



## **PY 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan for Housing & Community Development**



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Neighborhood Services Division  
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**Village of Oak Park, IL**  
**PY 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan**  
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# Executive Summary

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

### 1. Introduction

The five-year Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development (Con Plan) is the Village of Oak Park's primary vehicle for identifying and prioritizing housing, community development and economic needs and strategies to guide the use of its entitlement funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Village receives Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds annually to address needs in our community. The statutory goals of the HUD Consolidated Plan are to provide decent housing and a suitable living environment, and expand economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons. The Consolidated Plan is submitted to HUD for approval following its development according to the regulations in 24 CFR Part 91, which includes consultation with community stakeholders and input from the public.

The Village of Oak Park is committed to a diverse and inclusive community that engages and encourages residents and institutions to work together to make Oak Park the most livable community for all its residents. To this end, the Village will continue to pursue strategies to address the housing, economic, and social service needs of low- and moderate-income residents, the homeless and special needs populations. Oak Park has established numerous tools and partnerships to address these needs.

Oak Park's Con Plan was developed in the new eConPlanning Suite, as required by HUD. This new format includes estimated funding for the five-year period. The Village has based its plan on declining grant amounts based on recent year actual funding. In addition, the plan uses the new low- and moderate-income area data recently released by HUD, which is based on American Community Survey data from 2007-2011. This data shows significant change in the areas with a high percentage of low and moderate-income residents, eliminating two areas that qualified as low- and moderate-income in 2000.

The Con Plan process employed an expanded citizen outreach and participation process using an online (and paper) questionnaire that was promoted via email and social media, as well as by traditional methods. This resulted in more than double the number people providing input on the priority needs of Oak Park's low- and moderate-income (LMI) residents. This process also included outreach to businesses, service providers, civic organizations and internal stakeholders to gather feedback on priorities within the community.

### 2. Summary of the objectives and outcomes identified in the Con Plan

Housing: The housing and homeless needs in Oak Park center on the lack of affordable units. According to the 2007-2011 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data, 73% of all low/mod persons living in Oak Park are experiencing at least one of the four housing problems (lacks complete kitchen facilities, lacks complete plumbing facilities, more

than one person per room, cost burden greater than 30%). A total of 34.9% of Oak Park residents are cost burdened, of which 13.9% are severely cost burdened (spending more than 50% income on housing). According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, when housing accounts for 50 percent or more of a household's resources, any unexpected financial crisis could jeopardize housing stability and lead to an increased risk of homelessness. The Village is committed to providing affordable housing through fair housing outreach and education, by providing single-family and small rental housing rehab loan programs, by reducing lead hazards in homes, and by increasing and preserving affordable housing. Oak Park may also work with the County to determine how to utilize HOME funds to address housing priorities. In fact, the Village's Housing priorities are linked with Cook County's in this Con Plan, as the Village is a member of the Cook County HOME Consortium. This partnership and the consultation and citizen participation process, in conjunction with feedback from Village of Oak Park leadership and analysis of the data, determined three primary priorities within housing. Those are affordable housing, aging in place, and repair assistance for both renter-and owner-occupied units.

**Public Infrastructure:** While the Village is constantly upgrading and maintaining infrastructure, CDBG funding will focus primarily on Infrastructure improvements within CDBG Target Areas for improving streets, alleys and water/sewer mains. With regard to sidewalks, and the sidewalk ramps and curbs running along streets, locations throughout the entire Village will be improved to allow for safer and more accessible mobility, particularly pedestrian mobility. Public Infrastructure needs were determined by obtaining a combination of input from Village leadership, subrecipient agencies and other non-profit service providers, community stakeholders, and Village residents. Public infrastructure was ranked as a medium-to-high priority through the consultation and citizen participation process but was moved to a high priority by Village leadership due to the poor condition of infrastructure and to align with the Village's recently completed Comprehensive Plan.

**Public Services:** There is a wide range of need for Public Services in Oak Park and many of the eligible services received a high priority need rating from the public and the stakeholders. The top four Public Services priorities that emerged during the planning process include domestic violence programs, mental health programs, programs for persons with disabilities, and programs for youth/children. While these were rated as the top priorities, it was noted that having a wide range of public services is also a high priority and not narrowing the range of funded activities is important to the community. Each program year, the Village strives to improve services provided to LMI residents through the Public Services component of CDBG, although this category is capped at 15% of the Village's annual entitlement allocation, thereby limiting the amount of funds available to each funded non-profit agency (called "subrecipients"). However, the Consolidated Planning process encouraged the Village to work towards a more coordinated and collaborative system of funding and service delivery within Oak Park, thereby enabling the Village to distribute these funds strategically, as will be done in PY 2015.

**Economic Development:** An area that repeatedly emerged as a high priority is Economic Development, particularly job creation for LMI residents. Through consultation with the Oak Park Economic Development Corporation, advantages and barriers in the Village were analyzed to determine specifically what economic development strategy would help

businesses open or expand and thus create jobs for LMI persons. Due to aging infrastructure being identified as a major barrier for businesses wanting to locate in the Village, there exists the opportunity for the Village to create a business loan program utilizing HUD funds, which would allow low interest financing to be made available to overcome this barrier. Encouraging new businesses to locate in Oak Park through lowering barriers to entry, such as aging infrastructure and cost of building rehabilitation, will help to create jobs for LMI residents and revitalize underutilized areas of the community. Discussions with the Oak Park Economic Development Corporation, resident surveys and stakeholder meetings indicate that the community places a high priority on assisting businesses in the area to thrive and grow when job creation is the goal of CDBG assistance. The Village is currently working on a future Section 108 Guarantee Loan application for economic development.

**Code Enforcement:** Existing as a separate CDBG category under “Other Neighborhood Needs,” Code Enforcement is a critical need for Oak Park to ensure that the properties – especially those within the Target Areas – are safe and well-maintained. While Other Neighborhood Needs was identified as a medium priority through much of the planning process, this category was elevated due to the fact that it is connected with housing (a high priority) and addresses a great need in the community according to Oak Park leaders, who see it as a high priority.

**Homeless Needs:** In addition to CDBG funds, the Village also typically receives an Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) allocation that is focused on serving persons experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness. The homeless needs priorities are primarily focused on ESG, though some CDBG dollars also support these needs. Oak Park represents approximately 3.7% of all persons experiencing homelessness in suburban Cook County, however, the Village often acts as a hub for persons experiencing homelessness due to the centralized location of Oak Park and transportation services available in the community. Previously the Village has funded rapid re-housing, a top priority for the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County (the County’s Continuum of Care) and to HUD. In the past, Housing Forward, the subrecipient of Village rapid re-housing (RRH) funds, has had some difficulty spending these dollars due to the lack of affordable housing in Oak Park, but has a new and improved strategy for using RRH funds, one that links with its Open Door Housing Program and takes advantage of its excellent relationship with local landlords. Based on meetings with both the Alliance and Housing Forward, as well as through the survey and stakeholder meetings, the Village has determined that the most effective way to focus ESG allocations moving forward is to focus on affordable housing, primarily through permanent supportive housing, transitional housing and emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, street outreach and rapid re-housing. The need for supportive services to be coupled with housing programs was identified as a key priority, so housing programs that provide a broad spectrum of supportive services will be prioritized.

Public Facilities Improvements: Public Facilities Improvements was determined to be a medium priority through the stakeholder input process. However, it is recognized that there are few available resources available to assist with facility improvements, particularly for accessibility improvements. As funding is available, the Village will allocate resources to Public Facilities Improvements, but as a medium priority, elevated to a high priority, this category will not be a primary focus for funds.

### 3. Evaluation of past performance

The Village of Oak Park's past performance in the administration and implementation of the CDBG and ESG Programs has fulfilled the spirit and intent of the federal legislation creating these programs. The Village has provided affordability for decent housing, availability and accessibility to a suitable living environment, sustainability of a suitable living environment, and accessibility to economic opportunities. The following is a summary of the Village's past performance in PYs 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014.

The Village of Oak Park's CDBG and ESG Programs exceeded the PY 2010-2014 Con Plan goals in all but one category (agencies serving seniors), which fell short by just one. Over the PY 2010-2014 Con Plan period, the Village and its Subrecipients have accomplished much. The following is a summary of the Village's past performance over PYs 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014.

#### **CDBG**

The Oak Park Regional Housing Center provided fair housing services, serving 31,996 persons. The Village of Oak Park's Housing Programs rehabbed renter- and owner-occupied housing units and reduced lead hazard reduction in a total of 80 units. Thus far, Village of Oak Park Property Maintenance Inspectors enforced the housing code for 1 unit, a violation that was corrected.

Using public facility improvement funds, Hephzibah Children's Association improved its facility serving formerly abused and neglected children in three program years. Oak Leyden Developmental Services improved three public facilities, with two facilities receiving improvements in two program years. The Oak Park-River Forest Day Nursery improved its facility in two program years. In PY 2010, UCP-Seguin improved three public facilities; in PY 2011, four facilities; in PY 2012, three facilities; in PY 2013, two facilities; and in PY 2014, three facilities.

Using public services funds, Catholic Charities' Accolade provided adult day care to 263 persons with dementia. The Children's Clinic provided dental services to 2,482 low- and moderate-income (LMI) children and youth. Hephzibah provided family support services to 78 LMI persons. Heartland-Vital Bridges provided healthy nutrition services to 84 persons with HIV/AIDS. Housing Forward provided emergency shelter to 2,661 persons, provided transitional housing to 38 persons, and provided employment readiness services to 177 persons, all of them being persons experiencing homelessness. NAMI Metro-Suburban assisted 565 adults with mental illnesses. Parenthesis served 234 teen parents and 289 young parents over this five year period. The Oak Park-River Forest Food Pantry provided emergency food to 37,984 LMI persons. Pillars provided substance-abuse therapy and

education to 87 persons, most of them high school students from LMI families. Rape Victim Advocates provided emergency services to 8 LMI victims. Sarah's Inn provided vital services to 25,316 victims of domestic violence, the Senior Citizens Center assisted 851 elderly persons, Thrive Counseling Center served 83 adults with mental disabilities, and the Volunteer Center assisted 69 LMI persons.

The Village's Health Department so far has served 417 LMI persons in an extended PY 2014 activity. By making Oak Park sidewalks accessible for persons with physical disabilities, the Village's Public Works Department served 2,235 persons over the five-year period. A number of Alley Improvement projects benefited 15,018 persons; a number of Street Improvement projects benefited 19,200 persons; and several Water-Sewer Main Improvement projects benefited 5,099 persons.

## **ESG**

(Please note that the Village did not receive PY 2014 ESG funds from HUD.) In the early years of the Con Plan, with Emergency Shelter Grants, Housing Forward served 377 persons with essential services dollars and 1,052 persons with shelter operation dollars, while Heartland-Vital Bridges assisted 35 persons with HIV/AIDS with shelter operation dollars.

Catholic Charities provided homelessness prevention services, serving 365 persons. Many of these persons were callers to the Homelessness Prevention Call Center. Housing Forward provided homelessness prevention services, directly serving 55 persons at risk of homelessness while also rapidly re-housing 22 homeless persons.

Over the five year period, Housing Forward provided emergency shelter to 3,153 persons, provided street outreach services to 16 persons, and used HMIS funds to serve 360 persons.

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

Since early-October 2014, the Village has reached out to and involved as many agencies, government entities and residents as possible in the development of the Con Plan. By providing surveys in both electronic and paper formats, hosting two public hearings and four roundtable meetings for stakeholders, one-on-one interviews and conversations with public and private agencies serving the under-resourced, as well as an additional public hearing based solely on the draft Con Plan priorities and strategies and a final hearing during the draft Con Plan comment period, Oak Park is ensuring that these priorities and strategies reflect the opinions of the individuals who have participated in the process.

The Village of Oak Park facilitated four stakeholder meetings with more than 26 agencies, held one meeting with members of the Village Board, held two public meetings for residents, and conducted interviews with another eight stakeholders to discuss the needs and priorities in the community. Specific categories consulted include leaders in public and assisted housing, social and fair housing, homeless/continuum of care, business and civic, and health. Before the draft Con Plan was made available, the Village obtained Board approval of the draft Con Plan priorities and strategies and then held a public hearing on

these. During the draft Con Plan comment period, the Village held a public hearing to present the draft Con Plan, as well as the draft PY 2015 Action Plan. Both of these public hearings were advertised.

During this planning process, the surveys that were provided online and in hard-copy were an important vehicle used for broadening citizen participation and obtaining public opinion. The results of the Likert scale ratings of each HUD-eligible activity/priority need were used to develop the priorities. The survey was available from October 22 through November 16, 2014, a period of nearly 3.5 weeks, and more than 380 responses were received. The survey was publicized on the Village website and social media channels, as well as through the library's social media channels, and two ads were run in the local paper, the *Wednesday Journal*. In addition, posters advertising the survey were placed all around Oak Park, being targeted to reach Oak Park's LMI populations.

## **5. Summary**

To meet the priority needs of the community, the Village worked in partnership with other entities and will continue to identify and incorporate more partners, as well as to assist all of its partners in enhancing their service delivery systems. This will be accomplished through program monitoring, technical assistance, workshops and information-sharing, particularly through the various coalitions and committees on which the Village serves.

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## The Process

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

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

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

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
Lead Agency	COOK COUNTY GOVERNMENT	Department of Planning and Development
Responsible for Oak Park CDBG & ESG	VILLAGE OF OAK PARK	Development Customer Services

**Table 1- Responsible Agencies**

#### Narrative

With Oak Park being a member of the Cook County HOME Consortium, the Cook County Department of Planning and Development is the lead agency for this Con Plan.

The Development Customer Services Department within the Village of Oak Park administers the CDBG and ESG programs with assistance from the Finance Department. The department initiated the contracting, administration, organization and preparation of the Consolidated Plan and will coordinate the public, private, and nonprofit entities through which it will carry out the plan. It is responsible for administering HUD funds and oversight of the Con Plan.

The Public Works Department also is involved in implementing in-house infrastructure projects. When necessary, the Legal Department is consulted for legal opinions and for contract issues with subrecipients.

#### Con Plan Public Contact Information

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

### Introduction

The Development Customer Services Department consults with a number of agencies throughout the year. Continuum of Care members, community representatives, subrecipients, and public service agencies provide input into the department's plans for HUD funding in on-going consultations and collaborations. For the Con Plan, the Village not only held two public hearings, as well as an additional public hearing based solely on the draft Con Plan priorities and strategies and another during the draft Con Plan comment period, but also hosted four roundtable meetings for stakeholders and met one-on-one with a number of them to consult about priority needs, goals, objectives and funding issues. All attendees received the Draft Con Plan and Draft PY 2015 Action Plan document during the comment period.

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

The Village of Oak Park involved public and private housing, health, mental health and service agencies in a number of ways. Between November 2014 and January 2015, more than 64 agencies were invited to (with 26 agencies attending) one of four roundtable meetings to discuss the needs in the community, how the needs are being met, and how the groups could better serve the community. The meetings were divided into types of stakeholders: governmental/quasi-governmental agencies, non-profit service providers, business community, and internal leadership. Through these discussions, groups identified ways to enhance coordination and collaboration, including a better communication structure, facilitating regular meetings between providers and evaluating current funding structures to ensure coordination between funders.

Village staff then conducted one-on-one interviews with eight stakeholders representing the Oak Park Department of Public Health, the Oak Park Housing Authority/Residence Corporation, the Oak Park Regional Housing Center, the Village Community Relations Department, the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County, Housing Forward, and the Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee. One private citizen, a former Village Clerk who is active in civic matters, also was interviewed. During the year, the Village works closely with its subrecipients and other services providers to develop better coordination and collaboration. The Village is closely involved in the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County (CoC), which includes not only homeless service providers but health, mental health, substance abuse treatment and housing providers. The newly formed Oak Park Homelessness Coalition also brings together service providers and governmental organizations in the community to develop a cohesive plan to end homelessness in the Village.

Additionally, the Village is encouraging all public service subrecipients, beginning with PY 2015, to participate in coordination and collaboration efforts within the community.

