



CITY of ALTOONA

1301 12th Street

Altoona, Pennsylvania 16601

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

*For Submission to HUD for the
Community Development Block Grant Program &
HOME Investment Partnership Program*

August 2025

Honorable Matthew A. Pacifico
Mayor, City of Altoona





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Executive Summary

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

1. Introduction

The City of Altoona, Pennsylvania is an entitlement jurisdiction under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Programs. The City has prepared this Five-Year Consolidated Plan for the period of FY 2025, beginning July 1, 2025, through FY 2029, ending June 30, 2030. The Five-Year Consolidated Plan is a strategic community development plan to implement Federal programs for housing and community development activities within the City. The proposed activities will principally benefit low- and moderate-income residents of the City. The Five-Year Consolidated Plan is a requirement of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and must be completed by the entitlement jurisdiction every five (5) years in conjunction with the first year Annual Action Plan of the five-year cycle.

The Five-Year Consolidated Plan establishes the priorities and goals the City of Altoona proposes for the next five (5) year period and outlines the specific initiatives the City will undertake to address these goals by encouraging the development of decent affordable housing, promoting a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities. The Five-Year Consolidated Plan is a collaborative planning process between the City, the community at large, social service agencies, housing providers, community development groups, and economic development agencies. The process was implemented through a series of public meetings, stakeholder roundtable discussions, community surveys, statistical data, and reviews of previous community development plans.

History:

The City of Altoona is the seat of Blair County in Central Pennsylvania and is the principal municipality of the Altoona Metropolitan Statistical Area. Altoona was founded by the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1849 as a site for a repair and maintenance shop. It was incorporated as a borough on February 6, 1854, and became a city after legislation was passed on April 3, 1867 and February 8, 1868.

Altoona grew rapidly in the late 19th Century as the demand for locomotives during and after the Civil War stimulated much of its growth and became a very valuable city in the North. The “Horseshoe Curve” is a section of track built by the Pennsylvania Railroad which was used to help trains cross the Allegheny Ridge and stimulate trade. It is still in use as a major freight corridor and is a historic landmark.

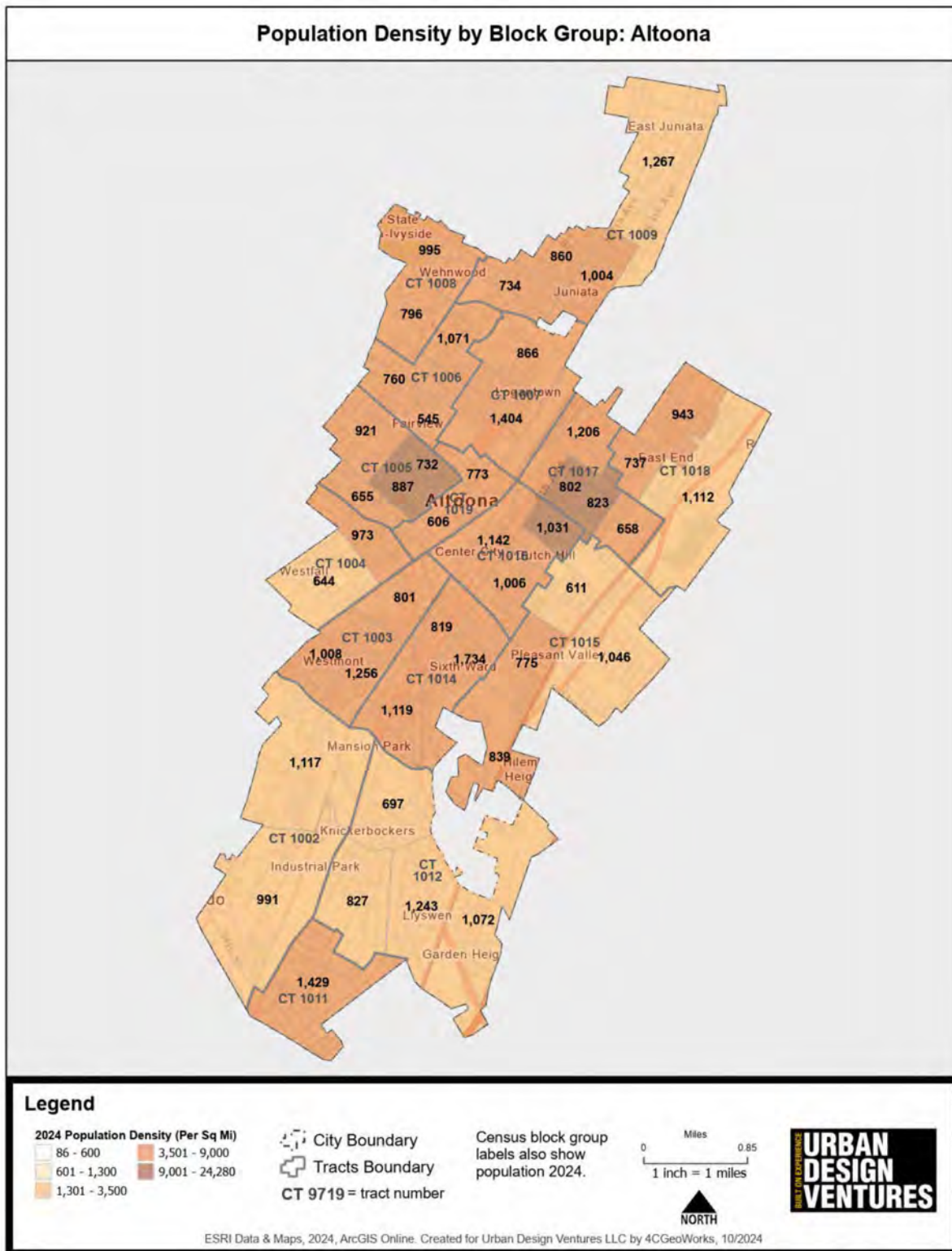
After World War II, the railroad industry began a slow decline which caused the City’s population and economy to suffer. Like many “rust belt” cities, Altoona has needed to fill the void from this single industry after it was no longer the main economic engine. While the railroad industry still helps drive the economy, the top field of employment in Altoona is now healthcare. Facilities of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital, the James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center, and several nursing homes call the Altoona Area home.

