing an approximate 66 percent benefit to low- and moderate-income individuals. Over 1,300 households in these communities will receive improved or new service as a result of these investments.

These projects addressed the adverse health and environmental effects of inadequate infrastructure systems. In many cases, these health and environmental issues are documented by the State's regulatory agencies. And, in many cases, the affected residents are unable to assume the prohibitive cost of solving these widespread problems. Grant funding is often coupled with funding from other agencies, in the form of additional grants or loans, to achieve a viable funding package.

In addition to the health and environmental issues, the lack of infrastructure poses numerous social and economic obstacles. The investment of SCBG funding lasts for generations, and results in an improved quality of life for the State's residents, especially those of low to moderate income.

3) What barriers may have a negative impact on fulfilling the strategies and overall vision?

The lack of available funds continues to be the most significant challenge. In FY 2014, the WVDO received approximately \$72 million in requests for approximately \$12.3 million in available funding. However, these investments dramatically improve quality of life where they are possible. Further, these investments result in economic opportunities in these areas.

HOME Investment Partnerships Program:

1) Are the activities and strategies making an impact on the identified needs?

Yes.

2) What indicators would best describe the results?

The number of units completed under the NewHOME Program increased from 17 single-family units in 2013 to 32 single-family units in 2014. The WVHDF has been able to better organize its non-profit lending network and improve the single-family loan review process with the CHDOs and the licensed Mortgage Loan Originators. The demand of NewHOME Program Loans has increased over the past 12 months.

The six licensed Mortgage Loan Originators that work directly with the WVHDF in the delivery of NewHOME loans and HOME Leverage Loans in the 44 counties covered by the HOME Program have expanded their existing target market areas to provide coverage in other eligible areas. Both the Mortgage Loan Originators and the CHDOs are also working with local lenders to develop a viable first mortgage loan program for low-income families.

Despite the significant progress that the WVHDF has made in addressing the both legal and regulatory obstacles, several challenges remains. These include: the decline in single-family home sales and values in rural areas, the revision of underwriting guidelines and standards in response to the changes in lending rules and regulations, and recent increases in unemployment in several rural West Virginia counties. As a result, it is frequently difficult for the WVHDF and local non-profit originators to deliver homeownership assistance to low-income families.

There were no HOME Leverage Loans in 2015. While some private lenders have indicated that they are willing to participate in loans that require additional rules and regulations, the WVHDF continues to

promote the use of the HOME Leverage Loan Program with both the U.S. Department of Agriculture (502 Direct Loans) and Habitat for Humanity Affiliates. The WVHDF still considers the partnerships with these two organizations as essential to success of the HOME Leverage Loan Program. The WVHDF will continue its efforts to identify local private lenders that are willing to provide first lien mortgages for low-income families in conjunction with the HOME Leverage Loan Program.

The WVHDF has addressed the initial changes in federal and state lending laws and regulations that have had a negative impact on the ability of CHDOs to develop and finance single-family housing under the HOME CHDO Program. While HOME CHDO's are currently able to provide a viable, second mortgage on single-family housing developed through the HOME CHDO Program, the new/revised regulations being issued by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection will almost certainly impact the eligibility of low-income families and the processing of loan applications. The WVHDF will continue to work directly with CHDOs and Mortgage Loan Originators to mitigate the impact of the new regulations on its homeownership programs.

The WVHDF has increased its allocation of HOME funds for the development or rehabilitation of affordable rental housing through the HOMERent Program. Both private and non-profit developers of housing through the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program (LIHTC) have applied for loans under the HOMERent Program. LIHTC Developers have the demonstrated capacity of completing rental housing projects in timely manner. The HOMERent Program enables these developers to more effectively cover the equity gap in their rental housing project budgets. The WVHDF has allocated approximately 50 percent of its annual HOME Program allocation to HOMERent Program over the last four years. The WVHDF staff has provided the technical assistance required to ensure that these HOME-assisted projects comply with the HOME Program regulations.

3) What barriers may have a negative impact on fulfilling the strategies and overall vision?

The lack of available funds continues to pose the most significant challenge in providing affordable housing. In FY 2014, the WVHDF received approximately \$9,308,571 in requests for approximately \$3,429,971 in available HOME funds. The lack of funding for affordable housing in federal housing programs, a reduction in rental housing assistance and inadequate private sector funding continue to make it difficult to develop affordable housing in rural areas.

Limited economic development in most rural areas, the slow recovery of the housing market, the tightening of credit standards, the passage of additional lending rules and regulations, the reduction of funding for the USDA RD Section 502 Direct Loan Program, limited private lender participation in the HOME Leverage Loan Program and the changes in the HOME Program regulations will continue to have an adverse impact on the ability of the WVHDF to provide affordable single-family and rental housing through the NewHOME Program, the HOME Leverage Loan Program, HOMErent and the HOME CHDO Program.

The homeownership programs procedures and guidelines will be subject to regular review and revision by the WVHDF to ensure compliance with federal and state lending laws and regulations in an effort to increase the participation by private lenders, governmental agencies, and local non-profit organizations.