**Describe coordination with the Continuum of Care and efforts to address the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth) and persons at risk of homelessness**

The Village of Oak Park works with the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County (Alliance), the area's Continuum of Care, and aligns its homeless priorities with the Alliance's strategic plan to ensure a coordinated response within the community, while still evaluating the needs specific to Oak Park. The Village also participates in a specific Oak Park homeless coalition that will increase inter-agency collaboration and ensure that persons experiencing homelessness are linked to services best suited for their needs.

In partnership with the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation, the Village created a committee of funding agencies, including the Alliance, to evaluate the priorities and funding efforts in the community to ensure that services are not duplicated and needs are being addressed in the most effective way possible. The goal of the committee is to ultimately provide the most coordinated funding structure that addresses the needs of the community, including persons experiencing homelessness, with an emphasis on chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth, as well as persons at risk of homelessness.

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

In addition to the stakeholder meetings held to determine Con Plan priorities, the Village met with a variety of funders in the community, including the Alliance, to evaluate how funds are being used to address priorities in Oak Park, including addressing homeless needs. This included a focused discussion on coordination of funds between Oak Park, Cook County, private funders and other localities. The Alliance participated in the discussion to provide a regional expertise on how this can best be achieved.

The Village also met with the Alliance through a one-on-one discussion that also included the community's largest provider of services to persons experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, Housing Forward. How current funds are being utilized, what needs still remain in the community, and how future effects can be more effectively focused were discussed. Oak Park relies on the Alliance's expertise on homeless needs in suburban Cook County, including performance standards, outcomes evaluation, and policies and procedures for the administration of HMIS, to ensure a coordinated regional effort and to provide a consistent message to all subrecipients.

Coordination among ESG recipients is facilitated through the use of the Universal Intake and Eligibility Form developed by the Alliance which was implemented in February 2013 and updated in April 2014. This is an important first step in developing a more coordinated process for intake and will determine targeting and prioritization for services.

**Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?**

<b>Sort</b>	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?*</b>	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Cook County</b>	Other government - County	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless; Homeless Needs - Families with children; Homelessness Needs - Veterans; Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	The County attended a roundtable meeting and is coordinated with on a regular basis through the HOME Consortium. Both in the preparation and implementation of the new Consolidated Plan, the County and the Village are working closely together to address needs through a coordinated and collaborative funding structure.
<b>2</b>	<b>School District 97</b>	Services-Education Other government - Local	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless; Homeless Needs - Families with children; Homelessness Needs - Veterans; Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth; Homelessness; Economic Development	District 97 attended a roundtable meeting and participates in the Oak Park Homelessness Coalition that works towards a collaborative plan to address homelessness in Oak Park.
<b>3</b>	<b>The Village of Forest Park</b>	Other government - Local	Housing Need Assessment; Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless; Homeless Needs - Families with children; Homelessness Needs - Veterans; Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis; Economic Development	Forest Park attended a roundtable meeting and provided insight into regional needs.
<b>4</b>	<b>Oak Park Arts Council</b>	Other government - Local	Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	The Arts Council attended a roundtable meeting discuss priority needs, goals, and funding strategies pertaining to CDBG. Outcomes included a better understanding of the Arts Council's programs that can later be utilized in reaching youth and businesses.
<b>5</b>	<b>Oak Park Library</b>	Other government - Local Services-Education	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless; Homeless Needs - Families with children; Homelessness Needs - Veterans; Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	The Oak Park Library assisted with the implementation and marketing of the stakeholder survey, and also attended a roundtable meeting. The library will continue to be a great partner in reaching persons experiencing homelessness and providing assistance to small businesses.
<b>6</b>	<b>Oak Park Regional Housing Center</b>	Housing; Service-Fair Housing	Housing Need Assessment; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Economic Development	The Oak Park Regional Housing Center participated in both a roundtable meeting and an interview. As a subrecipient of CDBG funding, the Housing Center continues to partner with the Village

				in the implementation of fair housing strategies.
7	<b>Oak Park Township</b>	Other government - Local	Housing Need Assessment; Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless; Homeless Needs - Families with children; Homelessness Needs – Veterans; Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	The Township attended a roundtable meeting and the Village also met with the senior services division. The Township provides a wide range of social services to the community and was a key stakeholder throughout the planning process. The Village will continue to collaborate with the Township in serving the most vulnerable populations including youth and seniors.
8	<b>Oak Park Housing Authority/Oak Park Residence Corporation</b>	PHA	Housing Need Assessment; Public Housing Needs; Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless; Homeless Needs - Families with children; Homelessness Needs – Veterans; Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth; Homelessness Strategy; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	The Oak Park Housing Authority/Oak Park Residence Corporation (OPHA/RC) attended a roundtable meeting and participated in an interview and provided valuable insight into the needs of public housing participants. OPHA/RC is the primary affordable housing developer and provider in Oak Park and the Village will continue to look for ways to support these efforts.
9	<b>Oak Park Economic Development Corporation</b>	Neighborhood Organization; Other: EDC	Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	The Oak Park Economic Development Corporation (OPEDC) attended several roundtable meetings and the Village has also been meeting with the OPEDC to determine the economic development needs in the community, particularly around looking at developing a Section 108 application. The Village is continuing these efforts in coordination with the OPEDC.
10	<b>Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce</b>	Neighborhood Organization; Business Leaders; Other: EDC	Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	The Oak Park-River Forest Chamber of Commerce attended the roundtable meeting to discuss priority needs, goals, and funding strategies pertaining to CDBG. The anticipated outcome was to determine the need for economic development in the Village.
11	<b>Park District of Oak Park</b>	Other government - Local	Housing Need Assessment; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Economic Development	The Park District attended a roundtable meeting to provide insight on the need for services to special populations and youth. The Park District works closely with the Village and ways to increase collaboration will continue to be explored.
12	<b>Collaboration for Early</b>	Services-Children; Other	Housing Need Assessment; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs;	The Collaboration attended a roundtable meeting and as a quasi-

	<b>Childhood</b>	government - Local	Economic Development	governmental organization, works directly with the Village on a number of projects. The Collaboration provided valuable insight to the need for additional Early Childhood Education in the community.
<b>13</b>	<b>Catholic Charities</b>	Services-Elderly Persons	Housing Need Assessment; Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless; Homeless Needs - Families with children; Homelessness Needs – Veterans; Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	Catholic Charities attended a roundtable meeting and as a current subrecipient, the Village coordinates and collaborates with them on a regular basis. The anticipated outcomes, which were realized, were to determine the level of need identified by Catholic Charities and the plans the agency has to meet the needs.
<b>14</b>	<b>Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County</b>	Regional organization; Planning organization; Other: CoC	Housing Need Assessment; Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless; Homeless Needs - Families with children; Homelessness Needs – Veterans; Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	The Alliance participated in an interview with the Village to provide insight on the needs of persons experiencing homelessness and at-risk of homelessness in Oak Park.
<b>15</b>	<b>Children’s Clinic</b>	Services-Health	Housing Need Assessment; Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless; Homeless Needs - Families with children; Homelessness Needs – Veterans; Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	The Children’s Clinic attended a roundtable meeting and as a current subrecipient, the Village coordinates and collaborates with them on a regular basis. The anticipated outcomes, which were realized, were to determine the level of need identified by the Children’s Clinic and the plans the agency has to meet the needs.
<b>16</b>	<b>Community Support Services</b>	Services-Persons with Disabilities	Housing Need Assessment; Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless; Homeless Needs - Families with children; Homelessness Needs – Veterans; Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	Community Support Services attended a roundtable meeting and as a current subrecipient, the Village coordinates and collaborates with them on a regular basis. The anticipated outcomes, which were realized, were to determine the level of need identified by Community Support Services and the plans the agency has to meet the needs.
<b>17</b>	<b>Easter Seals Metro Chicago</b>	Services-Persons with Disabilities	Housing Need Assessment; Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless; Homeless Needs - Families with children; Homelessness Needs – Veterans; Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	Easter Seals attended a roundtable meeting and provided insight into the needs for persons with disabilities in the community. The Village will continue to engage Easter Seals to determine ways to continue collaboration and coordination.
<b>18</b>	<b>Hephzibah Children’s</b>	Services-Children; Child	Housing Need Assessment; Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless; Homeless	Hephzibah attended a roundtable meeting and as a current

	<b>Association</b>	Welfare Agency; Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care	Needs - Families with children; Homelessness Needs - Veterans; Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	subrecipient, the Village coordinates and collaborates with them on a regular basis. The anticipated outcomes, which were realized, were to determine the level of need identified by Hephzibah and the plans the agency has to meet the needs.
<b>19</b>	<b>NAMI-Metro Suburban</b>	Other: Mental health provider	Housing Need Assessment; Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless; Homeless Needs - Families with children; Homelessness Needs - Veterans; Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	NAMI attended a roundtable meeting and as a current subrecipient, the Village coordinates and collaborates with them on a regular basis. The anticipated outcomes, which were realized, were to determine the level of need identified by NAMI and the plans the agency has to meet the needs.
<b>20</b>	<b>Oak Leyden Developmental Services (OLDS)</b>	Services- Persons with Disabilities	Housing Need Assessment; Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless; Homeless Needs - Families with children; Homelessness Needs - Veterans; Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	OLDS attended a roundtable meeting and, as a previous subrecipient, the Village has coordinated and collaborated with them on a regular basis. OLDS provided insight as to the needs of persons with disabilities in the community. The Village will continue to engage OLDS to determine ways to continue collaboration and coordination.
<b>21</b>	<b>Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation</b>	Foundation	Housing Need Assessment; Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless; Homeless Needs - Families with children; Homelessness Needs - Veterans; Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	The Foundation attended a roundtable meeting and provided information on additional studies and plans that are underway to assess social service needs of the community. The anticipated outcome was to determine ways in which the foundation can augment CDBG funding. This outcome was realized through participation in the community funders meetings that will continue to work towards this goal, as well as learning of concurrent community assessments underway.
<b>22</b>	<b>Oak Park-River Forest Day Nursery</b>	Services- Children	Housing Need Assessment; Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless; Homeless Needs - Families with children; Homelessness Needs - Veterans; Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	The Oak Park-River Forest Day Nursery attended a roundtable meeting and, as a previous subrecipient, the Village has coordinated and collaborated with them on a regular basis. The anticipated outcomes, which were realized, were to determine the level of need identified by Oak Park-River Forest Day Nursery and the plans the agency has to meet the needs.
<b>23</b>	<b>Oak Park-River Forest Food</b>	Services- homeless	Housing Need Assessment; Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless; Homeless	The Food Pantry attended a roundtable meeting and as a

	<b>Pantry</b>		Needs - Families with children; Homelessness Needs - Veterans; Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	current subrecipient, the Village coordinates and collaborates with them on a regular basis. The anticipated outcomes, which were realized, were to determine the level of need identified by Oak Park-River Forest Food Pantry and the plans the agency has to meet the needs.
<b>24</b>	<b>Parenthesis</b>	Services-Children; Other: Services - Parenting	Housing Need Assessment; Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless; Homeless Needs - Families with children; Homelessness Needs - Veterans; Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	Parenthesis attended a roundtable meeting and as a current subrecipient, the Village coordinates and collaborates with them on a regular basis. The anticipated outcomes, which were realized, were to determine the level of need identified by Parenthesis and the plans the agency has to meet the needs.
<b>25</b>	<b>PCC Community Wellness Center</b>	Services-Health; Health Agency; Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care	Housing Need Assessment; Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless; Homeless Needs - Families with children; Homelessness Needs - Veterans; Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	PCC attended a roundtable meeting and, as a previous subrecipient, the Village has coordinated and collaborated with them on a regular basis. PCC provided insight into the needs of special populations in the community. The Village will continue to engage PCC to determine future opportunities for collaboration and coordination.
<b>26</b>	<b>Prevail</b>	Services-homeless; Services-Employment	Housing Need Assessment; Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless; Homeless Needs - Families with children; Homelessness Needs - Veterans; Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	Prevail attended a roundtable meeting and provided insight into the needs of special populations in the community. The Village will continue to engage Prevail to determine future opportunities for collaboration and coordination.
<b>27</b>	<b>Sarah's Inn</b>	Services-Victims of Domestic Violence	Housing Need Assessment; Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless; Homeless Needs - Families with children; Homelessness Needs - Veterans; Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	Sarah's Inn attended a roundtable meeting and provided information regarding the needs of victims of domestic violence, and the plans and resources of the agency in meeting the needs. The anticipated outcome was to determine the needs of victims of domestic violence and the resources available to address the needs. The outcome was realized through input at the meeting, as well as on-going collaborations and coordination with the agency as a subrecipient.
<b>28</b>	<b>Thrive Counseling Center</b>	Services-homeless; Other: Services-Mental health	Housing Need Assessment; Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless; Homeless Needs - Families with children; Homelessness Needs - Veterans; Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied	Thrive attended a roundtable meeting and provided insight into the needs of special populations in the community. The Village will continue to engage Thrive to

			youth; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	determine future opportunities for collaboration and coordination.
29	UCP-Seguin	Services- Persons with Disabilities	Housing Need Assessment; Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless; Homeless Needs - Families with children; Homelessness Needs – Veterans; Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	UCP-Seguin attended a roundtable meeting, submitted a written statement, and – as a current subrecipient – the Village coordinates and collaborates with them on a regular basis. The anticipated outcomes, which were realized, were to determine the level of need identified by UCP-Seguin and the plans the agency has to meet the needs.
30	Way Back Inn	Other: Services – Substance Use Treatment; Other: Services – Mental health	Housing Need Assessment; Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless; Homeless Needs - Families with children; Homelessness Needs – Veterans; Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	Way Back Inn attended a roundtable meeting and provided insight into the needs of special populations in the community. The Village will continue to engage Way Back Inn to determine future opportunities for collaboration and coordination.
31	West Cook YMCA	Housing; Services-homeless	Housing Need Assessment; Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless; Homeless Needs - Families with children; Homelessness Needs – Veterans; Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	West Cook YMCA attended a roundtable meeting and provided insight into the needs of special populations in the community. The Village will continue to engage West Cook YMCA to determine future opportunities for collaboration and coordination.
32	West Suburban PADS – now named “Housing Forward”	Housing; Services-homeless; Services-Employment; Regional organization	Housing Need Assessment; Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless; Homeless Needs - Families with children; Homelessness Needs – Veterans; Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy; Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS	Housing Forward attended a roundtable meeting and was also interviewed as part of the planning process. As a current subrecipient, the Village coordinates and collaborates with them on a regular basis. The anticipated outcomes, which were realized, were to determine the level of need identified Housing Forward and the plans the agency has to meet the needs.
33	Wonder Works	Services-Children; Other: Museum	Housing Need Assessment; Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless; Homeless Needs - Families with children; Homelessness Needs – Veterans; Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	WonderWorks attended a roundtable meeting and provided insight into the needs of youth in the community. The Village will continue to engage WonderWorks to determine future opportunities for collaboration and coordination.
34	Laura Maychruk	Business Leaders	Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	Laura Maychruk, owner of the Buzz Café, attended a roundtable

				meeting and provided insight into the economic development need in the community.
35	<b>Max Austin-Williams</b>	Business Leaders	Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	Max Austin-Williams, head of the Downtown Oak Park association, attended a roundtable meeting and provided insight into the economic development need in the community.
36	<b>Cheryl Munoz</b>	Business Leaders	Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	Cheryl Munoz from Sugar Beet Food Co-op attended a roundtable meeting and provided insight into the economic development need in the community.
37	<b>Paul Zimmerman</b>	Business Leaders	Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	Paul Zimmerman, head of the Roosevelt Road business association, attended a roundtable meeting and provided insight into the economic development need in the community.
38	<b>Lee Owens</b>	Business Leaders	Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	Lee Owens, head of the North Avenue business association, attended a roundtable meeting and provided insight into the economic development need in the community.
39	<b>Sandra Sokol</b>	Civic Leaders	Housing Need Assessment; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	Sandra Sokol, former Village Clerk and now community activist, was interviewed and provided insight into housing, community development, economic development and other needs in the community.
40	<b>Village of Oak Park Board of Trustees</b>	Civic Leaders	Housing Need Assessment; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	The Board of Trustees' Reinventing Government Committee provided insight into the preliminary priorities developed through the citizen participation process. The Board also approved the revised priorities and the final Consolidated Plan will receive Board approval prior to submittal to HUD.
41	<b>Village of Oak Park Planning Division, Permit Services Division &amp; Business Services Division</b>	Grantee Department; Other Government - Local	Housing Need Assessment; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	The Planning, Permit Services and Business Services Divisions all attended a roundtable meeting and provided insight into housing and economic development needs in the community. The Village will continue to encourage interdepartmental collaboration to determine future opportunities for coordination.
42	<b>Village of Oak Park Community Relations Department</b>	Grantee Department; Other Government -	Housing Need Assessment; Public housing Needs; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty	The Community Relations Department was interviewed and provided insight into housing and economic development needs in the

		Local	Strategy	community. The Village will continue to encourage interdepartmental collaboration to determine future opportunities for coordination.
43	Village of Oak Park Department of Public Health	Grantee Department; Other Government – Local	Housing Need Assessment; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Economic Development; Lead-based Paint Strategy; Anti-poverty Strategy	The Department of Public Health was interviewed and provided insight into housing and non-homeless special needs and lead-based paint strategy needs in the community. The Village will continue to encourage interdepartmental collaboration to determine future opportunities for coordination.
44	Village of Oak Park Department of Public Works	Grantee Department; Other Government – Local	Housing Need Assessment; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Anti-poverty Strategy; Other: Infrastructure	The Public Works Department attended a roundtable meeting and provided insight into housing and infrastructure needs in the community. The Village will continue to encourage interdepartmental collaboration to determine future opportunities for coordination.
45	Village of Oak Park Adjudication Department	Grantee Department; Other Government – Local	Housing Need Assessment; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Anti-poverty Strategy	The Adjudication Department attended a roundtable meeting and provided insight into housing, homeless needs and non-homeless special needs in the community. The Village will continue to encourage interdepartmental collaboration to determine future opportunities for coordination.
46	Village of Oak Park Law Department	Grantee Department; Other Government – Local	Housing Need Assessment; Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	The Law Department attended a roundtable meeting and provided insight into infrastructure and economic development needs in the community. The Village will continue to encourage interdepartmental collaboration to determine future opportunities for coordination.
47	Village of Oak Park Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee (CDCAC)	Civic Leaders	Housing Need Assessment; Homelessness Strategy; Non-Homeless Special Needs; Market Analysis; Economic Development; Anti-poverty Strategy	The Chair was interviewed and members of the CDCAC attended roundtable meetings and provided insight into the needs in Oak Park. The Village will continue to utilize the CDCAC to make funding recommendations to the Board.

