

**CITY OF BATTLE CREEK
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
2022-23 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN SUMMARY
INCLUDING THE PROPOSED USE OF FUNDS
AND NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**

Under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended and the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, the City of Battle Creek is required to prepare a plan that describes how the City will allocate Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership funds to meet the needs of low and moderate income persons of Battle Creek.

To that end, an Annual Action Plan is completed annually to describe the activities that will be undertaken to address the needs identified in the current 5-Year Consolidated Plan. The Annual Action Plan also serves as an application for Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership funds.

The City of Battle Creek has prepared a draft 2023 Annual Action Plan. The Annual Action Plan describes the activities that will take place during the 2023-24 Program Year (July-June). The draft Annual Action Plan will be made available to the public on Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

This notice is being published to make citizens aware that a formal thirty (30) calendar day comment period on the draft 2023 Annual Action Plan, including the proposed use of funds, will commence on March 28, 2023 and conclude on April 27, 2023. During this period, copies of the plan and the 2023 budget will be available for public review at City Hall, Room 104, 10 North Division Street during normal business hours and online at <http://battlecreekmi.gov/181>.

The Annual Action Plan:

The Annual Action Plan includes an estimate of available resources from private and public sources to address the identified needs; a description of the priorities and specific objectives to be addressed in this program year; a summary of the eligible programs or projects that the City of Battle Creek will undertake to address the needs; a description of the geographic areas of the city in which assistance will be directed; a description of the projects to address the needs of the homeless, near-homeless and special needs populations; the plans to reduce the number of poverty level families; a description of the activities to evaluate and reduce the number of housing units containing lead-based paint hazards; and the standards in which the city will monitor its housing and community development projects.

Projected use of Funds: 2023-24 Community Development Block Grant Program

1. General Administration	\$110,000
The function of this City activity is to provide necessary staffing to develop, implement and monitor the overall performance of all Community Development Block Grant programs within the City.	
2. Neighborhood Planning Administration	\$145,000
This City function provides the necessary management to conduct specific studies related to the overall program design of the comprehensive planning process and the development of the Consolidated Plan, involving Neighborhood Planning Councils, civic organizations, individuals, and other boards, commissions and committees.	
3. Code Enforcement	\$210,000
The purpose of this activity is to provide effective staffing for the City's Neighborhood Code Compliance Division to continue its efforts to provide the citizens of Battle Creek with effective code enforcement, and to complement other Community Development activities in blighted and distressed areas. This activity will serve to arrest a decline in targeted areas due to housing code violations, vacant and abandoned properties, citizen complaints regarding refuse and weed control and health and safety issues related to rental properties.	
4. Housing Rehabilitation – Minor Home Repair	\$500,000
This City of Battle Creek activity will provide grants and deferred loans to homeowners for necessary repairs. The primary focus will be exterior repairs for cited code violations and health and safety issues. All work will comply with HUD and EPA regulations including those that address the treatment of lead-based paint hazards, or potential hazards, and asbestos hazards. This activity also provides necessary funding to cover subsidies and defaults on all outstanding lender originated rehabilitation loans.	
5. Transit Stop Enhancements	\$200,000
This proposed activity will provide funds to support enhancements to Battle Creek transit stops in targeted low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. Enhancements may include creation of crosswalks, shelter installation, curb cuts, relocating a stop to better serve low- and moderate families, and other improvements that increase accessibility.	
6. Fair Housing Education and Case Management	\$25,000
This proposed activity funds fair housing education and case management services provided to low- and moderate income housing seekers. This includes educational classes and seminars, fielding and investigating complaints, and making referrals or prosecuting fair housing violations.	
7. Facility Improvement- Early Childhood Development	\$70,000
This proposed activity provides gap funds for the creation of early childhood development center within the CDBG target area.	
8. Housing Case Management – Eviction Diversion	\$35,000
This activity will provide funds for a part-time case worker for an eviction diversion program for low and moderate income households. Case workers will provide legal assistance and make referrals for housing resources and services.	
9. Housing Case Management—Vulnerable Populations	\$35,000
This activity will provide funds for a part-time case worker to provide housing case management services to vulnerable populations identified in the City's CDBG-CV Affirmative Marketing Plan and Report which identified groups least likely to access needed housing resources in the city—with an emphasis on providing services to Hispanic and Latino families.	
Total CDBG Entitlement (Estimated)	\$1,275,000
Total Reallocated CDBG Funds	\$55,000
Total Proposed CDBG Budget	<u>\$1,330,000</u>

Projected Use of Funds: 2023-24 HOME Investment Partnership Program

11. General Administration	\$26,500
The function of this City activity is to provide necessary staffing to develop, implement and monitor the overall performance of all HOME programs.	
9. Infill Housing Program	\$120,000
This activity will provide gap funds for acquisition and development of one or more new built single family homes within the City. At least one of the units will be completed by a certified Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO). Upon completion of construction, these properties will be made available for purchase to low- to moderate income homebuyers.	
10. Tenant Based Rental Assistance	\$70,000
This activity provides short term rental assistance (twelve months) to eligible low-income households experiencing a housing emergency and also participating in housing case management, employment training or another self-sufficiency program.	
11. Down Payment Assistance	\$50,000
This activity provides down payment assistance to low and moderate income home buyers. Down payment assistance ranges from \$1000 to \$10,000 based on need. Assistance will be offered in conjunction with other programs like fair housing education and home buyer education	
Total Proposed HOME Budget	<u>\$266,500</u>

As part of the City of Battle Creek's Citizen Participation process, the City will hold a formal public hearing on the draft 2023 Annual Action Plan including the Proposed Use of Funds on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. during the City Commission Meeting.

Written comments on the City of Battle Creek's draft 2023 Annual Action Plan including the Proposed Use of Funds may be made until April 27, 2023 to: Chris Lussier, Community Development Supervisor, City of Battle Creek, Community Development Department, City Hall, Room 104, 10 North Division Street, Battle Creek, MI 49014.

The City of Battle Creek will provide necessary auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered in the meeting upon seven-day notice to the City of Battle Creek. Individuals with disabilities, requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the City of Battle Creek by writing Vicki Houser at Office of the City Clerk, PO Box 1717, Battle Creek, MI 49016 or calling (269) 966-3348 (TDD).

The City of Battle Creek will also provide interpretation services and translation of any printed materials being considered in this meeting upon seven-day notice to the City of Battle Creek. Individuals needing interpretation or translation should contact Michelle Salazar by calling (269) 966-3364.

Rebecca Fleury, City Manager