Emergency Shelter Grant Program:

The purpose of the ESG program is to assist individuals and families quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis or homelessness. ESG funds are available for five program components: street outreach, emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, rapid re-housing assistance, and data collection through the Homeless Management Information System or HMIS.

The Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) administers the ESG or Emergency Solutions Grant Program, which replaced the previous Emergency Shelter Grant program and incorporates elements of the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP). While still providing support for emergency shelters and services to the homeless, the new Emergency Solutions Program focuses more funding on preventing initial and recurrent homelessness, shortening the duration of homelessness, and assisting in the transition from homelessness to independent living. Essential supportive services for homeless individuals and families remain a focus but will be broadened to specifically support both sheltered and, though outreach, unsheltered homeless.

The 2014 allocation of \$1,455,208 and distributed funds through a competitive process in conjunction with the State's consultation with the Continuums of Care, West Virginia's homeless assistance providers offered transitional housing programs, permanent housing placement assistance, homeless prevention programs, rapid re-housing programs, emergency accommodation vouchers, food pantries, physical and mental health care programs, substance abuse assistance, drop-in centers, domestic violence shelters, educational assistance, life skills tutoring, case management, and HIV/AIDS Programs. ESG funds were used to prevent low- and extremely low-income families and individuals from becoming homeless. In situations where families or individuals were

experiencing homelessness, the emergency shelter or housing needs were addressed in turn, making the transition into permanent housing and independent living possible.

1) Are the activities and strategies making an impact on the identified needs?

Yes.

2) What indicators would best describe the results?

Positive outcomes for the ESG program would include numbers of people served moving from emergency shelter through the homeless Continuum of Care into to permanent housing with the ultimate outcome being complete self-sufficiency, with a stay in emergency shelter lasting no more than 30 days and less than a 15 percent recidivism rate.

3) What barriers may have a negative impact on fulfilling the strategies and overall vision?

The lack of available funds. The ESG program needs to expand to offer funding to any eligible entity. Presently, this causes a hardship to both the shelters already funded as there is no way to fund new shelters without cutting the funding of those already funded, and to the new or previously unfunded shelters as they cannot receive adequate funding to build capacity.

The Office of Economic Opportunity utilizes the HEARTH Act Emergency Solutions Grants program to expand the base of homeless services already being offered in West Virginia. The inclusion of homelessness prevention funding is an integral piece of the housing continuum of care and has increased the level of services already being offered in West Virginia.

The HEARTH Act Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing funding comes with its own set of challenges as the dollar-for-dollar match requirement is almost impossible to meet for many interested providers as there is not enough available Federal and State resources that allow match opportunities. In addition, the State of West Virginia does not have any dedicated State funding for Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing to use as match.

**STATE PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT
NARRATIVE REQUIREMENTS
SCBG PROGRAM**

JULY 1, 2014 – JUNE 30, 2015

SECTION 2 – NARRATIVE REQUIRED FOR GRANTEES RECEIVING SCBG FUNDS

A. ASSESSMENT OF RELATIONSHIP OF SCBG TO OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSOLIDATED PLAN.

See narrative in Section 1-A.

B. DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES IN PROGRAM OBJECTIVES.

There were no changes in the 2014 program objectives.

C. ASSESSMENT OF GRANTEE'S ACTIVITIES IN CARRYING OUT ACTIONS DESCRIBED IN ITS ACTION PLAN.

The WVDO pursued all resources indicated in our 2014 Action Plan. Certifications of Consistency with the State Consolidated Plan were signed for discretionary HUD grant applications. No request for certification was denied.

D. NARRATIVE REQUIRED IF GRANTEE DID NOT USE ALL FUNDS FOR THE THREE NATIONAL OBJECTIVES.

All funds were used exclusively to meet the national objective of benefit to low- to moderate- income persons.

E. NARRATIVE REQUIRED IF SCBG FUNDS WERE USED FOR ACQUISITION, REHABILITATION, OR DEMOLITION OF OCCUPIED PROPERTY.

No SCBG projects involved acquisition, rehabilitation, or demolition of occupied property occurred during this program year.

F. NARRATIVE REQUIRED IF: 1) JOBS WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO LOW- TO MODERATE-INCOME PERSONS BUT WERE NOT TAKEN BY THEM; 2) LIMITED CLIENTELE ACTIVITIES OCCURRED THAT DID NOT FALL INTO THE HUD-DEFINED CATEGORIES; 3) ACTIVITIES THAT GENERATED PROGRAM INCOME; 4) REHABILITATION PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS; 5) HUD-APPROVED NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION STRATEGIES.

The Annual Program Income (PI) Activity Reporting Forms were provided to grantees that received SCBG funds for projects with the potential to earn PI even though these grants were closed out. The program income regulations applicable to each project provided \$25,000 threshold guidelines for earning PI. The following PI reports were received for Fiscal Year 2014.

Clay County Commission- CAEZ Housing Rehabilitation, Project Number: 95SCBG0004X

This project received final close out status on July 22, 2002. These SCBG funds were utilized for housing rehabilitation projects. The PI has been generated from housing rehabilitation loan repayments.