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

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

The Village invited the State of Illinois to several stakeholder meetings but these persons were not able to attend. This is understandable, as most key State persons are located far downstate in Springfield. The draft was given to key State staff persons for review and to invite comment; no comments were received.

**Other local/regional/state/federal planning efforts considered when preparing the Plan**

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Planning for Progress in Cook County	Cook County	The Village of Oak Park is a jurisdiction within Cook County and a member of the HOME Consortium and is impacted by the goals and priorities put forth in Planning for Progress. Public housing, homelessness, and affordable housing are some of the fields where Oak Park and Cook County work in coordination to address.
Envision Oak Park: A Comprehensive Plan for the Oak Park Community	Village of Oak Park	The current Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2014. It establishes long range planning goals and objectives in functional areas of Land Use and Built Environment; Neighborhoods, Housing and Diversity; Community Health and Safety; Transportation, Infrastructure and Communication Systems; Economic Health and Vitality; and Environmental Sustainability.
Go To 2040	Chicago Metropolitan Agency For Planning	CMAP's Go to 2040 Plan is a plan for regional growth in the Chicago area. Oak Park is an important component of the Chicago metropolitan region and coordinated growth and development with the region will only improve the quality of life for Oak Park's residents.
Continuum of Care	Alliance to End Homelessness In Suburban Cook County	The Continuum of Care provides the framework and services for many of the activities provided locally to bring assistance and housing to homeless individuals and families.

Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice	Village of Oak Park	The Village contracted with the independent consultants in 2009 to produce the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Report (AI). The report discusses the nature of Oak Park's barriers to fair housing choice and provides recommendations to lift these barriers. Due to the move to become part of Cook County's HOME Consortium and the pending HUD rule changes, Oak Park is not resubmitting the AI at this time; however, once the new rules are released, the Village, likely in collaboration with the County, will begin the process of updating the AI.
Oak Park Public Housing Authority Five Year Plan	Oak Park Public Housing Authority	The Village of Oak Park works with OPPHA to ensure continued access to affordable housing for Oak Park's low and moderate income residents. Working with OPPHA furthers Oak Park's low and moderate income housing goals.
Oak Park Five Year Capital Improvement Plan	Village of Oak Park	The CIP plan lays out the Village's infrastructure improvements over the next five years based on an analysis and needs assessment conducted by engineering and public works. Those areas identified in low and moderate income areas are eligible to receive CDBG funding.

Table 3- Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

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

Oak Park will soon officially be a member of Cook County's HOME Consortium, which has led to increased cooperation and coordination with both the County and other consortium members. The Consortium has been meeting, either in person or through conference call, on average once a month. Additionally, the Village consults on a regular basis with the Oak Park Housing Authority (PHA), the Oak Park Regional Housing Center, Oak Park Township and the Oak Park Economic Development Corporation. In the development of the Consolidated Plan, the Village facilitated a meeting with all public entities including neighboring municipalities, the County, local school districts, the Oak Park Arts Council, the Oak Park Library, and the Park District of Oak Park, in addition to those listed above. The Village attempted to engage the State of Illinois in the Consolidated Planning process but did not receive a response. In 2014, the Village facilitated the funding of Housing Forward through the State's ESG program as Oak Park's annual allocation was received by the State. The Village coordinated

with the State and with Housing Forward on these efforts to ensure that the needs of Oak Park's homeless population continued to have access to services.

Through the Oak Park Homeless Coalition, many of the agencies listed above participate in the coordination of services to persons experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. The Village has taken a leading role in ensuring a coordinated response to addressing all priorities within the Con Plan through facilitating better communication and cooperation between agencies, both those funded through the Village and those funded through other agencies.

The Oak Park Regional Housing Center works closely with the Village in the implementation of fair housing plans through the Consolidated Plan. As subrecipients of Village CDBG funds, the agency is integral to ensuring that fair housing is being addressed throughout the community. In addition, the Oak Park Regional Housing Center serves as the designated marketing agent for the Village of Oak Park's Multi-Family Housing Incentives Program. In this capacity, the Housing Center works to promote racially diverse and integrated buildings and neighborhoods in Oak Park. Direct services in this effort include conducting marketing and outreach to attract a racially diverse demand for Oak Park, providing counseling services to housing seekers in Oak Park, providing technical assistance to housing providers in Oak Park, and cooperating with Village Hall to attract building owners into the Multi-Family Housing Incentives Program.

## **Narrative**

The Village of Oak Park facilitated four roundtable meetings with more than 26 agencies and conducted interviews with another seven stakeholders to discuss the needs and priorities in the community. In the stakeholder meetings, participants were given background information on CDBG and ESG funding, data on the relevant priority areas, and then given the opportunity to select their top priorities for low- and moderate-income persons living in the Village. A discussion was then held to determine how those needs could be addressed, how the Village should prioritize those needs, and what specific services are needed to ensure the most effective use of funds. Through these meetings, three priorities emerged as highest need. Those are housing, public services and economic development. Under the housing category, affordable housing, aging in place and repair assistance for both renter and owner occupied units were identified as the top needs. The top needs for economic development included job creation, job training, business incubators, marketing assistance, small businesses financial and technical assistance, and updating older buildings to meet the need of businesses. Under public services, the highest needs included childcare, early childhood education, better coordination of services, youth programs, and mental health services. These identified needs and priorities were incorporated into the overall consultation and citizen participation process to develop the ultimate priorities, goals, objectives and strategies discussed later in this Con Plan.

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## PR-15 Citizen Participation - 91.401, 91.105, 91.200(c)

### 1. Summary of citizen participation process/Efforts made to broaden citizen participation: Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal-setting

The Village outreached to and involved as many agencies, government entities and residents as possible in the development of the Consolidated Plan. By providing surveys in both electronic and paper formats, hosting two public meetings, two public hearings and four roundtable meetings for stakeholders, as well as interviews and conversations with public and private agencies serving the under-resourced, Oak Park ensured that the Consolidated Plan priorities reflect those of the individuals who participated in providing information.

To encourage citizen participation in the consolidated planning process, the Village held two public meetings and two public hearings. The two public Con Plan meetings were held at the end of 2014 to provide an opportunity for all Oak Park residents to communicate their views and needs to the Village. These meetings allowed participants to select their highest priorities and discuss how the Village can best meet these priorities through HUD funded programs. Information received at these meetings were used in the development of Consolidated Plan priorities and goals, in conjunction with survey results, stakeholder meeting information, board priorities, and input from Village departments. The Village then created draft priorities and solicited public comments in the afternoon and evening of March 26, 2015. The *Wednesday Journal* ad for this hearing ran March 18, 2015. Comments were received and incorporated into the draft Consolidated Plan. During the Draft Con Plan 30-day comment period from June 18 to July 17, 2015, the final public hearing took place (July 9, 2015). Public notice for the Draft Con Plan comment period was published in the *Wednesday Journal* on June 17, 2015, and public notice for the Draft Con Plan hearing was published in the *Wednesday Journal* on July 1, 2015.

During this planning process, the surveys that were provided online and in hard-copy were an important way to broaden citizen participation. The survey included a wide range of questions that asked respondents to identify their community needs across program areas and identify the areas of highest priority for low- and moderate-income residents of Oak Park. The results of the Likert scale ratings of each HUD-eligible activity/priority need were used to develop the priorities which were used to develop the goals. The survey was available from October 22 through November 16, 2014, a period of approximately 3.5 weeks. The survey was publicized on the Village website and social media channels, as well as through the library's social media channels and two ads in the *Wednesday Journal*.

The results from the survey identify three needs as highest priority. Housing, public services and economic development emerged as the highest priority, with public infrastructure and homelessness following behind. Respondents then had the ability to select the highest priority within each category. Under housing, energy efficiency assistance, affordable housing for seniors and repair assistance for rental units were identified as the highest need. For public services, programs for persons with disabilities, domestic violence programs, mental health programs, and health and medical programs for children emerged as highest priorities. The highest priority for economic development was the development of

a business incubator, though there were two other needs that ranked within a few percentage points (assistance to start or expand businesses, support capital investments and rehabs) which were considered higher priorities, as well.

The priority-setting involved the percentage of ratings from the surveys, and the ultimate priorities included in this Con Plan reflect the feedback received at the public hearings, the online resident survey, stakeholder meetings and the market analysis. After the Village determined the Draft Con Plan Priorities and Strategies, the Village Board approved them at their March 16, 2015 meeting and these were presented to the public at a March 26, 2015 open house hearing. As noted above, a second open house public hearing to present the Draft Con Plan (and the Draft PY 2015 Action Plan) was held July 9, 2015.

The Draft 2015-2019 Con Plan was released for a 30-day public comment that ended on July 17, 2015. No comments were received.

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## Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of Comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Public Meetings	Non-targeted/ broad community	73 persons signed up to be notified of public meeting information and there were two opportunities for persons to attend (December 4, 2014 at 10am, & December 9 <sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm). In total, 18 persons attended the public meetings.	Three main areas were discussed in both meetings as priorities: affordable housing, public services and economic development.	Not applicable.	
2	Public Hearings; first one on draft Con Plan Priorities & Strategies; the second one on the draft Con Plan & Draft Action Plan.	Non-targeted/ broad community	Four persons attended the first public hearing on Thursday, March 26, 2015. Four persons attended the second public hearing on Thursday, July 9, 2015.	More development needed along Madison St; Services for seniors needed that include recreational activities; Tenant based rental assistance would be a better approach than Rapid rehousing in Oak Park.	None.	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of Comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
3	Newspaper Ads	Non-targeted/broad community	Two newspaper ads describing the consolidated planning process and provided information on how to access the Survey.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	
4	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	A Community Priority Needs Survey was created and distributed via various means to the Oak Park community and service providers. The survey was available for completion online and paper copies that were available at all library branches and the Township Senior Center. A total of 380 surveys were completed.	Housing, public services and economic development emerged as the highest priority, with public infrastructure and homelessness identified as moderate priorities.	Not applicable.	<a href="http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/vopgrants">www.surveymonkey.com/s/vopgrants</a>

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of Comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
5	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	Newspaper ad describing the consolidated planning process and provided information on the public meetings.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	
6	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/broad community	Both the Village and Library's social media provided information on the survey and public meetings.	See survey and meeting information.	Not applicable.	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/vopnews">https://www.facebook.com/vopnews</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/oakparkpubliclibrary">https://www.facebook.com/oakparkpubliclibrary</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/vopnews">https://twitter.com/vopnews</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/oakparklibrary">https://twitter.com/oakparklibrary</a>
7	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	Newspaper ad describing the draft Con Plan priorities/strategies and announcing public hearing on these.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	
8	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	Newspaper ad describing the draft Con Plan/PY2015 Action Plan availability and comment period.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of Comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
9	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/broad community	Newspaper ad describing the draft Con Plan/PY2015 Action Plan availability and second public hearing.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	

**Table 4– Citizen Participation Outreach**

# Needs Assessment

## NA-05 Overview

### Needs Assessment Overview

The Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS), American Community Survey (ACS), the Draft Cook County Con Plan, and the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County's Point-in-Time data, coupled with the feedback received through the survey and public/stakeholder meetings, helped the Village create a framework to determine needs, which presented priorities to guide decisions in selecting projects to be funded.

### Housing

The Village's Housing priorities are linked with Cook County's in Oak Park's Con Plan, as the Village is a member of the Cook County HOME Consortium. The housing needs in Oak Park center on the lack of affordable units. According to the 2007-2011 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data, 73% of all low- and moderate income persons living in Oak Park are experiencing at least one of the four housing problems (lacks complete kitchen facilities, lacks complete plumbing facilities, more than one person per room, cost burden greater than 30%). 34.9% of Oak Park residents are cost burdened, of which 13.9% are severely cost burdened (spending more than 50% income on housing). According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, when housing accounts for 50 percent or more of a household's resources, any unexpected financial crisis could jeopardize housing stability and lead to an increased risk of homelessness. Housing Forward (ESG subrecipient facilitating Oak Park rapid re-housing funding) reports that they have had trouble finding affordable housing for persons needing assistance.

### Homeless Needs

The 2013 Point-in-Time (PIT) Homeless Survey showed that a total of 1,241 persons experienced homelessness, both sheltered and unsheltered in suburban Cook County, of which approximately 3.7% were identified as Oak Park residents. The Alliance's count covers 131 municipalities therefore; Oak Park represents only a small portion of the total area canvassed and correspondingly represents only a fraction of the numbers. However, the homeless population within the Village is not insignificant. Local homeless service providers indicate that persons experiencing homelessness view Oak Park as both a convenient place to stay, by virtue of its public transit connections, and as a place where they are welcome, due to the level of services available in the community and the accepting nature of the citizens.

Between 2009 and 2013, suburban Cook County experienced a 52% decrease in chronic homelessness (226 in 2009, 109 in 2013, both sheltered and unsheltered). The Alliance participated in the *100,000 Homes* campaign, and succeeded in more than doubling its goal of housing 150 persons by the end of 2014, which helped to contribute to this drastic decrease in chronic homelessness. To continue on with this success, the Alliance has been

selected, along with 66 other U.S. communities, to participate in *Zero:2016*, a national campaign to end Veteran and chronic homelessness. Oak Park supports these efforts and recognizes the Alliance as the leader in addressing homelessness throughout suburban Cook County, including Oak Park.

#### Non-Homeless Special Needs

Non-homeless, at-risk populations include seniors, persons with physical, developmental and mental health disabilities, victims of domestic violence, and persons living with HIV/AIDS. These populations require a variety of supportive services to remain safe, independent, healthy and stable. In 2010, more than 7% of the population of Oak Park were experiencing a disability, of which approximately 3.9% had an ambulatory difficulty and 3.5% had a cognitive difficulty. As of 2011, there were 198 persons living in Oak Park with an AIDS or HIV diagnosis. Agencies that regularly receive CDBG funds to assist such clients include Catholic Charities-Accolade, Community Support Services, Housing Forward, NAMI Metro-Suburban, Sarah's Inn and UCP-Seguin.

