

PROGRAM YEAR 2023
CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT
CITY OF PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS
ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

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

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

In order to promote more livable and sustainable communities, key stakeholders in Pine Bluff must coordinate housing, infrastructure, workforce, and economic development efforts. As the largest city in South Arkansas, Pine Bluff must function as a key anchor and driving force for growth and prosperity the region. Each citizen, stakeholder and institution serves a role in helping make Pine Bluff a safer, more beautiful, and more vibrant city. As our citizens thrive, our community thrives. We aspire to be a city filled with thriving individuals, thriving families, thriving businesses, thriving neighborhoods and thriving commercial centers. This is the vision—a vision that will manifest as our citizens at all levels are engaged in community development processes and efforts.

Toward this end, the Economic & Community Development Department (ECD) presented its Consolidated Plan with three simply-stated, yet complex goals: (1) create affordable housing opportunities, (2) create economic opportunities, and (3) create suitable living environments. These constitute three critical ingredients for helping all citizens—especially those from low-to-moderate income households—attain a better quality of life for themselves and their families. These goals and their corresponding objectives, programs, and projects are carried out by not only by ECD staff but also by a myriad of partners and participants.

Comparison of the proposed versus actual outcomes for each outcome measure submitted with the consolidated plan and explain, if applicable, why progress was not made toward meeting goals and objectives. 91.520(g)

Categories, priority levels, funding sources and amounts, outcomes/objectives, goal outcome indicators, units of measure, targets, actual outcomes/outputs, and percentage completed for each of the grantee’s program year goals.

Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected – Strategic Plan	Actual – Strategic Plan	Percent Complete	Expected – Program Year	Actual – Program Year	Percent Complete
Create affordable housing opportunities	Affordable Housing Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$ / CDBG-CV: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	0	0		0	0	
Create affordable housing opportunities	Affordable Housing Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG: \$112,361 / HOME: \$ / CDBG-CV: \$	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	60	74	123.33%	8	8	0.00%
Create affordable housing opportunities	Affordable Housing Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$6,436 / CDBG-CV: \$	Rental units rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	50	8	16.00%	0	1	
Create affordable housing opportunities	Affordable Housing Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$92,125 / CDBG-CV: \$	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	65	22	33.85%	19	7	36.84%

Create affordable housing opportunities	Affordable Housing Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG: \$85,227 / HOME: \$7,084 / CDBG-CV: \$	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	75	38	50.67%	11	4	36.36%
Create affordable housing opportunities	Affordable Housing Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$ / CDBG-CV: \$	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing	Households Assisted	25	0	0.00%			
Create economic opportunities	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$33,859	Facade treatment/business building rehabilitation	Business	10	18	180.00%	0	1	
Create economic opportunities	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Jobs created/retained	Jobs	5	0	0.00%			
Create economic opportunities	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$	Businesses assisted	Businesses Assisted	25	2	8.00%			
Create suitable living environments	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$281,412 / HOME: \$ / CDBG-CV: \$426,781	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	10000	9520	95.20%	500	4373	874.60%

Create suitable living environments	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$ / CDBG-CV: \$	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	5	0	0.00%	3	0	0.00%
Create suitable living environments	Non-Housing Community Development	CDBG: \$13,166 / HOME: \$ / CDBG-CV: \$	Buildings Demolished	Buildings	15	0	0.00%	3	2	66.67%
Effective administration of programs	Administration	CDBG: \$130,892 / HOME: \$9,494 / CDBG-CV: \$	Other	Other	5	4	80.00%	1	0	0.00%

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

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

The top three priorities identified in the Annual Action Plan are: (1) affordable housing, (2) public facilities improvements, and (3) economic opportunities.

Affordable Housing: Each year, a significant amount of funding is allocated to support owner-occupied and rental housing rehabilitation, homebuyer assistance, and housing-related public services. More than \$298,000 or 47.3% of non-administrative resources drawn during the program year contributed toward these housing activities. During 2023, a total of four (4) homeowner rehabilitation projects were completed during the year and one (1) rental rehabilitation project. There was also one homebuyer development project and seven (7) homebuyer assistance projects during the year. Not all of the activities were closed in IDIS and funding drawn includes some previous-year expenditures.

Match funding for the city’s homeless assistance program helped support eight (8) households with a qualifying disability, which contained 20 individuals. Furthermore, ECD referred an additional 35 literally homeless individuals/families without a qualifying disability to other agencies for assistance. All-in-all expenditures for housing-related public services accounted for more than a third of the draws for affordable housing. These draws also included some Emergency Solutions Grant match obligations from the previous year. Current program-year expenditures were within statutory limits, but draws for previous program year obligations caused it to appear as if it were over the limit.

Suitable living projects such as public facilities and improvements and a select-number of demolitions were also completed during the program year. As stated in the Consolidated Plan, public facilities and improvements that support the “Quality of Place” component of the Economic Development Agenda are high priority. These include the development and redevelopment of parks and recreational facilities, sidewalks/trail, and public facilities that serve low-income and marginalized populations. More than \$294,000 or 46.6% of non-administrative funding drawn during the program year was for suitable living activities. Often, these projects span more than one program year, and projects are at different stages of development during the year. During 2023, public facilities funds supported eight (8) projects, including three (3) in the pre-development phase, one (1) in the pre-construction phase, one (1) underway, and three (3) completed projects. Among completed projects was a new family-sized pavilion in Townsend Park.

Economic Opportunities: ECD continues to work toward revitalization of the commercial corridors within the Heart of the City—particularly

University Drive and downtown Pine Bluff. This outcome combines “place-making” efforts associated with targeted public facilities and improvements, along with assistance to individual property owners and businesses. These activities helped preserve historic properties in the downtown area or support productive reuse of existing structures. Assistance was provided for the stabilization of one (1) commercial structures during the program year. Nearly \$34,000 or 5.4% of non-administrative funds were expended on this activity. Additionally, ECD initiated some targeted efforts toward increasing employment among local citizens, especially among low-income and marginalized populations. In partnership with the local Workforce Investment Board, ECD sponsored a job and resource fair in November 2023. Special outreach efforts were conducted to homeless service providers, an area high school, and other human services agencies to identify persons for targeted pre-employment training. In essence 14 adults and 27 high school seniors (from a 100% free-lunch-designated school) received training in advance of the job fair.