PI Receipts	\$601.28
PI Expenditures	<u>601.28</u>
Balance	\$0

City of Fairmont – Community Improvements Project, Project Number: 96SCBG0066

This project received final close out status on August 6, 2002. These SCBG funds were utilized to construct a parking garage, and a top deck at Veteran's Plaza, also to be utilized for parking.

PI Receipts	\$0
PI Expenditures	<u>0</u>
Balance	\$0

City of Hurricane – Hurricane Small Business Park, Project Number: 94SCBG0060

This project received final close out status on July 22, 2002. These SCBG funds were utilized to purchase and renovate buildings on Main Street to house current on-going businesses.

PI Receipts	\$24,797.17
PI Expenditures	<u>23,365.50</u>
Balance	\$1,431.67

Lincoln County Commission – Economic Development, Project Number: 95SCBG0090X

This project received final close out status on January 11, 2002. The SCBG funds were utilized for Housing Rehabilitation Projects. Program Income was generated from loan repayment of a revolving loan program.

PI Receipts	\$1,517.07
PI Expenditures	<u>1,517.07</u>
Balance	\$0

Mingo County Commission—Housing Rehab/Reconstruction, Project Number: 95SCBG0087

This project received final closeout status on April 12, 2002. The SCBG funds were utilized for housing rehab/reconstruction projects. PI earned was generated from loan repayments. These funds were expended to continue the revolving loan program.

PI Receipts	\$0
PI Expenditures	<u>\$0</u>
Balance	\$0

Mingo County Commission—Wood Products Industrial Park (Project Number: 98SCBG0076X)

This project received final closeout status on February 20, 2003. The SCBG funds were utilized for property acquisition and rehabilitation. PI earned was generated from rental. Unilin Flooring rents this facility for production of hardwood flooring and a dry kiln facility.

PI Receipts	\$0
PI Expenditures	<u>0</u>
Balance	\$0

CAEZ – Project Number: 08SCBG0068NX

This NSP project included the rehabilitation of foreclosed or vacant homes for the benefit of low and moderate income individuals.

PI Receipts	\$10,449.06
PI Expenditure	<u>-0-</u>
Balance	\$10,449.06

Change, Inc. – Project Number: 08SCBG0069N

This NSP project included the rehabilitation of foreclosed or vacant homes for the benefit of low and moderate income individuals.

PI Receipts	\$0
PI Expenditures	<u>0</u>
Balance	\$0

City of Parkersburg – Project Number: 08SCGB0074N

This NSP project included the rehabilitation of foreclosed or vacant homes for the benefit of low and moderate income individuals.

PI Receipts	\$74,295.30
PI Expenditures	<u>-0-</u>
Balance	\$74,295.30

Housing Authority, Wayne County – Project Number: 08SCBG0077N

This NSP project included the rehabilitation of foreclosed or vacant homes for the benefit of low and moderate income individuals.

PI Receipts	\$69,824.10
PI Expenditures	<u>-0-</u>
Balance	\$69,824.10

G. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS FROM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING.

The Community Development Division and the Small Cities Block Grant staff provide technical assistance to non-entitlement units of local government. This assistance covers all aspects of the SCBG program operation. This technical assistance ranges from the informal telephone conference calls regarding the program to on-site visits. A major component of the SCBG technical assistance effort includes maintaining a West Virginia Small Cities Block Grant Handbook. Work is ongoing to update this document and it is online.

On-site technical assistance was provided to all new recipients who were approved for funding through project implementation meetings. These implementation meetings were conducted to review program requirements and to provide the recipients with the rules, regulations, and technical assistance guides that are applicable to their project.

Staff also participated in meetings with state and local regulatory agencies and associations. These include monthly meetings at the West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council, which includes state and federal funding and regulatory agencies. Staff has ongoing communication and meetings with Regional Planning and Development Councils, County Commissions, and Municipalities. Staff also partners with organizations such as the West Virginia Municipal League, the West Virginia Rural Water Association to provide information about SCBG funding opportunities and program guidelines.

WVDO coordinated Labor Compliance Training in cooperation with the HUD Baltimore Field Office in April 2014. Staff from each Regional Planning and Development Council attended. This training included the basics of labor compliance, including Davis-Bacon wage requirements, field interviews, and other program requirements.

On-site meetings, monitoring, participation in preconstruction meetings and additional consultations are scheduled whenever possible in communities and organizations throughout the state. In FY2014 Community Development staff performed nine On-site monitoring visits and processed 19 Final Performance Reports. Four projects were granted Final-Closeout after FPR acceptance and filing of a final audit. The projects are listed in the table below.