#### Non-Housing Community Development

These priority needs include critical services such as improving public infrastructure and a vast array of public services, including services to special needs populations, services to youth and children, and mental health programs, among others. The Public Services CDBG component in Oak Park serves only low- and moderate-income persons or presumed beneficiaries. The infrastructure program primarily completes projects benefitting low- and moderate-income areas of the Village, with the exception of sidewalks, which are completed throughout the community to improve accessibility for residents. Of lower priority but still identified as a need in Oak Park are public facility improvements, specifically as it relates to accessibility improvements.

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## NA-40 Homeless Needs Assessment - 91.405, 91.205 (c)

### Introduction:

Oak Park partners closely with the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County (CoC) and utilizes its data from both the Point-in-Time (PIT) count and the Homeless Management and Information System (HMIS) to track progress and refine its response to homelessness. The PIT count offers information about individuals and families experiencing homelessness on a given night, while program-level data collection reported through HMIS offers information about program utilization, an unduplicated count of individuals/families and veterans experiencing homelessness throughout the entire year. Both sources play a role in planning. The 2014 PIT is the most recent count and survey of sheltered persons experiencing homelessness in suburban Cook County (2013 is the most recent unsheltered count). The intent is to produce a comprehensive count and survey of persons experiencing homelessness that helps Oak Park and other CoC partners develop a better understanding of the number of persons who are *unsheltered* on any given night in suburban Cook County – including chronically homeless persons – and their housing and service needs, and the number of people *sheltered* on a given night, and their housing and service needs. Additionally, the data is used to estimate the resources needed to continue reducing the number of persons experiencing homelessness; track progress at reducing the number of persons who experience homelessness; and fulfill a federal funding requirement of HUD. The data provided herein is the Alliance's most current data for all of suburban Cook County. Specific data for only Oak Park is not available through the data; however, it is known that participants who's last zip code was in Oak Park constitute approximately 3.7% of the total homeless clients served in suburban Cook County, either through emergency shelter, street outreach, safe haven, or permanent or transitional housing projects.

While there are several facilities in Oak Park that can provide shelter for persons experiencing homelessness, there is a growing need to provide supportive services in conjunction with housing, including drug and alcohol counseling, financial literacy, case management, life skills training, and job training and placement services. In addition to supportive services, emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing facilities need to be sustained and expanded to continue to provide housing for persons experiencing homelessness throughout the area, and eventually contribute to the end of chronic homelessness. Oak Park recognizes the magnitude of the need for additional homeless facilities and will continue to support and facilitate the efforts of the Alliance.

Population	Estimate the # of persons experiencing homelessness on a given night		Estimate the # experiencing homelessness each year	Estimate the # becoming homeless each year	Estimate the # exiting homelessness each year	Estimate the # of days persons experience homelessness
	Unsheltered	Sheltered				
Persons in Households with Adult(s) and Child(ren)	544	5	1176	631	491	263
Persons in Households with Only Children	1	0	72	57	16	40
Persons in Households with Only Adults	546	146	2873	1602	417	67
Chronically Homeless Individuals	79	30	404	392	88	102
Chronically Homeless Families	0	0	14		7	125
Veterans	100	21	400	223	110	114
Unaccompanied Youth	1	0	70		14	
Persons with HIV	8	0	27		8	

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

**Nature and Extent of Homelessness:**

Race:	Sheltered	Un-sheltered
White	515	64
Black or African American	559	72
Asian	7	6
American Indian or Alaska Native	9	6
Pacific Islander	1	2

**Nature and Extent of Homelessness:**

<b>Ethnicity:</b>	<b>Sheltered</b>	<b>Un-sheltered</b>
Hispanic	159	39
Not Hispanic	932	112

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

In the Village of Oak Park there were no homeless families counted in the 2014 Point in Time Count (PIT) conducted by Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County and 121 veterans. Out of the total 1,170 sheltered homeless households in suburban Cook County, 46% were households with adults and children, and 8.5% were veterans. Only one household was counted that had only children (unaccompanied youth).

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

Based on data from the 2014 PIT, of the total 1,241 homeless persons counted in suburban Cook County (sheltered and unsheltered), 51% were Black or African American, 47% were White, 1% were Asian, 1% were American Indian or Alaska Native and .2% were Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. Hispanic or Latino comprised 16% of the total homeless population.

**Describe the Nature and Extent of Unsheltered and Sheltered Homelessness.**

According to data from the local homeless service provider Housing Forward, in 2013 Housing Forward provided transitional housing for 10 persons and emergency shelter for 70 persons. Thresholds, which runs the local domestic violence shelter, sheltered approximately 15 single women. There is also a considerable chronically homeless population in suburban Cook County, though the Alliance has been focused on housing this population and it has decreased significantly over the past several years due to these efforts. In 2014 there were approximately 109 chronically homeless persons, a population which has traditionally had great difficulty in obtaining or retaining housing.

The total number of unsheltered homeless persons counted in the 2013 PIT Count for suburban Cook County was 151 (data is unavailable for 2014). Of the total 147 unsheltered households, one household contained children. Examining homeless subpopulations from the PIT count shows that 30 were chronically homeless individuals, 23 were Veterans, 27 were severely mentally ill, 19 were chronic substance abusers, and 22 were victims of domestic violence.

**Discussion:**

Presenting an accurate portrayal of Oak Park’s homeless population is difficult due to the nature of homelessness and the limited scope of the PIT count. Oak Park has a large population of persons experiencing homelessness that are underrepresented, in addition to

the Village being a hub for persons experiencing homelessness within the County due to its location and public transportation systems. The Village is committed to addressing homelessness locally but also within the context of the issue in the region.

The priorities for ending homelessness are based on the recognition that homelessness results from more than simply a lack of affordable housing, although providing housing is the ultimate objective. The Village participates in the Alliance to End Homeless in Suburban Cook County (Alliance) and its efforts to implement their Strategic Plan. This plan reflects the best practice models that have been successfully implemented and utilizes *housing first* strategies for reducing chronic homelessness. The plan envisions a system in which public and private agencies work together as a consortium to procure and manage housing, provide central intake services, and deliver support services to clients through a coordinated case management system. A few of the Alliance's Strategic Plan goals are as follows:

- Strengthen emergency shelter practices in suburban Cook County to reconnect people to housing as quickly as possible.
- Redefine the role of transitional housing within the suburban Cook County housing continuum.
- Develop alternative funding and service models for transitional housing.
- Increase rapid re-housing capacity to 275 beds to meet the need in Suburban Cook County.
- Ensure that rapid re-housing targets populations with low to moderate service needs.
- Develop standards and procedures for rapid re-housing.
- Ensure that permanent supportive housing targets populations with intensive service needs, who experience long-term homelessness, are vulnerable and are the hardest to house.
- Increase the amount of permanent supportive housing in suburban Cook County to 1,307 beds by January 2018.
- Build on the success of *150 Homes Team* to continue to quickly house 18 of the most vulnerable homeless per month.
- Increase affordable housing availability in suburban Cook County, especially for those with very low incomes.

Oak Park will continue to collaborate with the Alliance, their partners and our subrecipients to address homeless needs with a goal of ending chronic and veteran homelessness by the end of 2016.

## **NA-50 Non-Housing Community Development Needs - 91.415, 91.215 (f)**

### **Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Facilities:**

The Village is committed to assisting subrecipient agencies in improving their facilities, particularly those facilities that house victims of domestic violence, persons experiencing homelessness, and persons with disabilities. Public facilities were identified as a low priority through the consultation and citizen participation process. However, more than 7% of Oak Park's population is living with a disability, and coupled with the aging infrastructure, it should be noted that there is still a need for public facility improvements, particularly accessibility improvements.

### **How were these needs determined?**

The system for establishing the Public Facility needs and priorities is predicated upon the following criteria: meeting the statutory requirements of the CDBG program; meeting the needs of LMI residents; coordination and leveraging resources; response to expressed needs; sustainability and/or long-term impact; and a combination of input from Village departments, subrecipient agencies, other non-profit service providers, community stakeholders, and the residents of Oak Park.

### **Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Improvements:**

While the Village is constantly upgrading and maintaining infrastructure and public facilities, CDBG funding will focus primarily on infrastructure improvements within CDBG Target Areas. Improving infrastructure such as sidewalks, streets, alleys and water/sewer mains allow for safer and more accessible mobility, particularly pedestrian mobility. The weather in the area certainly accelerates the deterioration of infrastructure. In the Village's five year Capital Improvement Plan, of the 135 alleys needing improvements, more than 18% of those are located in primarily low- and moderate-income areas, as are six streets requiring resurfacing.

### **How were these needs determined?**

Public infrastructure needs, as facilities, were determined utilizing the following criteria: meeting the statutory requirements of the CDBG program; meeting the needs of low- and moderate-income area residents; coordination and leveraging of resources; response to expressed needs; sustainability and/or long-term impact; and a combination of input from Village departments, subrecipient agencies, other non-profit service providers, community stakeholders, and the residents of Oak Park. Also, Public Works Engineering's five year Capital Improvement Plan was consulted.

Public infrastructure was ranked as a medium-to-high priority through the consultation and citizen participation process but was moved to a high priority by Village leadership to align with the Village's newly completed Comprehensive Plan and to meet a great need due to infrastructure that is continually deteriorating.

## **Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Services:**

There is a wide range of need for public services in Oak Park but the agencies providing services are constricted by limited resources. Many of the eligible public services received high priority need rating from the public and stakeholders. The top four priorities that emerged through the planning process include domestic violence programs, mental health programs, programs for persons with disabilities, and programs for youth/children. While these were rated as the top priorities, it was noted that having a wide range of public services is also a high priority and not narrowing the range of funded activities is important both for and to the community. The Village changed the PY 2015 public services application process to emphasize projects that meet one of the four top priorities without excluding other types of services.

## **How were these needs determined?**

Again, public service needs were determined through a combination of following criteria: meeting the statutory requirements of the CDBG program; meeting the needs of low- and moderate-income residents; coordination and leveraging of resources; response to expressed needs; sustainability and/or long-term impact; the ability to demonstrate measurable progress and success; and a combination of input from Village departments, subrecipient agencies, other non-profit service providers, community stakeholders, and the residents of Oak Park.

Public services was determined to be a high need as a category overall, with sub-priorities to guide the subrecipient funding process.

## **Other**

Though not a public service or a public infrastructure/facility, code enforcement is a critical need for Oak Park to ensure that the properties, especially within the Target Areas, are safe and well-maintained. While Other Neighborhood Needs was not identified as a high priority through the planning process, Village leadership moved it to high priority in order to address the need in the community.

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## Housing Market Analysis

### MA-05 Overview

#### Housing Market Analysis Overview:

Oak Park has a wide range of housing options, with most of its housing divided rather evenly between single-family homes and multi-family dwellings. Approximately 63% of the Village's housing is owner-occupied while 37% is rented. Approximately 54% of the rental housing and 67% owner housing in Oak Park is affordable, with 22% rental and 10% owner considered severely-unaffordable. The percentage of total housing that is affordable, however, has decreased over the last ten years, by 16% in the rental market and 11% in the owner-occupied market. Today, Oak Park's owner-occupied housing needs are well matched for households earning between \$15,000 and \$75,000 per year, with an overabundance of affordable housing units for households making between \$75,000 and \$100,000. Much like the ownership market in Oak Park, it is estimated that about 45% of households making less than \$15,000 find themselves in housing they cannot afford. Oak Park has an opportunity, therefore, to create housing to meet the needs of these lower income households. According to the 2008-2012 American Community Survey estimate, Oak Park has approximately 2,533 vacant housing units, which is about 10.4% of all housing in the village. However, it is unclear how many of these units are in need of repair or significant upgrades; those properties will likely need to be rehabilitated before they can be sold or rented. It is clear, however, that there is a lack of Oak Park units that have more than two bedrooms, making it difficult for large families to find adequate housing in the Village.

Please note that the Village's Housing priorities are linked with and follow Lead Agency Cook County's in the Con Plan, as the Village is a member of the Cook County HOME Consortium. This partnership and the consultation and citizen participation process, in conjunction with feedback from Village of Oak Park leadership and analysis of the data, determined three primary priorities within housing. Those are affordable housing, aging in place, and repair assistance for both renter-and owner-occupied units.

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## MA-30 Homeless Facilities and Services - 91.410, 91.210(c)

### Introduction

There is a shortage of beds for the homeless population based on the numbers in the Point-in-Time count and the number of beds by primary shelter, transitional housing and permanent housing programs. The table below shows the number of homeless persons counted PIT and the number of known beds available.

### Facilities Targeted to Homeless Persons

	Emergency Shelter Beds		Transitional Housing Beds	Permanent Supportive Housing Beds	
	Year Round Beds (Current & New)	Voucher / Seasonal / Overflow Beds	Current & New	Current & New	Under Development
Households with Adult(s) and Child(ren)	0	60	0	34	0
Households with Only Adults	10	0	0	32	0
Chronically Homeless Households	0	0	0	0	0
Veterans	0	0	12	0	0
Unaccompanied Youth	0	0	0	0	0

Table 5- Facilities Targeted to Homeless Persons

**Describe mainstream services, such as health, mental health, and employment services to the extent that those services are used to complement services targeted to homeless persons.**

Mainstream services are services that are offered by the non-homeless services systems that are available to support individuals experiencing homelessness. These resources complement the system of care specifically funded to target persons experiencing homelessness. While many housing and shelter programs also provide a range of health, mental health and employment services, persons experiencing homelessness also rely on other mainstream networks for such services.

A network of public and private agencies in Oak Park provide a variety of services to the homeless, ranging from prevention and outreach to comprehensive supportive services. Through referrals and coordination of services, the agencies are able to meet the health, mental health and employment needs of persons experiencing homelessness along the continuum of care.

Housing Forward case managers assist persons getting linked to mainstream services for which they may be eligible. They also have a staff person who is responsible for Benefits Coordination – assessing and screening clients for entitlement benefits including Medicaid and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), SNAP/LINK card, Supplemental Security Income; employment supports from Workforce Investment Act programs; and housing subsidy programs (public housing and Housing Choice Vouchers).

Many social service programs are also offered by subrecipients of CDBG and ESG funds in the Village to provide assistance to persons with incomes below the poverty level. For example, the Village increases family self-sufficiency by funding three agencies that prevent or ameliorate homelessness, including Housing Forward, Sarah's Inn, and the West Cook YMCA. All three agencies provide supportive services such as job training, job placement, substance abuse treatment, case management, education (G.E.D.), day care, short-term mental health services and independent living skills. In addition, all three provide transitional housing programs, which help promote emotional and economic independence and help create long-term change in the lives of homeless persons. The Village supports other important services by allocating the maximum amount of its annual public service dollars to local social service agencies.

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

Organizations serving Oak Park offer a myriad of health, mental health, and employment services for homeless individuals and families who qualify and are ready to access them. While a segment of the chronically homeless population participates in the existing network of services, many are dealing with significant mental health and addiction issues, and are not receptive to programs with parameters and guidelines for participants. At the time of the 2014 Point in Time Count, Pillars provided 36 dedicated permanent supportive housing beds to the chronically homeless in the west suburbs.

Oak Park contains 60 seasonal emergency shelter beds for homeless families with children through Housing Forward. CEDA and Pillars both offer transitional housing in the west suburbs (35 units and 6 units dedicated to families with children, respectively), and Pillars has another 29 permanent supportive housing units held for families with children as well.

Veterans and their families are able to receive services from Catholic Charities through their Supportive Services for Veterans Families Program. Catholic Charities also has 40 transitional housing units for single Veterans and Housing Forward has another 12 transitional housing units for Veterans and their families. Oak Park does not have emergency shelters for runaway or locked out teens, however Oak Park Township has a program that services unaccompanied youth, though it is focused on prevention and

intervention. The program does not provide shelter, but will refer to Youth Outreach Services, which has a contract with the state for unaccompanied minors that are homeless and in need of shelter.