The downtown area is the main focus for the City’s revitalization efforts. Penn State Altoona has purchased several downtown buildings, including the former Playhouse Theater Building, the Penn Furniture Building, and the former WRTA building. The Mansion Park Stadium, owned by the Altoona Area Schools District, is recognized as one of the finest athletic complexes in Pennsylvania and regularly serves as a space for a variety of events. Altoona is also home to the minor-league Altoona Curve baseball team, as well as the local “Altoona Mirror” newspaper.

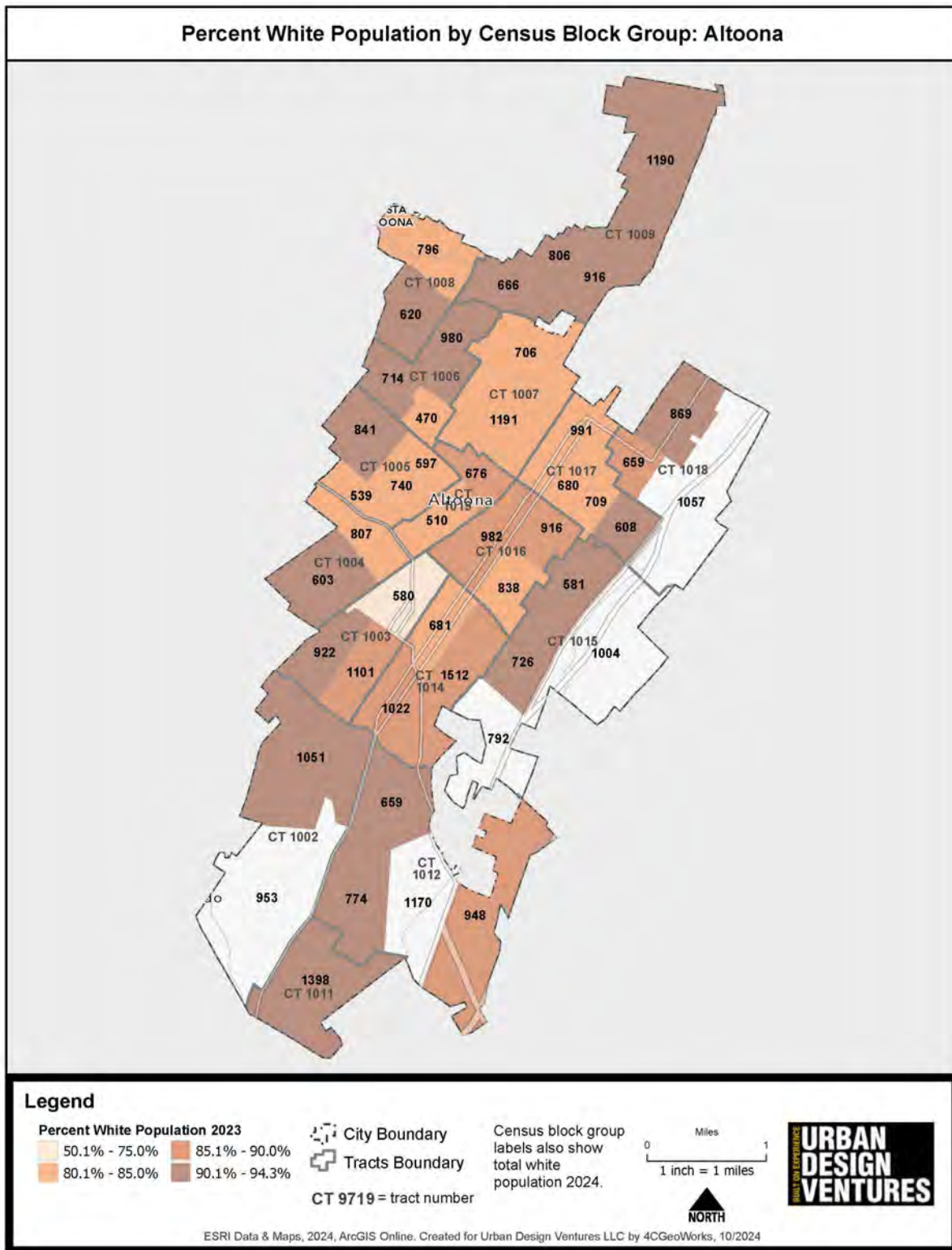
Maps:

Included in this Plan are the following maps illustrating the demographics of the City of Altoona:

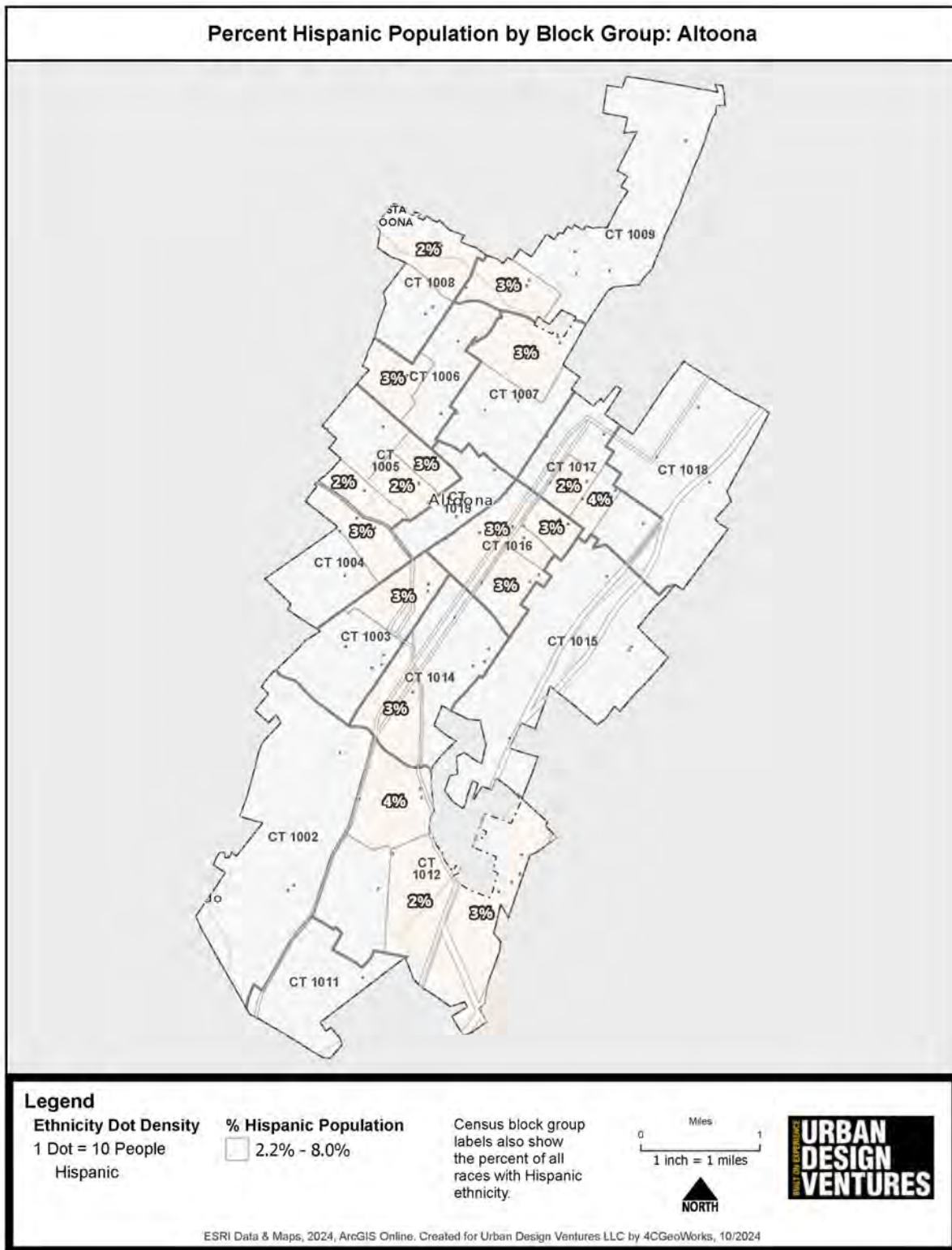
- Population Density by Block Group
- Percent White Population by Block Group
- Percent Hispanic Population by Block Group
- Percent Minority Population by Block Group
- Percent Population Age 65+ by Block Group
- Housing Units by Block Points
- Percent Owner-Occupied Housing Units by Block Group
- Percent Renter-Occupied Housing Units by Block Group
- Percent Vacant Housing Units by Block Group
- Low/Moderate Income Percentage by Block Group
- Low/Moderate Income Percentage w/Minority Overlay by Block Group
- Commercial Hot Spots
- Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicles by Block Group
- Poverty Rate by Block Group
- Public Housing with Low/Moderate Income Block Groups
- Housing Choice Voucher Concentration with Low/Moderate Income Block Groups
- City Zoning Map