Grantee	Project Name	Project Number	Grant Amount	Monitoring Visit Date	FPR Date	Final Closeout Date
Town of Barrackville	Waste Water System Improvement	11SCBG0042X	806,035	4/22/2015		
Brooke County Commission	Mahan Lane, Eldersville Road, Bruin Drive, Louise Phase IIA Sewer	07SCBG0065X	1,500,000	2/5/2015		
Town of Chapmanville	Town of Chapmanville Water System Upgrade Project	12SCBG0002X	1,500,000	3/10/2015		
Boone County Commission	Mud River/Cox's Fork Waterline Extension Project	11SCBG0014X	1,500,000	3/6/2014	12/16/2014	
City of Cameron	City of Cameron – Phase II Waterline Replacement	09SCBG0007	1,500,000	2/8/2012	5/5/2015	
Town of Delbarton	Wastewater Collection Upgrades	08SCBG0021X	1,500,000	5/1/2012	06/8/2015	
Town of Delbarton	Waste Water Treatment Plant	11ARCP17038	1,500,000	5/1/2012	06/08/2015	6/8/2015
Town of Flemington	Rosemont Sewer	11SCBG0034	1,500,000	12/18/2014		
Town of Fort Gay	WL ext and booster replacement	09SCBG0042	70,000 Design Only	NA	6/11/2014	2/28/2014
Town of Grant	Grant Town Water System Upgrade	07SCBG0008X	1,500,000	7/11/2013	11/20/2013	8/29/2014
Town of Handley	Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation	08SCBG0065X	600,000	12/19/2014		
Town of Hartford	Sewer Collection System	10SCBG0049	1,500,000	1/15/2014	2/28/2015	
City of Hinton	Hinton Brooks/Barksdale Sewer	10SCBG0059X	1,500,00	3/15/2013	12/09/2014	
Kanawha County Commission	Northern Area of Kanawha County	08SCBG0032X	1,500,000	10/09/2014	10/09/2014	10/10/2014
Lincoln County Commission	Ten Mile Creek Waterline Extension	08ARCP16023	1,500,000	5/1/2012	06/08/2015	
Lincoln County Commission	Upper Little Hearts Creek	07SCBG0066X	1,499,907.19	10/17/2013	8/11/2014	08/20/2014
Town of Jane Lew	Jane Lew Sewer	06SCBG0040X	1,500,000	4/2/2015	11/24/2014	
Logan County Commission	Logan County Phase III-A Wastewater	10SCBG0055X	1,500,000	3/10/2015		
McDowell County PSD #4	Coalwood Sewer Design Project	10SCBG0007	200,000	2/18/2014	06/29/2015	
The Town of Matewan	Matewan Thacker Branch WL ext	07SCBG0067X	1,500,000	2/5/2014		

Town of Meadow Bridge	Wastewater Treatment Improvement Project	08SCBG0036X	937,000	2/26/2014	03/19/2015	
City of Parsons	Moore/Porterwood Water Extension Project	10SCBG0033X	1,500,000	11/21/2013	04/15/2015	
City of Pennsboro	Wastewater Improvements Phase 2A	10SCBG0028X	1,105,182	9/12/2013	7/18/2014	
Town of Pine Grove	Pine Grove Sewer	06SCBG0078X	1,500,000	2/12/2015	11/25/2013	8/29/2014
Randolph County Commission	Norton/Coalton Sewer Extension Project	10SCBG0021X	1,300,000	2/1/2014	3/25/2015	
Ritchie County Commission	Pleasant Hill PSD Beatrice Water	09SCBG0068X	1,465,000	1/29/2015		
City of Salem	Water System Improvement Project	10SCBG0040X	1,500,000	7/11/2013	03/26/2015	
City of War	Shop Hollow/Centerville Sewer Project	11SCBG0032X	200,000	2/18/2014	03/12/2015	
City of Summersville	Glad Creek Phase-2-B WL ext	13SCBG0005	537,730	4/24/2015		
Wayne County Commission	Route 152 Phase I WL Ext.	10SCBG0060X	1,500,000	5/1/2012	8/12/2014	
Wetzel County Commission	Wetzel Co PSD #1 Water Line Extension	10SCBG0014	1,500,000	2/12/2015		
Wetzel County Commission	Hundred-Littleton PSD WL Project	07SCBG0069X	850,000	2/8/2012	06/15/2015	

Technical assistance and capacity building continue to be a mission of the Community Development Division and are critical to the achievement of the community development objectives and priorities set forth in the SCBG program design.

H. COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE CIVIL RIGHTS LAW

1. Beneficiary/Applicant Data

Section 570.491 of the federal regulations governing the administration of the State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program requires states to report data on the racial, ethnic and gender characteristics of persons who are applicants for, participants in, or beneficiaries of CDBG programs undertaken by non-entitlement grantees.

Beneficiary data is to be provided for all activities funded beginning with the FY 1992 allocation. Area data such as census data is acceptable for area wide benefit activities. For direct beneficiary data where individuals apply for services based upon income (job creation, homeownership,

housing rehabilitation, etc.), data will consist of actual recipients of service; therefore, the data will not be available until the project is completed and the actual beneficiaries known and reported to the State in the Final Performance Report.

The Beneficiary Analysis for the 2014 program year is provided as part of this report.

2. Narrative summary of the State's review of recipients' civil rights performance

West Virginia's SCBG staff is responsible for monitoring activities to ensure that SCBG grantees promote equal opportunity and comply with federal statutes and Executive Orders prohibiting discrimination. The grantee responsibility regarding this component is made known and discussed in detail during the implementation meeting for each new SCBG award. On-site technical assistance is provided to all grantees upon request. In addition, State SCBG staff has developed and made available to all grantees a Section 3 Plan.