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# MA-45 Non-Housing Community Development Assets - 91.410, 91.210(f)

## Introduction

Oak Park is renowned for its architecture, excellent schools and multiple business districts. Major employers include West Suburban Medical Center and Rush Oak Park Hospital, as well as both School Districts 97 and 200. While economic conditions in the area are fairly stable, similar to the rest of the State and country, Oak Park experienced the impact of the recession. Unemployment peaked at 8.2% in August of 2011 and, as of the end of 2014, unemployment dropped to 3.7%. However, the business community is still in need of assistance in order to thrive. While the Downtown Oak Park business district has generally done well, several other areas of the Village have experienced increased vacancy rates and disinvestment, including the Madison Street, Roosevelt Road, Harrison Street and North Avenue corridors. This lack of tax revenue has placed a heavy burden on property owners, and subsequently renters, which has resulted in a decreasing affordable housing stock that risks forcing low and moderate income residents out of the Village, as well as decreasing the diversity in the community. While providing jobs to low- and moderate-income persons is a high priority in Oak Park, encouraging business growth and thereby expanding the tax base is also a tool to relieve the tax burden on residents to ensure that housing remains affordable.

## Economic Development Market Analysis Business Activity

Business by Sector	Number of Workers	Number of Jobs	Share of Workers %	Share of Jobs %	Jobs less workers %
Agriculture, Mining, Oil & Gas Extraction	13	0	0	0	0
Arts, Entertainment, Accommodations	2,094	2,202	10	14	4
Construction	436	326	2	2	0
Education and Health Care Services	5,207	6,621	25	41	16
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	2,407	1,200	11	7	-4
Information	708	770	3	5	1
Manufacturing	1,189	210	6	1	-4
Other Services	1,027	1,609	5	10	5
Professional, Scientific, Management Services	2,966	1,180	14	7	-7
Public Administration	0	0	0	0	0
Retail Trade	1,759	1,445	8	9	1
Transportation and Warehousing	703	21	3	0	-3
Wholesale Trade	1,008	204	5	1	-4
Total	19,517	15,788	--	--	--

**Table 6 - Business Activity**

**Data Source:** 2007-2011 ACS (Workers), 2011 Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (Jobs)

## Labor Force

Total Population in the Civilian Labor Force	29,953
Civilian Employed Population 16 years and over	27,964
Unemployment Rate	6.64%
Unemployment Rate for Ages 16-24	26.12%
Unemployment Rate for Ages 25-65	4.65%

**Table 7 - Labor Force**

**Data** 2007-2011 ACS  
**Source:**

Occupations by Sector	Number of People
Management, business and financial	11,819
Farming, fisheries and forestry occupations	797
Service	1,708
Sales and office	5,855
Construction, extraction, maintenance and repair	521
Production, transportation and material moving	515

**Table 8 - Occupations by Sector**

**Data** 2007-2011 ACS  
**Source:**

## Travel Time

Travel Time	Number	Percentage
< 30 Minutes	10,003	39%
30-59 Minutes	13,202	51%
60 or More Minutes	2,438	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,643</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 9 - Travel Time**

**Data** 2007-2011 ACS  
**Source:**

**Education:**

Educational Attainment by Employment Status (Population 16 and Older)

Educational Attainment	In Labor Force		Not in Labor Force
	Civilian Employed	Unemployed	
Less than high school graduate	293	29	262
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	1,247	167	486
Some college or Associate's degree	4,711	561	989
Bachelor's degree or higher	18,524	655	2,438

**Table 10 - Educational Attainment by Employment Status**

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

Educational Attainment by Age

	Age				
	18-24 yrs	25-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-65 yrs	65+ yrs
Less than 9th grade	10	26	23	109	258
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	457	40	52	334	473
High school graduate, GED, or alternative	441	405	592	903	1,037
Some college, no degree	1,177	911	1,267	2,296	789
Associate's degree	101	415	475	897	251
Bachelor's degree	862	2,832	3,081	4,492	1,133
Graduate or professional degree	48	2,116	2,840	6,265	1,247

**Table 11 - Educational Attainment by Age**

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

Educational Attainment – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Educational Attainment	Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months
Less than high school graduate	\$25,964
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	\$26,667
Some college or Associate's degree	\$36,654
Bachelor's degree	\$55,186
Graduate or professional degree	\$73,333

**Table 12 – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months**

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

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

The largest employment sectors in Oak Park are Education and Health Services (25% of workers), Professional, Scientific and Management Services (14%), Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (11%), and Arts, Entertainment and Accommodations (10%).

**Describe the workforce and infrastructure needs of the business community:**

Oak Park completed a needs assessment and market analysis in 2014 in partnership with the Oak Park Economic Development Corporation. The primary need focused on economic development, specifically on overcoming barriers to entry in the Village for businesses in order to increase employment opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons. Through this process, it was determined that the primary barrier for businesses is the antiquated building stock and start-up financing. With more than 90% of the building stock in Oak Park built prior to 1978, and with the Village being a landlocked community, much of the existing building stock does not meet the needs of modern businesses and therefore requires additional cost of renovation and improvement in order to be feasible for occupancy. Through addressing this need, the Village not only will encourage business development in the community, but will also increase employment.

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

The Village continues to experience strong investment in the Downtown Oak Park and Hemingway areas of the community; however, it is believed that there are several other business areas of the community that need more resources to encourage revitalization, including the Roosevelt Road, North Avenue, Madison Street and Harrison Street corridors.

In 2014, Oak Park experienced the closure of the Dominick's Finer Foods, which was a major loss both for jobs and tax revenue in the Village. It also removed a market that was close to the homes of thousands of residents, especially those in east Oak Park. The building was purchased by Pete's Fresh Market and is slated to open in September 2015, which will help to mitigate the effects of the Dominick's closure. Another positive development in 2015 is the opening of Sugar Beet Co-op, a member-owned grocery store located on Madison Street, an area that has struggled with investment. Interfaith Housing Development Corporation, the Oak Park Housing Authority and Catholic Charities have created a unique partnership that resulted in the creation of 51 units of supportive rental housing for low-income adults in a building called the Grove Apartments, with Sugar Beet on the ground floor. The non-profit organization of Sugar Beet Co-op, Sugar Beet Schoolhouse, has plans to provide some residents of The Grove with job training, as well as employment after opening.

The Village will continue to work to revitalize and redevelop the Roosevelt Road, North Avenue, Madison Street and Harrison Street corridors in partnership with the Oak Park Economic Development Corporation (OPEDC). Focusing on economic development through

the Village's CDBG program is a new venture for Oak Park but was identified as a high priority during the Consolidated Planning process and is vital in ensuring workforce development and business support in the community.

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

Oak Park is home to an overall well-educated and skilled workforce. Approximately 71% of Oak Park residents have a bachelor's degree or higher and 98% are high school graduates or higher. As discussed previously, the majority of workers in Oak Park are employed in white-collar positions such as education, health care, professional services and financial and real estate services. The high level of jobs requiring advanced levels of education and the lack of unskilled jobs creates a bleak job market for those that are uneducated. The Village is focused on ensuring diversity in employment opportunities to create jobs for both skilled and unskilled workers, which will also create a good mix of businesses in the community.

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

The African American Christian Foundation has two programs that assist residents of Cook County to obtain self-sufficiency through the WIA. The Core Direct Placement Program assists walk-in clients with direct job placement services. The Career & Employment Assistance Program (CEAP) provides career planning through workshops, on-the-job training and full-time job placement service. CEAP focuses on client job placement with particular emphasis on those considered to be "hard to serve". The program provides the following services to clients: skills, needs, and interest assessment; career counseling and guidance; life and job readiness skills training; interviewing and resume writing preparation; development of realistic goals; matching client profiles with available jobs and job placement; transitioning into newly acquired jobs; case management; and follow-up services.

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

No, Oak Park does not participate in a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

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

The Village has been investigating and planning an economic development program in partnership with the Oak Park Economic Development Corporation (OPEDC) over the past year. Through the completion of a needs assessment and a market analysis, as well as by meeting with stakeholders, the primary need was determined to be modernizing the aging infrastructure. Most of the building stock in landlocked Oak Park is more than 30 years old and does not meet the needs of current businesses. Thus, it requires an additional cost of

rehabilitating these structures. While there has been much investment in the Downtown Oak Park area of the Village primarily due to the TIF funds available to encourage new development, there are several other areas of Oak Park that are experiencing vacancies and are having difficulty being revitalized.

Additionally, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) – the official regional planning organization for the northeastern Illinois counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will – developed and guides implementation of *Go To 2040*, a comprehensive regional plan. To address anticipated population growth of more than 2 million new residents, *Go To 2040* establishes coordinated strategies that help the region's 284 communities address transportation, housing, economic development, open space, environmental, and other quality-of-life issues.

## **Discussion**

Promoting Oak Park's economic prosperity and quality of life depends on a proactive approach to diversifying the economy. Utilizing CDBG funds for economic development requires a concerted effort to support the strengths of existing companies and growth industries, as well as an effort to target the barriers businesses face when looking to build their company in the Village so that they are not forced to look at alternative options. By providing assistance to businesses so that they can overcome these barriers, there will be increased job creation and opportunities, particularly for low- and moderate-income persons and less tax burden on home owners, therefore encouraging affordable housing. Oak Park's ultimate goal is to drive diverse job creation, complement the strengths of our community, and promote a climate for growth.

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## MA-50 Needs and Market Analysis Discussion

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

The definition of concentration used by the Village of Oak Park comes from the Village's Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Report. A concentration means that a census tract experiences multiple housing problems at 10% or higher than the village wide percentage (explained in further detail below pertaining to racial/ethnic concentration).

Lower income minority households tend to experience housing problems at a higher rate than lower income White households. However, in Oak Park, the reverse is true among renters. Among all renter households with incomes below 80% of the median family income in 2000, 53.9% of White households experienced housing problems compared to 50.8% of Black households and 48.9% of Hispanic households. White elderly renter households and "All Other Households" also experienced housing problems at greater rates than minorities. Among owners, White households were far less likely to experience housing problems than minorities of any household type.

According to CPD Maps, 39.4% of households in Oak Park had at least one of the following housing problem needs: substandard housing, overcrowded, housing cost burden, or zero/negative income. There is only one tract that was 10% or higher—8128 (49.4%), which is located on the west side of the Village.

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

According to the Village's Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, Federal regulations at 24 CFR Part 91.210 require grantees of HUD Community Planning and Development programs to identify and describe any areas within their jurisdictions that are concentrations of racial/ethnic minorities and/or low-income persons, though HUD leaves the determination of thresholds defining those areas up to each local grantee.

The approach currently applied by HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research calls for an evaluation of population distribution in two primary categories: White, which includes any Census respondent who identifies as White and non-Hispanic, and minority, which includes any respondent identifying as a member of a non-White racial group or Hispanic ethnicity. Hispanic White persons would be in the latter category. If, given the combined minority category, the minority population of a tract is at least 10 percentage points higher than the Village wide percentage of minorities, the tract is considered to be racially/ethnically concentrated.

In Oak Park, African Americans comprised 19.92% of the population in 2011. Therefore, an area of racial concentration would include any census tract where the percentage of African American residents is 29.92% or higher. There were three census tracts which met these criteria: census tracts 8121 (30.17%), 8125 (31.58%) and 8131 (31.58%).

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

With Census tract 8121, the northern border across from the City of Chicago is North Avenue, which contains many businesses. The area's single family homes tend to be smaller than in most other areas of Oak Park. There is a fair amount of rental units in the tract, especially along Austin Boulevard, which also borders Chicago.

Census tract 8125 will soon contain a major grocery store, Pete's Fresh Market, expected to open in September 2015. The tract benefits by being close to two Green Line CTA stops, Ridgeland and Austin stations, and by being close to other amenities. There is a fair amount of rental units in the tract, especially along Lake Street and along Austin Boulevard.

Census tract 8131 contains a major grocery store, Fair Share, on Roosevelt Road, as well as many other stores on that road. On its northern border, the tract contains the Harrison Street Arts District, filled with galleries, a variety of stores, and a few restaurants. This tract benefits by being close to the Austin Blue Line CTA stop (with an additional entrance on Lombard Avenue), and also by being close to entrances to the Eisenhower Expressway (I-290) at Austin Boulevard. There is a significant amount of rental units in the tract, especially along Harrison Street, Roosevelt Road and Austin Boulevard.

### **Are there any community assets in these areas/neighborhoods?**

Census tract 8121 has two public elementary schools: Hatch School and Whittier School. It also contains the Anderson Playground. Not within its boundaries, but just west of its western border is Taylor Park, the largest park in Oak Park. On the eastern border is the Austin Boulevard bus line, which goes beyond Oak Park to the north and to the south. On the northern border is North Avenue, with many businesses. Across Augusta, the tract's southern border, is the Dole Library branch.

Census tract 8125 has one public elementary school, called Beye School. West Suburban Hospital is located within this tract. Its southwestern border contains part of Oak Park-River Forest High School. This tract contains two Green Line CTA stops: Ridgeland and Austin. It contains the Dole Library. As noted above, it will soon have a major grocery store, Pete's Fresh Market. At this time, summer 2015, the 2015 Oak Park Sculpture Walk is located on Chicago Avenue, from Cuyler Avenue to Austin Boulevard. This art event promises to showcase the promising but underutilized Chicago Avenue business district. On the eastern border is the Austin Boulevard bus line, which goes beyond Oak Park to the north and to the south. Not within its boundaries, but just south of its southern border is the Stevenson Playground and Fieldhouse; also to the south is Ridgeland Common, which contains one of the two Oak Park public pools and the only ice skating facility in the Village.

Census tract 8131 has one public elementary school, called Irving School. It also contains Barrie Park and Rehm Park, the latter containing one of the two Oak Park public pools. Next

to Rehm Park is a fire station. This tract contains one Blue Line CTA stop: Austin, and borders the East Avenue entrance to Oak Park station. It also has an entrance to the Eisenhower Expressway at Austin Boulevard, going both east (to downtown Chicago) and west. It also contains a major grocery store, Fair Share, on Roosevelt Road, as well as many other stores on that road. On the eastern border is the Austin Boulevard bus line, which goes beyond Oak Park to the north and to the south. On its northern border, the tract contains the Harrison Street Arts District.

**Are there other strategic opportunities in any of these areas?**

The Village is interested in improving the Chicago Avenue business district, which is located in Census tract 8125. The Village owns some property near Chicago Avenue and Austin Boulevard and is intent on ensuring that its buyer makes the use there to be quality residential and commercial. The Village also is trying to improve the business area on Lake Street. With regard to Census tract 8130, several years ago the Village worked closely with the Town of Cicero and the City of Berwyn to improve the Roosevelt Road business district. The effort made the road look very attractive and new businesses have been opening along the district and/or have improved their exteriors.

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# Strategic Plan

## SP-05 Overview

### Strategic Plan Overview

The Village of Oak Park is committed to allocating funds that serve the needs of the lowest income and most disadvantaged residents. Households with incomes less than 50% of the area median income, particularly those with extremely low incomes (less than 30% of the area median income), are particular priorities. The Village has also identified special needs individuals as among those who face the greatest challenges and who should receive high priority in the expenditure of federal funds, including at-risk children and youth, low income families, persons experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

Through the consultation and citizen participation process, needs assessment and market analysis, and by following the housing priorities and strategies listed in the Cook County Con Plan, the Village of Oak Park's priorities, goals, and strategies for 2015-2019 were developed. The eligible CDBG categories and activities have been ranked as high, medium or low priorities; though for the purposes of this document and the chart below, will be categorized as high or low, as eCon Planning Suite allows. Funding will be allocated in accordance with these priorities and continuously evaluated to ensure needs are being met.

To meet the priority needs of the community, the Village must work in partnership with other entities and will continue to identify and incorporate more partners, as well as to assist all of its partners in enhancing their service delivery systems. This will be accomplished through program monitoring, technical assistance, workshops and information sharing, particularly through the various coalitions and committees on which the Village serves.

**High** priorities to be addressed over the next five years include the following:

- Housing (linked with Cook County Con Plan Housing Priorities)
  - Affordable housing
  - Aging in place
  - Repair assistance (renter & owner occupied)
- Public Services
  - Domestic violence programs
  - Mental health programs
  - Programs for persons with disabilities
  - Programs for youth/children
- Economic Development
  - Job creation
  - Business loans
- Public Infrastructure
  - Streets
  - Sidewalks

- Alleys
- Water/sewer main improvements
- Homeless Needs
  - Affordable housing
  - Homelessness prevention
  - Rapid re-housing and self-sufficiency
- Overall Neighborhood Needs
  - Code enforcement

**Medium** priority (elevated to a high priority) to be addressed (as funding allows) over the next five years include:

- Public facilities
  - Accessibility and other improvements

The Village is committed to providing affordable housing through educating the public on fair housing issues and rights, providing single family and small rental rehab loan programs, affirmatively furthering fair housing, and increasing and preserving affordable housing. Oak Park may also work with Cook County with regard to HOME Program funds.

Additionally, the Village strives to improve services provided to low- and moderate-income residents through the public services category of CDBG. Working towards a more coordinated and collaborative system of funding and service delivery within the Village is important to the Village, as is emphasizing the most-needed services and populations.

Encouraging new businesses to locate in Oak Park by lowering barriers to entry, such as aging infrastructure and cost of building rehabilitation, will help to create jobs for low- and moderate-income residents and revitalize underutilized areas of the community. The Village anticipates applying for a Section 108 Loan in order to further economic development opportunities throughout Oak Park. The funding received through the Section 108 Loan will be utilized to promote economic growth and opportunities.

The Villages also will work to improve CDBG target areas by improving public infrastructure such as streets, alleys, sidewalks and water/sewer lines. These public improvements bring the areas up to standards equal to other areas of the village and make neighborhoods safer and more desirable.

To accomplish all the goals of the CDBG program, in PY 2015, Oak Park will receive \$1,505,361 in funds which will be augmented with \$55,011 in prior year, returned CDBG funds and approximately \$79,856 in program income. The Village will also receive \$137,514 in ESG funds in PY 2015.

## SP-10 Geographic Priorities - 91.415, 91.215(a)(1)

### Geographic Area

Table 13 - Geographic Priority Areas

1	Area Name:	Entire Jurisdiction
	Area Type:	Entire area covered by the Village of Oak Park
	Other Target Area Description:	Entire area covered by the Village of Oak Park
	HUD approval date:	N/A
	% of Low/Mod:	
	Revital Type:	N/A
	Other Revital description:	N/A
	How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area:	N/A
2	Area Name:	CDBG Target Area
	Area Type:	Local Target Area
	Other Target Area Description:	N/A
	HUD approval date:	7/1/14 - Effective date of LMI data
	% of Low/Mod:	37.7% (exception criteria)
	Revital Type:	
	Other Revital description:	N/A
	Identify the neighborhood boundaries for this target area:	8121.001, 8121.002, 8123.012, 8125.001, 8125.003, 8126.002, 8127.003, 8128.011, 8128.021, 8131.001
	Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area	
	How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?	When consulting with the public, stakeholders, and internal leadership, public infrastructure and code enforcement (throughout the Village but especially in low and moderate income areas) were identified as areas for targeted improvements.
	Identify the needs in this target area:	The needs, as mentioned above, center around infrastructure improvements, specifically alleys, streets, sidewalks and water/sewer lines, as well as code enforcement.
	What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?	The opportunities in these areas are to create safe and healthy neighborhoods, through improving infrastructure, health and safety.
Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?	The number one barrier to improvement is the lack of resources. The Village does not have enough funding to make all of the necessary infrastructure improvements while providing	

	necessary services to the residents of the area.
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### **General Allocation Priorities**

All activities funded will primarily benefit low- and moderate-income persons or households, either as direct service or by making improvements in areas benefitting primarily low- and moderate-income persons. Public infrastructure improvements, by their nature, must be in low- and moderate-income Census Tract Block Groups, which are located in the CDBG Target Area, with the exception of sidewalk improvements that create improved accessibility and therefore are located throughout the Village.

Although Code Enforcement inspectors perform inspections village-wide, the CDBG-funded portion of code enforcement will be within the CDBG Target area, which will be paired with other community development activities in the area to address areas of deterioration, maintaining code enforcement and property standards of dwelling units in the area.

Other programs or projects may take place within the CDBG Target Area but not exclusively so. An example is the CDBG Single Family Housing Rehab Program, which benefits all low- and moderate-income homeowners but may also have a large investment in the CDBG Target Area, as this area is host to the highest population of low- and moderate-income households, but is not restricted to the Target Area.

## SP-25 Priority Needs - 91.415, 91.215(a)(2)

Table 14 – Priority Needs Summary

Sort Order	Name	Priority Level (High or Low)	Description	Population	Describe basis for relative priority
1	Street Improvements	High	Maintenance of streets in CDBG Target Areas is critical to maintaining neighborhood desirability and integrity as well as improving vehicular safety.	Extremely low, low, moderate, non-housing community development	The high priority is based on stakeholder meetings, Village staff members' knowledge of street conditions throughout the low- to moderate-income areas, and Village leadership priorities.
2	Sidewalk Improvements	High	Improving sidewalks is vital to ensure safety and accessibility throughout the Village for all residents but especially persons with disabilities.	Extremely low, low, moderate, middle, elderly, elderly, frail elderly, persons with physical disabilities	The high priority is based on stakeholder meetings, Village staff members' knowledge of sidewalk conditions throughout the Village, and Village leadership priorities.
3	Alley Improvements	High	Maintenance of alleys in CDBG Target Areas is critical to maintaining neighborhood desirability and integrity as well as improving vehicular safety.	Extremely low, low, moderate, non-housing community development	The high priority is based on stakeholder meetings, Village staff members' knowledge of alley conditions throughout the low- to moderate-income areas, and Village leadership priorities.
4	Water/sewer main Improvements	High	Maintenance of water/sewer systems in CDBG Target Areas is critical to maintaining neighborhood desirability and integrity, as well as providing key improvements to vital services.	Extremely low, low, moderate, non-housing community development	The high priority is based on stakeholder meetings, Village staff members' knowledge of water/sewer systems conditions throughout the low- to moderate-income areas, and Village leadership priorities.
5	Single Family Housing Rehab Loan Program	High	Provision of housing rehabilitation for low- to moderate-income homeowners in Oak Park, with an emphasis	Extremely low, low, moderate, large families, families with children,	The priority is based on the results of resident surveys, stakeholder interviews and meetings, resulting in a high priority placed on affordable

			on elderly and disabled.	elderly, persons with disabilities	housing, particularly around aging in place and providing accessibility improvements.
6	Small Rental Rehab Program	High	Maintaining and improving affordable rental units for low- to moderate-income renters.	Extremely low, low, moderate, moderate, large families, families with children, elderly, persons with disabilities	The priority is based on the results of resident surveys, stakeholder interviews and meetings, resulting in a high priority placed on affordable housing, particularly as it relates to preserving and improving existing rental housing stock for low and moderate income renters.
7	Lead Hazard Reduction	High	Providing assistance to persons participating in the single family housing rehab program to remove/mitigate lead hazards to increase the safety and livability of housing units.	Extremely low, low, moderate, large families, families with children, elderly, persons with disabilities	The high priority is based on stakeholder meetings, Village leadership priorities and Village staff members' knowledge of lead hazard conditions throughout the Village due to the age of housing stock (>90% built prior to 1979).
8	Code Enforcement	High	Code enforcement is an integral part of maintaining the desirability and values in residential neighborhoods. Code enforcement officers who conduct neighborhood walks to identify violations, receive/investigate complaints, cite violators and pursue the citation through to completion help to make the neighborhoods safer and more desirable.	Extremely low, low, moderate, large families, families with children, elderly	The priority is rated as high based on the results of the stakeholder interviews, Village leadership priorities and input from code enforcement management.
9	Services for victims of domestic violence	High	In addition to providing shelter to victims of domestic violence, there is a priority need to provide crisis intervention, counseling, medical care, education, job training, child care, food, clothing, transportation, legal assistance and other	Victims of domestic violence	The high priority is given to services to victims of domestic violence and their children who are either currently experiencing the violence or have escaped and are in need of shelter with supportive services in order to become self-sufficient. The resident surveys and stakeholder interviews/meetings indicated that the Oak Park residents

			services to those who are sheltered and unsheltered.		see a great need and have placed a high priority on these services.
10	Services for youth/children	High	Youth/childhood services, including early childhood education, childcare, job readiness, college preparation, recreation, and drug prevention, are essential services to ensure that youth and children are safe and prepared for adulthood and to keep the community safe.	Extremely low, low & moderate income, non-housing community development	The residents completing the survey indicated that youth services are a high priority in the community. Input from stakeholders, community members, and youth serving organizations indicates that there is a high number of children and youth in Oak Park in need of early childhood education, childcare, recreation and job readiness services to increase educational success and ultimately, positive community outcomes such as lower crime rates.
11	Services to non-elderly special populations	High	Individuals who are disabled, mentally ill, chronic substance abusers, or are living with HIV/AIDs are generally low- to moderate-income due to their inability to secure employment at a livable wage. Additionally, they often need mobility assistance and/or transportation services. Medical care and counseling, as well as other supportive services are often out of reach for these population groups.	Persons with mental disabilities, persons with physical disabilities, persons with developmental disabilities, persons with alcohol or other addictions, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families	Based on Census data and state and local statistics, the number of individuals who are classified as non-homeless/non-elderly special needs and the gap in services are high. In addition, the residents completing the survey and the stakeholders participating in meetings indicated the need for services to be high.
12	Services to persons experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness	High	In addition to providing shelter, transitional housing and permanent housing to homeless individuals and families, there is a need to provide the related services that will allow them to reach whatever level of self-sufficiency that is possible in light of their conditions and	Chronic homelessness, individuals, families with children, mentally ill, chronic substance abuse, veterans	A combination of the Point in Time count and Housing Inventory has shown a high number of homeless and a high need for supportive services, especially for the special populations such as chronically homeless, chronic substance abusers, mentally ill, and veterans. The resident surveys and stakeholder meetings indicate that the general population agrees that

			situations. As a result, not only do the shelter and housing activities need to have accompanying supportive services, but the unsheltered need an array of services. Such services include food, clothing, counseling, medical care, substance abuse treatment, education, job training, life skills, and other essential services.		a high priority should be given to services to homeless persons.
13	Assistance to businesses	High	Loan programs to assist businesses overcome the barriers to entry, particularly in addressing aging infrastructure in underutilized neighborhoods, will help to stabilize and enhance the community, as well as provide jobs to low- and moderate-income persons.	Non-housing community development	The Oak Park Economic Development Corporation, resident surveys and stakeholder meetings indicate that the community places a high priority on assisting businesses in the area to thrive and grow when job creation accompanies assistance.
14	Public Facility improvements	Medium (elevated to high)	Facility improvements, particularly those that create accessibility for persons with disabilities, are vital for ensuring aging infrastructure meets these needs.	Extremely low & low income individuals, mentally ill, persons with mental disabilities, persons with physical disabilities, persons with developmental disabilities	Resident survey and stakeholder meetings deemphasized facility improvements; however, it is still recognized as a need in the community, and will be addressed as funds allow.

## **Narrative**

The priority needs above include activities that will mainly be funded through CDBG and ESG. Not all priorities will receive CDBG funding, due primarily to the limited resources provided through HUD. However, nearly all of the above activities have received high priority ratings through resident surveys, stakeholder interviews or meetings, community assessment data, staff member's knowledge of conditions in Oak Park, and Village leadership priorities.

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## SP-35 Anticipated Resources - 91.420(b), 91.215(a)(4), 91.220(c)(1,2)

### Introduction

The anticipated resources section of the Strategic Plan describes the Village of Oak Park's financial resources for the duration of the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan. The financial resources listed are not all encompassing but serve to illustrate the Village's ability to use federal and local funding to address the priority needs and goals put forth in this plan. The funds are anticipated to be utilized by various regional and local government entities as well as the service providers which serve Oak Park.

### Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Reminder of ConPlan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
<b>CDBG</b>	<b>Public - federal</b>	Infrastructure Admin Planning Economic Development Housing Facility Improvements Public Services Code Enf.	<b>\$1,505,361</b>	<b>\$79,856</b>	<b>\$80,011</b>	<b>\$1,665,228</b>	<b>\$6,021,444</b>	Allocated to Village departments and non-profit agencies serving Oak Park
<b>ESG</b>	<b>Public - federal</b>	Financial Assistance Overnight Shelter Prevention Street Outreach Rapid re- housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services Transitional housing	<b>\$137,514</b>			<b>\$137,514</b>	<b>\$550,056</b>	Allocated to non-profit agencies serving Oak Park and the Oak Park area

**Table 15 - Anticipated Resources**

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

Federal funding will leverage private, state and local funds by enabling the Village of Oak Park to serve those with the greatest need at the highest capacity. Additionally, federal funds will serve as funding for Village programs or service provider applications that require

additional funding in order to have their program, project, or service meet the need in the community. The grant money provided by HUD will allow organizations and the Village to successfully meet the needs of the community's most vulnerable members. In addition, ESG funds have to be matched dollar for dollar by subrecipients, which creates additional investment in the community.

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

The Village is interested in improving the Chicago Avenue business district, which is located in Census tract 8125. The Village owns some property near Chicago Avenue and Austin Boulevard and is intent on ensuring that its buyer makes the use there to be quality residential and commercial. This would work in the context of both the economic development and housing priorities and strategies listed in the Con Plan.

**Discussion**

The Village of Oak Park will continue to pursue other available federal, state and private sources to leverage entitlement grant funding for the proposed community development initiatives in the Consolidated Plan. This will include the creation of a Section 108 application to support development and job creation. In addition, some local funds will be allocated during the 5-year period to support the Village's Consolidated Planning priorities.

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## SP-40 Institutional Delivery Structure - 91.415, 91.215(k)

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

Responsible Entity	Responsible Entity Type	Role	Geographic Area Served
Oak Park	Government	Non-homeless special needs Community Development: public facilities, neighborhood improvements, public services, Economic Development, Planning	Jurisdiction
Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County	Continuum of Care	Homelessness	Region
Oak Park Housing Authority	PHA	Public Housing Affordable housing: rental	Jurisdiction
Oak Park Residence Corporation	Non-profit organization	Affordable housing: rental	Jurisdiction
Housing Forward	Non-profit organization	Homelessness Community Development: public services	Region
Oak Park Regional Housing Center	Non-profit organization	Community Development: public services	Region
Oak Park Economic Development Corporation	Non-profit organization	Economic Development	Jurisdiction

**Table 16 - Institutional Delivery Structure**

### Assess of Strengths and Gaps in the Institutional Delivery System

The Village is responsible for managing the vast network of public agencies, private service providers and local nonprofit organizations through which it will carry out the Consolidated Plan. In administering its programs, the Village works cooperatively within a local government landscape that includes Oak Park Township, Elementary School District 97, High School District 200, the Park District of Oak Park, Oak Park Library District, Oak Park Residence Corporation and Oak Park Housing Authority.

The Village Board and staff have developed a thorough set of standards for performance measurement, which requires that contract service providers maintain a strong working relationship with Village staff. Nonprofit CDBG/ESG funds recipients are monitored and must report their progress to the CDCAC when applying for continued funding. Many of the

Village's largest contract service providers, or "community partners," receive funding from other sources, including local Village funds, other government or private grants, user fees, other operating income or member support.

Coordination among agencies in the development and implementation of housing and community development programs and services is critical in efforts to maximizing the use of limited resources. The Village is committed to the close coordination of all of its programs with other agencies at a variety of levels:

- *Local level:* The Governmental Coordinating Group meets monthly and includes the Village, Oak Park Township, Oak Park Housing Authority, the Park District of Oak Park and local school districts. This group shares information, facilities, grant monies and future plans to assure coordination in service provision among independent governmental entities. Additionally, the Village maintains relationships with private entities and local economic development agencies. The Village's primary means of coordination with nonprofit partners is through yearly contracts with grant subrecipients. The proposal process whereby the Village allocates funds to community partners, as well as the ensuing agreements, gives the Village a clear view of the services to be provided and the related costs. The Village's extensive project performance review process also enhances coordination.
- *Regional and state level:* The Village participates in the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County (Continuum of Care lead agency), the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning and the Metropolitan Planning Council. The Village also collaborates regularly with five neighboring municipalities in several overlapping efforts, including designing approaches to address and obtain grant funds for homelessness and emergency housing issues occurring across communities, and in developing a coordinated housing strategy to deal with foreclosures and other housing needs, including an effort to promote transit oriented development and employer assisted housing efforts in the area.
- *National level:* The Village is affiliated with and implements best practices from the National Association of Redevelopment and Housing Officials, the National Community Development Association, the National Association of County Community and Economic Development Association, and the National League of Cities.