Each applicant for SCBG funding must certify to the State that it will comply with equal opportunity requirements. When funding is awarded, each subgrantee becomes contractually obligated to comply with equal opportunity requirements. A formal complaint process has been established to assist complainants and resolve issues. Unresolved civil rights issues are referred to HUD's Regional FHEO Office for investigation and resolution. The SCBG staff received no civil rights complaints during this reporting period.

3. Summary of the results of actions to use minority- and women-owned businesses in carrying out CDBG-assisted activities

Implementation meetings following grant awards were held with grantees and administrators throughout the State. Our SCBG staff emphasizes the need for each grantee to seek out the services of the Small Business Development Center by informing them of the contract award and type of project that they will bid. This requirement is also stated in a letter which accompanies each grant agreement.

Data regarding Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses is collected and analyzed on an annual basis as part of the State's Annual Reporting requirements. A summary of contractor and subcontractor activity from July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015, is provided with this report.

NARRATIVE REQUIREMENTS HOME PROGRAM

JULY 1, 2014 – JUNE 30, 2015

SECTION 3: HOME PROGRAM NARRATIVE

HOME funds (HOME Investment Partnerships Act) are allocated by formula to the State, and, by the direction of the Governor, are administered by the Housing Development Fund. For Federal FY2014, \$3,934,786 was allocated to the State of West Virginia (the “State”) HOME Program. This amount added to all previous grant years’ allocations provides a cumulative total of funds in the amount of \$185,396,269.

HOME funds are distributed principally through three subprograms, NewHOME, HOMErent, and Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs). These programs were created by the HDF to best serve the very low and low-income residents of this mostly rural State. For each Federal fiscal year allocation of HOME funds to the State, 10% of that allocation is used to offset administrative costs. As required by law, at least 15% of the State’s HOME funds are reserved for exclusive use by CHDOs. In accordance with the needs identified in the State’s Consolidated Plan, the remaining funds are used to focus on new homeownership activities through the NewHOME subprogram and the HOMErent subprogram provides funds to develop rental property within the State.

Below is a table of expenditures for FY2014 as well as expenditures to date since the inception of the HOME Program.

	FY 2014 July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015			FY 1992-2014 Inception of Program-June 30, 2015		
	HOME Funds Disbursed	Program Income	# Units	HOME funds Disbursed	Program Income	# Units
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Construction--\$867,448 - 6 • Acquisition--\$3,763,123 -27 						
Single-Family Homeownership Total	\$ 3,338,928	\$ 1,291,643	33	\$ 83,621,188	\$ 31,266,908	1,828
CHDO Homeownership and Rental	** 4,005,061	0	48	** 54,213,088	99,626	726
HOMErent Rental	5,621,039	948,733	33	10,286,995	4,268,700	221
TOTAL PROGRAM	12,965,028	2,240,376	114	148,121,271	35,635,234	2,775
Administration	1,303,570	*** 130,389		18,837,579	*** 3,013,697	
TOTAL PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION	\$ 14,268,598	\$ 2,370,765	114	\$ 166,958,850	\$ 38,648,931	2,775

* Program Income consists of collected monthly mortgage payments, mortgage payoff proceeds and recaptured funds.

** This includes \$291,433 of capacity building funds and \$1,593,310 of CHDO Operating Expense funds

*** These funds are not set up in IDIS. This is 10% of Program Income used to offset Administrative costs. Therefore, these funds should not be included in balancing to IDIS reports.

Consolidated Plan

During the reporting period, the State operated its HOME Program under the approved Consolidated Plan for FY 2015-19. This performance report has been prepared by the West Virginia Housing Development Fund to report HOME program activities occurring during the State's FY 2015 Consolidated Plan Year.

The Program strategy presented in the FY 2015-19 Consolidated Plan has evolved as experience with the HOME Program increased. From an early "something for everyone" approach, the housing issues portion of the State's comprehensive plan has matured to encompass other State programs' objectives and streamline program goals to activities the HDF does best: turn renters into owners and assisting owners with their housing problems. This housing strategy requires that the HOME Program provide first-time homebuyer assistance to eligible families across the State living in assisted or subsidized rental housing. The households assisted by the HOME Program in the State during FY 2014 are summarized by HUD income categories and family size in the table below.

HOME PROGRAM

Assistance Provided by Income Group	Renters					Owners				Total (J)	Total Section 215 (K)
	Elderly 1 & 2 Member Households (A)	Small Related (2 to 4) (B)	Large Related (5 or more) (C)	All Other Households (D)	Total Renters (E)	Existing Home-owners (F)	1st-Time Homebuyers		Total Home-owners (I)		
							With Children (G)	All Others (H)			
1. Very Low-Income (0 to 30% of MFI)*	2	3		3	8						8
2. Very Low-Income (31 to 50% of MFI)*	9	13			22		2	6	8	8	30
3. Other Low-Income (51 to 80% of MFI)*	3	18			21	3	25	27	55	55	76
4. Income information not available**											
5. Total Low Income (lines 1+2+3+4)	14	34	0	3	51	3	27	33	63	63	114

* Or based upon HUD adjustment income limits, if applicable

5. Racial/Ethnic Composition of Total Low Income	1. Hispanic	0
	2. Non-Hispanic White	104
	3. Black	9
	4. Native American	0
	5. Asian & Pacific Islander	1
	6. Other (unknown)	0
	7. Total (must equal total on line 4, Column D)	114

**Activities to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing
July 2014- June 2015**

Minority Outreach

During the reporting period for West Virginia’s HOME Program, there were two contracts and ten subcontracts. None of the contracts were completed by minority-owned (MBE) or women-owned (WBE) business enterprises. Three subcontracts were completed by minority-owned (MBE) or women-owned (WBE) business enterprises.

To encourage the use of minority and women’s business enterprises in connection with HOME funded activities, the HDF set forth statements in the originator and contractor agreements stating that the participating organization/business will assure to the greatest extent feasible that contracts for the procurement of goods and services to be performed in connection with housing improvements or housing construction are awarded to business concerns and minority and women owned businesses will be utilized.

**West Virginia HOME Program Activity
Minority/Women’s Business Enterprise Utilization
For the period July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015**

Dollars Awarded		\$ Amount to MBEs	MBE % of Total	\$ Amount to WBEs	WBE% of Total
Contracts	(\$0)	\$ 0	0%	\$ 0	0%
Subcontracts	(\$0)	\$ 0	0%	\$ 0	0%

Program Match Requirements

The State of West Virginia received a 100 percent match waiver for fiscal years 1992 through 2002. For FY 2003 through 2014, the State has a 50 percent match requirement with the exception of the counties that were declared federal disaster areas. Those particular counties for each Federal Fiscal Year received a 100 percent match waiver.

Please see the attached HUD form 40107-A for the HOME Match Log as of June 30, 2015.

**West Virginia Housing Development Fund
Asset Management Department
HOME Multi-Family Rental
Summary of On-Site Compliance Inspection Activities
Reporting Period: July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015**

Property Name	Date Conducted	Inspection Type	Result - Summary
SAFE Transitional Housing	7/30/2014	Management and Physical	No issues of non-compliance
HOPE Living & Learning Ctr.	8/7/2014	Management and Physical	No issues of non-compliance
Steps II	8/8/2014	Management and Physical	No issues of non-compliance
Meadow River	8/19/2014	Management and Physical	No issues of non-compliance
Clay Apartments	8/26/2014	Management and Physical	No issues of non-compliance
Randolph County Scattered Sites	9/10/2014	Management and Physical	No issues of non-compliance
3rd Street Apartments	9/10/2014	Management and Physical	No issues of non-compliance
Bradshaw Street Duplex	9/10/2014	Management and Physical	No issues of non-compliance
Hice Street Elderly	9/10/2014	Management and Physical	No issues of non-compliance
Highland Park	9/10/2014	Management and Physical	No issues of non-compliance
Mill Creek Senior	9/10/2014	Management and Physical	No issues of non-compliance
Mill Creek Senior/Disabled Phase II	9/10/2014	Management and Physical	No issues of non-compliance
Porter Street Apartments	9/10/2014	Management and Physical	No issues of non-compliance
Wayne Avenue Duplex	9/10/2014	Management and Physical	No issues of non-compliance
Woodlands Lane	9/10/2014	Management and Physical	No issues of non-compliance
Moundsville Rentals	9/16/2014	Management and Physical	No issues of non-compliance
Chicago Avenue Rentals	9/23/2014	Management and Physical	No issues of non-compliance
832-834 Virginia Avenue	9/23/2014	Management and Physical	No issues of non-compliance

**West Virginia Housing Development Fund
Asset Management Department
HOME Multi-Family Rental
Summary of On-Site Compliance Inspection Activities
Reporting Period: July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015**

Property Name	Date Conducted	Inspection Type	Result - Summary
Spence-Maple Apts.	9/23/2014	Management and Physical	No issues of non-compliance
Preston Street Transitional	10/9/2014	Management and Physical	Multiple issues of non-compliance
Rutledge Run Duplex	10/10/2014	Management and Physical	Numerous issues of non-compliance
Patterson Road Duplex	10/10/2014	Management and Physical	Numerous issues of non-compliance
Alpha Avenue SRO	10/14/2014	Management and Physical	No issues of non-compliance
Grand Avenue SRO	10/14/2014	Management and Physical	No issues of non-compliance
Matthew Street SRO	10/14/2014	Management and Physical	No issues of non-compliance
Country Way	10/16/2014	Management and Physical	No issues of non-compliance
Chestnut Manor	10/21/2014	Management and Physical	No issues of non-compliance
North Wheeling HOPE VI	10/22/2014	Management and Physical	No issues of non-compliance
New Beginnings	10/23/2014	Management and Physical	Three issues of non-compliance
Rental 2009	10/28/14	Management and Physical	No issues of non-compliance
Tucker Manor	10/30/14	Management and Physical	One issue of non-compliance
Next Step Transitional	1/27/15	Management and Physical	Multiple issues of non-compliance
Next Step Permanent	1/27/15	Management and Physical	Four issues of non-compliance
Park Side Apartments	3/31/15	Management and Physical	No issues of non-compliance
Austin Street Apartments	4/13/15	Management and Physical	Three issues of non-compliance
Kennedy Center	4/13/15	Management and Physical	Multiple issues of non-compliance