The strong institutional structure through which the Village administers its CDBG Program is a testament to its commitment to investing the funds for the benefit of LMI households and persons throughout its jurisdiction.

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

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

**Table 17 - Homeless Prevention Services Summary**

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

The Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County Continuum of Care provides a strategic and comprehensive response to homelessness in suburban Cook County, including the Village of Oak Park. The system administered by the CoC is designed to meet the needs of homeless persons including chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth. The CoC works with local organizations including Housing Forward to ensure the needs of the community's homeless are being addressed.

Housing Forward provides direct support to persons experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness in Oak Park. Services provided through Housing Forward include homeless prevention, street outreach, housing services, employment services, and outreach and supportive services. The homeless prevention program aims to assist those who are

experiencing foreclosure or eviction. The program stabilizes their current situation and then works through case management and workshops to prevent the risk of homelessness from reoccurring in the future. Additionally, the rapid re-housing programs provided through Housing Forward focus on assisting those who have lost their homes so that they can find stable housing. The organization also runs emergency shelters. Those assisted by these programs include the chronically homeless, those with serious physical or mental disabilities, and families with children. Housing Forward also provides employment services for the homeless including job readiness training, job counseling and case management, and job development. The employment related programs help homeless persons overcome their barriers to employment. Outreach and support services provided by Housing Forward include linkage to mental health services, provision of basic necessities, life skills groups, case management and the Support Center.

Thresholds and Sarah's Inn provide services targeted toward homeless women and their families who are victims of domestic violence. The services provided include a 24-hour domestic violence hotline, emergency shelter, community counseling services, legal advocacy, relationship violence prevention, and community outreach and education.

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

The strengths of the service delivery system in Oak Park for meeting the needs of the special needs population and persons experiencing homelessness is the large network of service providers, both non-profit and public sector, that are effectively and actively serving the community. One strength of the service delivery system is the knowledgeable and experienced staff working for various Village departments and for subrecipients.

The area's Continuum of Care and the local service providers provide comprehensive services to the homeless population, including homeless special needs. The Village's Development Customer Services Department works under the guidance of the Village's plans and goals to meet the needs of the community's special needs populations. Service providers work with the Village in order to effectively coordinate their services to meet the needs of homeless and special needs persons.

Gaps in the service delivery system include reduced funding for mental health services, lack of an affordable rental supply, and a lack of an unaccompanied youth shelter.

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

The Village of Oak Park is continuously coming up with new strategies to efficiently and effectively allocate the reduced funding from governmental and private sources. One possible strategy in addressing reduced funding is looking at ways to best use the limited resources. Many of the Village's service providers work with Village staff to ensure the probability of success for programs and funding options. Determining the most appropriate funding source for a specific program will ensure that funds are being used effectively and

at their highest capability. This could also mean looking at creating specific requests for proposals for services missing in the institutional structure to ensure that all needs in the community are being met. The Village has also engaged funding agencies in the community to discuss how to better streamline funding to ensure services are not duplicated and to ensure that subrecipients are held accountable to measurable, consistent outcomes and goals.

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**SP-45 Goals - 91.415, 91.215(a)(4)**

**Goals Summary Information (listed on following page)**

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Public Services	2015	2019	Non-homeless special needs, non-housing community development	Entire jurisdiction	Public Services	CDBG: \$1,129,025	Public services activities other than Low/Moderate Income housing benefit: 117,010 persons assisted
2	Public Infrastructure	2015	2019	Non-housing community development	Low/mod areas of community	Public Infrastructure	CDBG: \$2,847,445	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income housing benefit: 23,425 persons assisted
3	Homelessness	2015	2019	Homeless	Entire jurisdiction	Public services; Access to rental housing	CDBG: \$175,000 ESG: \$580,000	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 3,600 persons assisted Homelessness Prevention: 45 persons assisted Other: 120 persons assisted
4	Affordable Housing	2015	2019	Affordable Housing	Entire jurisdiction	Improve rental housing; maintain and improve owner occupied housing	CDBG: \$1,550,000	Rental units rehabilitated: 20 household units Homeowner housing rehabilitated: 30 household housing units

<b>5</b>	Public Facilities Improvements	2015	2019	Non-homeless special needs	Entire jurisdiction	Public facilities	CDBG: \$125,000	Public facility or infrastructure activities other than low/moderate income housing benefit: 650 persons assisted
<b>6</b>	Code Enforcement	2015	2019	Other: Overall Neighborhood Needs	Low/mod income areas	Improve rental housing; maintain and improve owner occupied housing	CDBG: \$350,000	Housing code enforcement/foreclosed property care: 20 violations; 10 household housing units improved (6 owner; 4 renter)
<b>7</b>	Economic Development	2015	2019	Non-housing community development	Entire jurisdiction	Economic Development	CDBG: \$150,000	Jobs created/retained: 28 jobs Businesses assisted: 7 businesses assisted
<b>8</b>	Administration	2015	2019	Other: Planning and Administration	Entire jurisdiction		CDBG: \$1,505,365 ESG: \$46,413	NA

**Table 18 - Goals Summary**

**Goal Descriptions**

<b>1</b>	<b>Goal Name</b>	Public Services
	<b>Goal Description</b>	Expanding the availability of and increasing access to needed services is a key goal. Services include, but are not limited to, mental health, domestic violence, programs for persons with disabilities and child/youth programs.
<b>2</b>	<b>Goal Name</b>	Public Infrastructure
	<b>Goal Description</b>	Creating livable communities through improvements to public infrastructure. Maintaining and improving the quality of Oak Park's existing infrastructure is instrumental to ensuring that residents live in a safe, clean, and decent environment.
<b>3</b>	<b>Goal Name</b>	Homelessness
	<b>Goal</b>	Oak Park aims to support services to prevent homelessness and to assist

	<b>Description</b>	those currently experiencing homelessness. These services include but are not limited to street outreach, prevention, rapid re-housing and emergency shelter.
<b>4</b>	<b>Goal Name</b>	Affordable Housing
	<b>Goal Description</b>	The Village of Oak Park aims to maintain and improve affordable housing. The advanced age of Oak Park's housing supply necessitates the need for the rehabbing of existing housing.
<b>5</b>	<b>Goal Name</b>	Public Facilities
	<b>Goal Description</b>	Maintaining and improving the quality of Oak Park's exiting public facilities is instrumental to ensuring that residents have access to safe, accessible and decent facilities. This medium priority was elevated to a high priority.
<b>6</b>	<b>Goal Name</b>	Code Enforcement
	<b>Goal Description</b>	Code enforcement is an important tool to maintaining safe and sanitary housing; additionally, inspections will monitor vacant or abandoned properties and identify blighted properties for improvements.
<b>7</b>	<b>Goal Name</b>	Economic Development
	<b>Goal Description</b>	Economic development will promote the vitality of Oak Park's economy in depressed areas of the community. Fostering growth in these areas will in turn provide greater opportunities for the Village's low and moderate income residents. Economic development activities utilizing CDBG funds will focus on providing project implementation for the Village's Section 108 programs.
<b>8</b>	<b>Goal Name</b>	Administration
	<b>Goal Description</b>	Administration of the CDBG and ESG Programs, and Fair Housing Administration conducted by the Oak Park Regional Housing Center.

**Estimate the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families to whom the jurisdiction will provide affordable housing as defined by HOME 91.315(b)(2)**

Through the single-family, lead hazard reduction and small rental rehab programs, Village of Oak Park housing activities are projected to rehabilitation 10 housing units in each of the PYs 2015-2019, for a total of 50 housing units. 12 of these households will be moderate-income, 20 households will be low-income, 10 will be very low-income and 8 will be non-LMI.

## **SP-60 Homelessness Strategy - 91.415, 91.215(d)**

**Describe how the jurisdiction's strategic plan goals contribute to:**

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

Housing Forward's homeless outreach program is the largest provider of services to Oak Park's homeless population, including the unsheltered homeless. Housing Forward addresses a wide range of needs. Street outreach services include outreach and engagement to unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness, crisis case management, and linkage to basic needs and housing services. They also provide extensive services to persons experiencing homelessness through their emergency shelter programs. The ultimate goal of both programs is to transition persons to transitional and permanent supportive housing.

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

From mid-September through mid-May, Housing Forward's Emergency Shelter Program serves many individuals at 10 rotating sites, six of which are located in the Village of Oak Park, providing access to an array of supportive services aimed at reducing persons' length of homelessness. The summer Transitional Shelter program operates for a full 15 weeks (June 1-September 15) seven days a week at seven sites (five of them in Oak Park), and is designed to foster sustained stability by providing a combination of short-term shelter and supportive services for 15 participants nightly.

**Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again.**

ESG funds for homelessness prevention address preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again. ESG-supported programs are required to provide case management and supportive services, and to connect clients with mainstream resources in order to increase their likelihood of achieving long-term housing stability. ESG clients will receive follow-up contact to determine their housing status after termination of assistance, as required, and additional supports will be provided as needed to prevent households from becoming homeless again, as well as to determine program outcomes. One example is Housing Forward's Open Door Housing (ODH) program for homeless, disabled individuals. In recent years, Housing Forward expanded the program to increase the capacity of service-supported housing in Oak Park and other west Cook County

communities. It should be noted that Village Rapid Re-housing funds will be used to settle some clients outside of Oak Park.

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

ESG Prevention funds will be used as described above to help low-income households achieve housing stability. While Housing Forward has struggled with Oak Park rapid re-housing programs in the past due to a shortage of housing units that are affordable, new strategies have emerged that promise to successfully re-house persons experiencing homelessness. Over time, the agency established increasing relationships with landlords who have reasonable rents. The Village will continue to fund rapid re-housing efforts, which will likely include region-wide rapid rehousing programs in which persons could be rehoused in other communities.

Additionally, the newly formed Oak Park Homelessness Coalition links a variety of agencies from the fields of health care and mental health, and those serving children and youth, to provide a more coordinated system of care to ultimately end and prevent homelessness in the community.

All agencies receiving ESG funds are required to connect households to mainstream benefits as available and appropriate for their needs. In addition, the Community Mental Health Board strengthens the systems of care and provides prevention, early intervention, treatment and quality of life services to the most vulnerable residents. One of the responsibilities of the Community Mental Health Board is to maintain and expand the coordination of community resources and look for gaps in services and ways to improve efficiency.

The Village has a specific discharge policy for institutions and systems of care; see the Village's PY 2015 Action Plan for this information.

## SP-65 Lead-based Paint Hazards - 91.415, 91.215(i)

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

The State of Illinois has designated Oak Park as a high-risk area for lead-based paint hazards. Given the prevalence of older housing stock in Oak Park and the corresponding probability that many of the Village's children are exposed to lead, the Village has committed to strong efforts in lead awareness, prevention and abatement. As a result, the number of children with elevated blood levels has decreased in recent years. The following activities constitute the Village's strategy to minimize exposure to and damage from lead-based paint.

The Village of Oak Park Department of Public Health is committed to eliminating elevated levels of lead in children in Oak Park. The Village has an agreement with the Illinois Department of Public Health to provide case management services for all children that live within the boundaries of the Village. The Health Department is considered the State's "delegate agency" for childhood lead. The Health Department participates in public awareness and education campaigns, provides nursing lead case management and will conduct environmental investigations when required under the Illinois Lead Poisoning Prevention Act and Illinois Lead Poisoning Prevention Code.

Because of the age of the Village's housing stock, the Village of Oak Park is defined through the State of Illinois to be a high-risk area for lead. Because of this determination every physician licensed to practice medicine is required to provide annual testing of children from 6 months of age through 6 years of age. In addition, child care facilities must require that all parents or guardians of a child 6 months through 6 years to provide a statement from a physician or health care provider as proof that a blood test occurred prior to admission. Physicians are required to submit lead sampling results to the Illinois Department of Public Health, where the sampling data is then entered into a data surveillance system called Stellar. The Health Department's Nursing Division is responsible for reviewing incoming sample results using the Stellar data management system. Nursing staff must review incoming lead results to determine whether nursing case management is required and/or whether a childhood lead case should be referred to the Environmental Health Division for an environmental investigation of the child's dwelling.

Nursing Case Management – Case management of children begins at 10 µg/dl on all children younger than 84 months of age. Children with a lead level at or above 10 µg/dl are at risk of decreased IQ, behavior problems, poor grades in school and growth delays. The case manager is responsible for contacting the parent and providing case management including:

- Interviewing the parent or guardian regarding the child's behavior, habits and general health;
- Emphasizing the importance of follow-up lead screening to make sure levels do not increase;
- Providing the parent with educational brochures from the "Get the Lead Out" series;

- Referring all cases for a developmental screening;
- Routine case follow-up until the child's lead levels reach a safe level; and
- Referring the case to the Health Department's Environmental Health Division for environmental investigation/assessment.

Environmental Investigation/Assessment: An environmental investigation is conducted under the following circumstances:

- A child under the age of 3 with a confirmed lead blood lead level of 10 µg/dl or above;
- A child over 3 to 6 years with a confirmed blood lead level of 20 µg/dl or above; or
- A child over 3 to 6 years with three confirmed successive blood lead levels of 15-19 µg/dl.

Environmental investigations are conducted by one or more of the Health Department's Licensed Lead Assessors. Dwelling investigations are conducted in accordance with the Illinois Lead Poisoning Prevention Code and the Lead Poisoning Prevention Act. Each investigation includes a visual assessment, a dwelling diagram, an interview of the parent and – if applicable – collecting dust and/or wipe samples to determine if any lead hazards exist. The results of the investigation are shared with the parent and the property owner. If lead hazards are found, the property owner is required to submit a plan to mitigate and/or abate all lead hazards. Case follow-up is conducted to determine compliance with State laws. Cases will be closed if the lead hazards are mitigated or abated. If lead hazards are not mitigated or abated within specific time frames, the case will be referred to the Illinois Attorney General and/or the Cook County State's Attorney for prosecution.

Additionally, as part of the CDBG-funded single family housing rehab programs, the Village also allocates funding to its Lead Hazard Reduction Grant program that provides funding to housing program recipients with homes built prior to 1978 that need lead hazard reduction prior to undertaking improvements.

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

The large number of housing built before 1978 highlights the high probability of the risk of housing containing some amount of lead-based paint. As stated in previous sections, according to 2007-2011 ACS, 94.3% of owner-occupied housing units and 90.1% of renter-occupied housing units were built before 1980. There is a high likelihood that low- and moderate-income residents live in older housing units with lead based paint still present. Oak Park's actions to screen for lead based paint hazards, to mitigate when necessary, and to inform homeowners and tenants of the hazards of lead-based paint are actions that will help reduce the extent of lead poisoning, particularly for the low-income households that are served by the Village's CDBG programs.

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

The Village's actions to address lead-based paint hazards are integrated into housing policies and procedures in order to ensure a high level of quality of health for the Village's residents. The CDBG-funded single-family housing rehab program is instrumental in helping to reduce lead based paint hazards when detected. Residents are able to apply for loans to rehabilitate their dwelling units and if lead based paint hazards are found, they may receive grant funding to remediate these hazards. The Village's process for lead paint abatement includes hiring consultants for risk assessments and clearance and general contractors with licensed workers or subcontractors to perform the lead hazard reduction construction work.

All relevant CDBG projects entered into between the Village of Oak Park and recipients of funding from those programs include language that the recipients must comply with lead-based paint regulations and policies as established by local, State and Federal laws and regulations, including specific policies related to lead-based paint in the CDBG programs.