**West Virginia Housing Development Fund
 Asset Management Department
 HOME Multi-Family Rental
 Summary of On-Site Compliance Inspection Activities
 Reporting Period: July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015**

Property Name	Date Conducted	Inspection Type	Result - Summary
Glenwood I	4/15/15	Management and Physical	One issue of non-compliance
Glenwood II	4/15/15	Management and Physical	No issues of non-compliance
Helena Manor	5/7/15	Management and Physical	Multiple issues of non-compliance
Carl Jones I	5/21/2015	Management and Physical	One issue of non-compliance
Carl Jones II	5/21/2015	Management and Physical	Two issues of non-compliance
Village Road Apartments	5/21/2015	Management and Physical	Two issues of non-compliance
West Run Transitional	5/29/2015	Management and Physical	Two issues of non-compliance
Hurricane Main Street Apartments	6/5/15	Management and Physical	Two issues of non-compliance
Mountain View Apartments	6/9/2015	Management and Physical	One issue of non-compliance
Pine View Apartments	6/9/2015	Management and Physical	One issue of non-compliance
Janeson Street Apartments	6/9/2015	Management and Physical	No issue of non-compliance
Starland I, II and III	6/17/2015	Management and Physical	One issue of non-compliance
SHED Rent 2009	6/17/15	Management and Physical	No issue of non-compliance

STATE PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT
NARRATIVE REQUIREMENT
ESG PROGRAM

JULY 1, 2014 - JUNE 30, 2015

SECTION 4 – ESG NARRATIVE

- A. For over 18 years, the West Virginia Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) has annually funded the operation of emergency shelter facilities and homelessness prevention through HUD's Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG). In 2014, the State allocated \$1,455,208 in ESG funding to 33 homeless assistance providers. These providers offer emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent housing placement assistance, homeless prevention programs, rapid re-housing programs, emergency accommodation vouchers, food pantries, physical and mental health care programs, substance abuse counseling referral and assistance, safe-havens from domestic violence situations, education assistance, life skills tutoring, and HIV/AIDS programs. Over the past year, 12,021 persons were served with housing assistance.

In addition to the funding concerns particular to housing and services, there is a crisis in affordable housing in the United States. Unprecedented economic growth has not raised all incomes equally, although it has raised housing costs. Clearly, people with disabilities depending on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) have even fewer housing choices.

At a basic level, homelessness results from poverty and a lack of housing that is affordable. Individuals and families who are homeless may have no income, receive benefits, or be employed continually, seasonally, or sporadically. Homelessness for individuals and families may also be linked to mental health issues, developmental disabilities, substance use, criminal history, lack of child support and childcare resources, and/or language and cultural barriers. The ESG-funded West Virginia shelters have served, 1,358 victims of domestic violence, 230 veterans, and 153 elderly. (Note: many of these are co-occurring, and a total of the aforementioned sub-populations will not equal the total numbers of persons served.)

Homelessness in urban areas looks differs from rural areas. While a person without a regular place to stay in an urban area may sleep in an emergency shelter or in a public place, people without a place to stay in rural areas are more likely to move in with friends or family until they wear out their welcome, then move into a shelter not intended for permanent habitation, including abandoned shacks, vehicles, and campgrounds. This means that people who are homeless in rural areas are less visible, making it difficult to estimate the true extent of rural homelessness.

Emergency shelter remains a priority need, as do the essential supportive services for those experiencing homelessness or those transitioning out of homelessness into permanent housing. Preventing homelessness for those at-risk and quickly re-housing those who have become homeless are also statewide priorities being addressed by ESG, the Continuum of Care, and the Statewide Strategic Planning Committee, to name a few. Each of these needs have been exacerbated by the continued slow economic growth, high unemployment, lost wages or lower income levels, and continued foreclosures. Homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing was the key of the HPRP federal stimulus program and the new Emergency Solutions Grant program incorporates these critical ideologies, allowing for a better response to the needs of those at risk or experiencing homelessness.

OEO coordinates available resources to address the needs for emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, and prevention and diversion services. The ESG program plays a pivotal role in addressing these needs. ESG and the local Continua of Care are working together to assess Transitional Housing programs, retooling them where possible and necessary by evaluating programmatic lengths of stay or transitioning to new housing models. In 2015 ESG funding will no longer be used to support transitional housing with the focus on shelters, rapid rehousing, and targeted homelessness prevention.

Many of the State's emergency and domestic violence shelters use ESG funds in combination with state funding from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WVDHHR) to meet the immediate needs of their most vulnerable citizens. The WVDHHR shelter funding is appropriated state revenue and provides funds to assist ten sites across West Virginia. These funds are used to improve the quality of services to the homeless, make available additional needed services, and help meet the costs of providing essential social services so that homeless individuals have access not only to safe and sanitary shelter, but also to supportive services and other types of assistance to improve their situations and transition them from homeless to permanent housing. Funding for projects that serve homeless individuals and families consistently falls far short of the identified need for such activities.