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## **SP-70 Anti-Poverty Strategy - 91.415, 91.215(j)**

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

Oak Park's anti-poverty strategy is focused on providing support to and fostering the development of at-risk individuals and families. Multiple programs and policies exist that are meant to assist those struggling with poverty.

The Village is committed to eliminating poverty through making housing more affordable, preserving the condition and availability of existing housing stock and helping citizens build assets of all kinds: human, social, financial, physical and natural. To this end, the Village and its community partners have incorporated an integrated system of services and programs to meet the various needs of individuals as they progress toward financial self-sufficiency.

In addition to supporting the initiatives of local organizations that serve low-income residents by providing emergency shelter, rapid re-housing and social services, the Village of Oak Park administers programs that aim to mitigate poverty and the problems associated with it. The Village can directly impact some of poverty's primary causal factors – poor-quality housing, expensive housing, lack of education, unemployment, low income and ill health – by utilizing its resources, including housing stock, social services provided by subrecipients, employment opportunities, public health guidance and the educational system. The multiple aspects of the programs run by the Village or its subrecipients, when working in concert, have the ability to reduce the number of households with incomes below the poverty level. Components of the Village's anti-poverty strategy are the following.

#### Housing

A lack of affordable housing places housing cost burdens on low- to moderate-income persons, limiting their ability to pay for other goods and services, such as quality education or needed prescriptions. The Village's housing efforts are aimed at improving and maintaining a high standard of housing quality while also creating or maintaining affordability. The Village's Single-Family Housing Rehab program helps lower-income owners make much-needed repairs, which enables them to remain in their affordable homes.

Over the five-year period of the Consolidated Plan, the Village will also work closely with agencies that provide expanded housing options to current and potential Oak Park residents. These agencies include the Oak Park Housing Authority, the Oak Park Residence Corporation and the Oak Park Regional Housing Center, all of which assist many lower-income renters, including those with disabilities.

#### Social Services

The Village Health Department provides information and programs to assist persons of lower income with health and dental care. Some of the programs provided by the Health Department include Family Case Management Services (funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services), the WIC program, Kid Care, and Access to Care. All of these programs aim to assist those in poverty in obtaining basic health services.

Many social service programs are also offered by subrecipients of CDBG and ESG funds in the Village to provide assistance to persons with incomes below the poverty level. For example, the Village increases family self-sufficiency by funding three agencies that prevent or ameliorate homelessness, including Housing Forward, Sarah's Inn, and the West Cook YMCA. All three agencies provide supportive services such as job training, job placement, substance abuse treatment, case management, education (G.E.D.), day care, short-term mental health services and independent living skills. In addition, all three provide transitional housing programs, which help promote emotional and economic independence and help create long-term change in the lives of homeless persons. The Village supports other important services by allocating the maximum amount of its annual public service dollars to local social service agencies.

### Economic Development

Recognizing that property taxes can increase the cost of housing and affect the Village's ability to provide affordable housing, a few years ago the Village initiated a major effort to promote new commercial development to ease the reliance on residential property taxes. The Village offers an array of economic development programs designed to enhance local business activity. Examples include the Village's efforts to increase the number of minority- and women-owned businesses doing business with the Village and its encouragement of major partner agencies (the Oak Park Regional Housing Center, the Oak Park Economic Development Corporation and the Oak Park Residence Corporation/Oak Park Housing Authority) to increase the number of MBE/WBE contracts awarded. The Village's Business Services Division of the Development Services Department – along with the Village-funded Oak Park Economic Development Corporation – works on business retention and economic development expansion throughout the village. The creation of good jobs locally will increase employment opportunities, giving low-income residents a chance to increase their incomes.

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

The Village's poverty-reducing goals, programs, and policies work to provide support and develop at-risk individuals and families. The Con Plan serves as the framework for the Village and service providers to adhere to in order to address the needs of the community. A coordinated approach to addressing the needs of the community will be accomplished through consultation with the Con Plan and the Development Customer Services Department. Poverty reduction is tied to multiple aspects of this plan and the various affordable housing strategies and other initiatives put forth will work towards reducing the number of families and individuals facing poverty.

## SP-80 Monitoring - 91.230

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

The Village monitors the administration of Con Plan program activity in four ways:

### Annual CAPER

The Village reports its performance in the annual Comprehensive Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). The CAPER contains a summary of program year accomplishments, the status of activities taken to fulfill the strategic plan component of the Con Plan, and an evaluation of progress made to address identified priority needs and objectives during the program year. One key part of the CAPER is the Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS) Reports section. IDIS is a HUD-initiated financial and programmatic grants information management system, driven through a federal central processing unit system located in Washington, D.C., but connected nationally through the Internet. The system is a mandatory reporting instrument, which was first accessed by the Village of Oak Park in 1998. Oak Park's IDIS reports in the annual CAPER show in great detail how the Village's CDBG and ESG funds were spent to meet its stated goals and objectives.

### Program Budget Format

Beginning in fiscal year 2000, the Village of Oak Park changed its budgeting system from a line-item (traditional fund) budget to a program (functional) budget. Because of this change, fund items such as housing rehabilitation and infrastructure improvements appear in the CDBG and ESG section of the budget. This format makes it easier for the Village to monitor its grants activities.

Moreover, the program budget is presented in a format that provides a detailed operational budget, so that the Village can review expenditures by a particular function or service. By doing so, outputs of a particular program (e.g. number of units rehabilitated, lineal feet of street paved) may be compared to resources required (e.g. cost of materials and labor, cost of equipment and labor) to help assist the public or Village staff in understanding the elements of a particular program and in determining its effectiveness. Again, this format simplifies the Village's efforts in self-monitoring its grants activities while also improving the accuracy of the self-assessment.

### Interdepartmental Reporting

Village staff administering the program report accomplishments annually to Village Management, and when needed to inform or respond to the needs of Village of Oak Park Board of Trustees. Identifying progress and accomplishments informs the Village management on how the Village is meeting the goals and objectives that were listed in the Con Plan. The Village also follows the MAP Program, Oak Park's performance management

program that seeks to identify and measure Village activities and processes that matter most to service performance, analyze and understand the root cause of underperformance and make strategic investments in the improvement of service performance.

### Subrecipient Monitoring

The Village of Oak Park maintains a high standard in compliance and monitoring for CDBG and ESG subrecipients. New or high-risk subrecipients are monitored once during the program year for compliance with HUD rules and regulations. Additional meetings and technical assistance is provided for subrecipients as needed or requested to ensure compliance and improve the timeliness of expenditures. Throughout the year, subrecipients are urged to request funds in a timely manner. Village staff tracks the progress of projects, reaching out to inquire about progress if inconsistencies arise.

The Village uses an extensive monitoring standard and format for on-site monitoring, involving several layers of examination in the areas of project/program management, internal controls, beneficiary review and service, and financial records and tracking. When on-site monitoring is not indicated due to project structure, low-risk candidacy or time constraints, desktop monitoring is used, including the thorough examination of records, reports and supporting documentation related to the project.

The monitoring standards and procedures used by the Village of Oak Park follow the standards and procedures set forth in HUD monitoring handbooks, guidelines and technical assistance publications. The Village also monitors projects to ensure compliance with federal rules governing Section 504, lead-based paint abatement rules, housing quality standards, Davis-Bacon and Related Acts and other applicable requirements.

The Village's monitoring standards and procedures include the following functions:

- **Performance Evaluation Review:** Includes National Objective compliance, contract or agreement objectives, Statement of Work, budget, achievements, corrective actions/deadlines (if necessary), technical assistance and identification of high-risk subrecipients, if any.
- **Record-Keeping System:** Filing system, security procedures, location and accessibility, documentation, environmental review (performed by Village staff), and environmental review documentation (Village staff retain these items).
- **Financial Management Systems:** Staff from the Development Customer Services Department work with the Finance Department to ensure that subrecipients have systems for internal control, accurate accounting records, eligible and reasonable costs, proper drawdown procedures, proper auditing reports and budget control. The Village also conducts follow-up reviews when Single Audit Reports are received from subrecipients. Reports are generated that identify project status, findings, corrective actions and any unused funds.
- **Encouragement of Timeliness of Expenditures:** As noted above, the Village of Oak Park has strongly emphasized the importance of timeliness of expenditures to subrecipients, and this effort consistently results in the Village meeting or exceeding the HUD required grants spending ratio. The Village will continue to meet with those subrecipients that fail to spend in a timely manner and will continue to increase the

efficiency of the drawdown procedure to ensure continuing compliance with the timeliness of expenditures.

- **Non-Discrimination and Actions to Further Fair Housing:** Equal Employment Opportunity, Section 3 (if applicable), fair housing compliance, requirements for disabled persons, and Women and Minority Business Enterprises.
- **Property Management:** Acquisition records maintenance, security for asset protection and assets deposition.
- **Procurement and Bonding:** Procurement procedures, competitive bids, use of debarred, suspended or ineligible contractors, small purchases, conflict of interest, and bonding requirements.
- **Labor Standards Monitoring:** Prevailing wages (if applicable), notices, documentation, payroll review, contractor eligibility, field inspections and interviews.
- **Relocation and Anti-Displacement:** Practiced where applicable.

In addition, depending on the type of activity conducted by the subrecipient, other items are reviewed at the time of the monitoring visit that more specifically reflect that activity.

Finally, every CDBG and ESG program subrecipient submits quarterly reports describing activities of the previous quarter. The reports are required in order to draw down funds. Subrecipients also submit an annual report at the end of the year, summarizing the events and numbers of the program year. The quarterly reports require extensive documentation of project progress and beneficiaries, as well as items to be reported quarterly in IDIS. Analyzing these quarterly reports enables the Village to better and more frequently assess how it is meeting the goals and objectives listed in the Consolidated Plan.

## **Other Strategic Plan Narrative – Public Housing (from the latest OPHA Plan)**

The Mission of the Oak Park Housing Authority is to provide lower income households and families of all ages, races, religions, and backgrounds with affordable, safe and sanitary housing while complying with HUD Regulations and working within the Village of Oak Park's housing values, policies and standards.

The goals established by The Oak Park Housing Authority in support of its mission are:

- Increase affordable housing opportunities for Oak Park's low income residents;
- Continue to effectively utilize HUD funds for Mills Park Tower (Senior/Disabled low rent public housing), 198-1 bedroom units with 188 units designated as senior with 10 units designated as non-elderly disabled;
- Improve the overall quality of Mills Park Tower (low rent public housing);
- Improve the quality of life for residents at Mills Park Tower;
- Maintain full utilization of vouchers and funding for the Housing Choice Voucher Section 8 Programs; and
- Increase the affordability of affordable housing within the Village of Oak Park.

### *Eligibility, Selection & Admissions Policies, Including De-Concentration & Wait List Procedures*

The PHA's policies that govern resident or tenant eligibility, selection, and admissions including preferences are contained in the Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP) for Mills Park Tower (low rent public housing) and in the Administrative Plan for the Housing Choice Voucher Program. These Plans also address procedures for maintaining public housing and site based waiting lists. Included are current waiting lists for the Housing Choice Voucher Program and Mills Park Tower (Low Rent Senior and Disabled Housing).

The OPHA recently revised the ACOP for public housing to reflect the recently HUD approved Designated Housing Plan for Elderly and Persons with Disabilities. The revisions were completed and a Board Resolution approving the ACOP on June 18, 2013.

### *Operation and Management*

The OPHA's Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing Programs are both "High Performers" under SEAMAP and PHAS System, respectively. Customer satisfaction continues to be a priority. The OPHA conducts move-in, move out, and annual inspections electronically with hand-held computers that interface with current software programs to generate work orders and address maintenance issues in resident apartments. Tenant handbooks explaining procedures and responsibilities are presented to all tenants moving into the property. Public housing building inspections are conducted regularly and preventative maintenance is performed on all machinery, plumbing and emergency equipment. All equipment required to be inspected by State and Local Authorities are inspected and Certificates of Inspections are posted. Pest control inspections are conducted quarterly by a licensed accredited pest control company. The pest control also performs semi-annual bed bug inspections with treatment of affected unit and surrounding units. This includes all common areas. All areas are treated until remedied.

### *Community Service and Self Sufficiency*

Mills Park Tower (low rent public housing) residents have services and programs available to them through community partners. Oak Park Senior Services offers transportation, "Meals on Wheels" (a delivered meal program for those not ambulatory), and a nutritional lunch program for those who want a social setting to interact. They also do counseling and have an arts and craft program for seniors. The Oak Park Library delivers books to the Mills Park Tower library monthly on a rotating basis.

Mills Park Tower maintains a Computer Learning Center to provide access to computers and the internet for underserved low-income seniors and persons with disabilities. This learning center gives the residents access to necessary information about health, government programs, and entitlements. Residents are able to stay in touch and communicate through email with family and friends.

### *Safety and Crime Prevention*

The OPHA's public housing (Mills Park Tower) was developed for seniors and persons with disabilities, thus consisting of a fragile population. Safety is a priority. A police sub-station is maintained in the building for use by the local Beat Officers. In cooperation with the local police and fire departments, safety and crime awareness talks are held on a regular basis.

The building has a 16-camera monitored security system that is digitally recorded and has the capability of being viewed on site or at the local police department. Talks are also held by other partner agencies on awareness and fraud protection.

#### *Progress in Meeting Mission and Goals*

The OPHA has been able to maintain a High Performer status in the Low Rent Public Housing and the Housing Choice Voucher programs for many years. The Homeownership program has been a success for several years with no defaults. The OPHA has been able to assist its residents when needed both financially and socially with the help of partner agencies in the village. The housing provided by the OPHA reflects the diverse population of the Village of Oak Park.

The OPHA's low rent public housing, Mills Park Tower, has been participating in the Capital Fund Program offered by HUD and has successfully completed the following modernization projects over the past several years.

1. Modernize 195 apartment kitchens of the 198 1-bedroom units.
2. Completed a façade restoration and water sealant project.
3. Modernized 4 units to meet Uniform Federal Accessibility standard.
4. Modernized east entrance for better accessibility, replace store front with low energy glass and sliding entry door.
5. Replaced 19 floors of common hallways complete with energy efficient low-e glass.

#### *Housing Needs*

Based on information provided by the applicable Consolidated Plan information provided by HUD, and other generally available data, OPHA made a reasonable effort to identify the housing needs of the low-income, very low-income, and extremely low-income families who reside in the jurisdiction served by the PHA (including elderly families, families with disabilities, and households of various races and ethnic groups) and other families who are on the public housing and Section 8 tenant-based assistance waiting lists. The identification of housing needs must address issues of affordability, supply, quality, accessibility, size of units, and location.

### **Other Strategic Plan Narrative – Fair Housing**

In 2009, the Village conducted the planning process to update its Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI). The AI plan was completed, and was approved by the Village of Oak Park Board of Trustees on January 19, 2010.

The AI study produced a list of certain conditions that may serve as potential impediments to fair housing in Oak Park. As a result, an AI Action Plan was developed to address the conditions to prevent unfair housing choices. The AI Action Plan consists of nine problem statements, and the 17 action items that have been implemented to address these problems.

Recently, the Village learned that HUD will replace the AI requirement with a different fair housing tool that is described in the proposed Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule (AFFH). AFFH proposes to replace the AI requirement with a fair housing assessment and planning process intended to enable entitlement communities such as Oak Park to improve housing access, opportunities & choices. To facilitate this new approach, HUD would provide Oak Park with data on patterns of integration and segregation, on racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty, and other information.

AFFH would result in the need for Oak Park to create and develop a new planning tool called the Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH). The AFH will consist of a summary of fair housing issues & capacity to address these issues; analyses of data; assessment of determinants of fair housing issues; identification of fair housing priorities and general goals; and proof of citizen participation. Units of local government such as Oak Park that participate in a HOME consortium will need to prepare an AFH for the consortium.

Because the AFFH has just now become final, and the AFH is not ready to be used, Oak Park will wait until the tool is finalized and available, and will then prepare an AFH. Until then, the Village's AI will still be valid and relevant, and will be followed.

The Village is committed each program year to continuing to remove the impediments to fair housing choices for all protected classes, as evidenced by Oak Park allocating a relatively high percentage of its total CDBG allocation to Oak Park Regional Housing Center's fair housing activities.