The most active groups in planning and meeting the needs of the homeless in West Virginia will continue to be the four Continuums of Care across the State. The purpose of a Continuum of Care is to function as the planning organization to identify and meet the needs of the homeless in their communities by developing a seamless system of care to move people from homelessness into permanent housing. The Continuums participate in many activities including:

- Consulting with OEO regarding ESG funding priorities, performance standards for ESG projects and outcomes;

- Coordinating services and providers in their designated regions;
- Estimating the extent and needs of the homeless via Point In Time Count data collection and the ongoing collection of data via HMIS, developing new services and strategies according to indicated need and securing funding to sustain activities;
- Developing and expanding programs;
- Advocacy and general education;
- Serving as the lead agency for the HMIS;
- Coordinating a Retooling Plan for Transitional Housing;
- Coordinating the expansion of Rapid Rehousing;
- Coordinating a plan for Diversion and Prevention activities;
- Playing an integral part in the organization of a statewide Coordinated Intake and Assessment system.

Membership in the four Continuums of Care include homeless service providers, individuals, housing providers, local governments, local and county service agencies, victim service providers, mental health agencies, programs that serve veterans, county and statewide education agencies, law enforcement, faith-based institutions, and business leaders.

In prioritizing housing needs in the *HUD Consolidated Development Plan*, homeowners earning below 30 percent of median income and large, related renter families earning below 30 percent of median were the highest priority. Small, related renter families earning below 30 percent of median were a medium priority. Among homeless needs, assessment/outreach, emergency shelter, and permanent supportive housing for people with special needs were given medium priority. Transitional housing and permanent housing for people with special needs were given low priority.

B. Continuum of Care Narrative

The West Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness was founded in 2002 by homeless service providers throughout the State. Service providers solve the need for statewide seamless services availability for West Virginians who are currently homeless or in danger of becoming homeless. The Coalition consists of service providers who cover 44 of the State's 55 counties not already being served by the Continuums of Care in the larger metropolitan areas such as Charleston, Huntington, and Wheeling. To date the Coalition sites have brought over \$6.5 million in HUD funding to the State that would have otherwise been surrendered to other states and municipalities. The funded Coalition projects have added over 25 new emergency and transitional beds to the State's programs and another 22 permanent housing units are under development and/or operating.

The goals of the West Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness are to:

- Provide a variety of housing options, with services, for homeless individuals and families; and ensure the provision of adequate on-site services;
- Prevent extremely low- and low-income families and individuals from becoming homeless;
- Address emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless individuals and families with children;
- Help homeless persons, including persons with special needs, make the transition to permanent housing and independent living;
- Sustain and expand efforts to prevent homelessness, so that as few as possible individuals and families become homeless;
- Maintain and expand access of homeless persons to programs and services which can meet their basic human needs, so that to the extent that they are willing to accept such assistance, every homeless individual and family has, at a minimum, a safe place to sleep, food, clothing and necessary health care; and
- Maximize the number of homeless individuals/families who, with the help of resources available through the West Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness are able to obtain housing and develop the necessary skills, resources and self-confidence to sustain that housing and maximize their self-determination.

It is estimated that on any given night, three-quarters of a million Americans are homeless. A quarter of these individuals are minors under the age of 18. Up to 2 million are homeless at some point each year. Substance use and homelessness are also closely associated with incarceration and involvement with the criminal justice system. Having a criminal history can make a person ineligible for many types of housing and services, as well as limit employment opportunities. Appropriate services and housing for people with histories of homelessness, mental illness, substance use, and/or incarceration can make a critical difference in improving health and quality of life. Individuals who have had histories of substance use, mental illness, and homelessness often need ongoing support services in order to maintain stable housing. People affected by these issues may need job skills training and ongoing support in order to obtain and maintain employment.

C. Leveraging Resources

The State of West Virginia through the Office of Economic Opportunity matched \$70,925.02 ESG program funds with State funds, HOPWA funds and SHP HMIS costs.

D. Self Evaluation - Emergency Shelter Grants Program

The purpose of the ESG program is to assist individuals and families quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis or

homelessness. ESG funds are available for five program components: street outreach, emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, rapid re-housing assistance, and data collection through the Homeless Management Information System or HMIS.

1) **Are the activities and strategies making an impact on the identified needs?**

Yes.

2) **What indicators would best describe the results?**

Positive outcomes for the ESG program would include numbers of people served moving from emergency shelter through the homeless continuum of care into permanent housing with the ultimate outcome being completely self-sufficiency. Shelter stays should be less than 30 days with a less than 15 percent recidivism rate. Homelessness prevention activities are targeted to those households who but for this assistance would end up homeless. Rapid ReHousing activities are used to quickly rehouse those literally homeless and used to further stabilize their housing and bring wrap-around services to those most at-risk of becoming homeless again.

3) **What barriers may have a negative impact on fulfilling the strategies and overall vision?**

The lack of available funds. The ESG program needs to expand to offer funding to any eligible entity. Presently, this causes a hardship to both the shelters already funded as there is no way to fund new shelters without cutting the funding of those already funded, and to the new or previously unfunded shelters as they cannot receive adequate funding to build capacity.

E. Use of ESG funds

The mandated ESG IDIS reporting for FY 2014 has been submitted to HUD's Pittsburgh Field Office and is available for review at OEO's office.