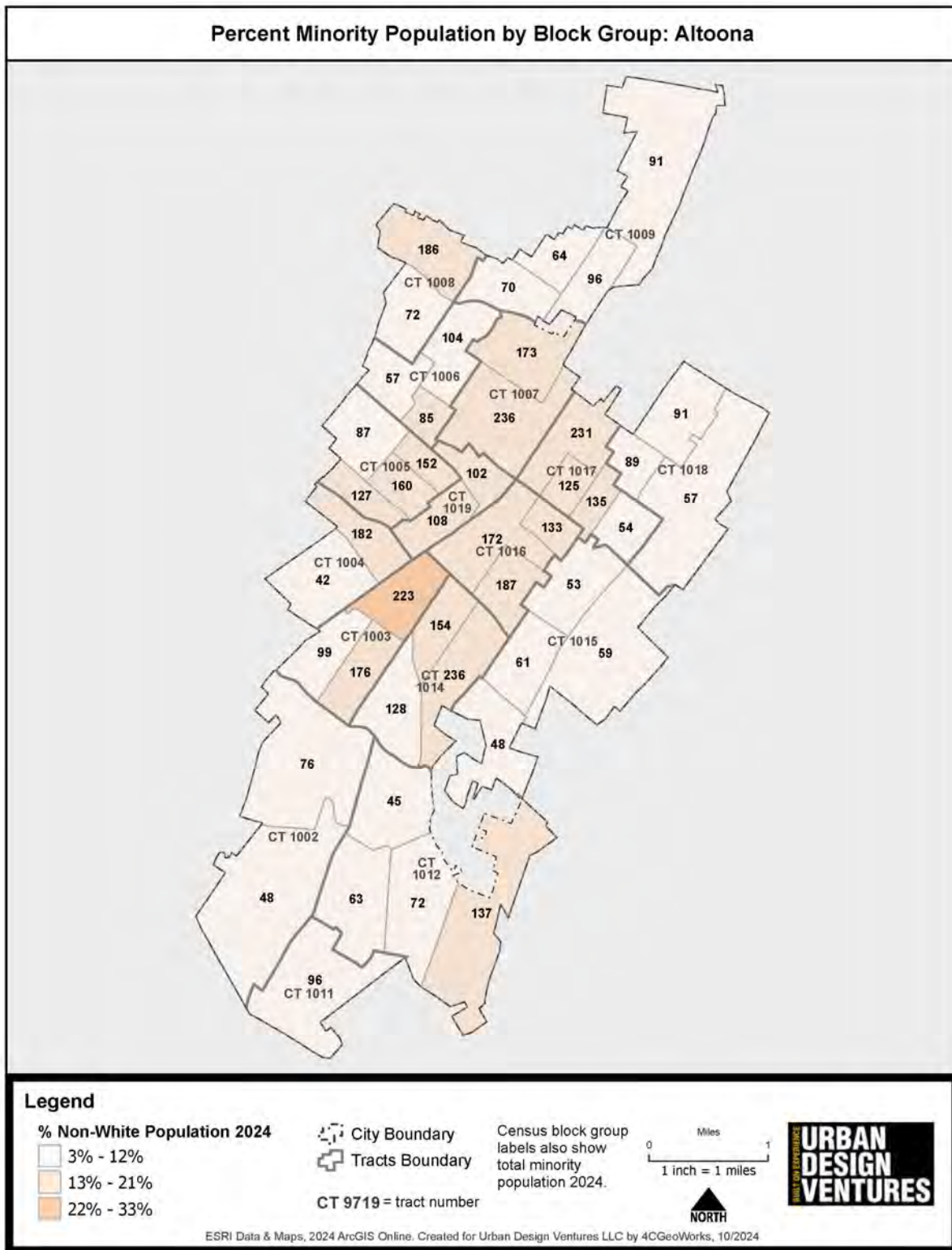
Population Density by Block Group



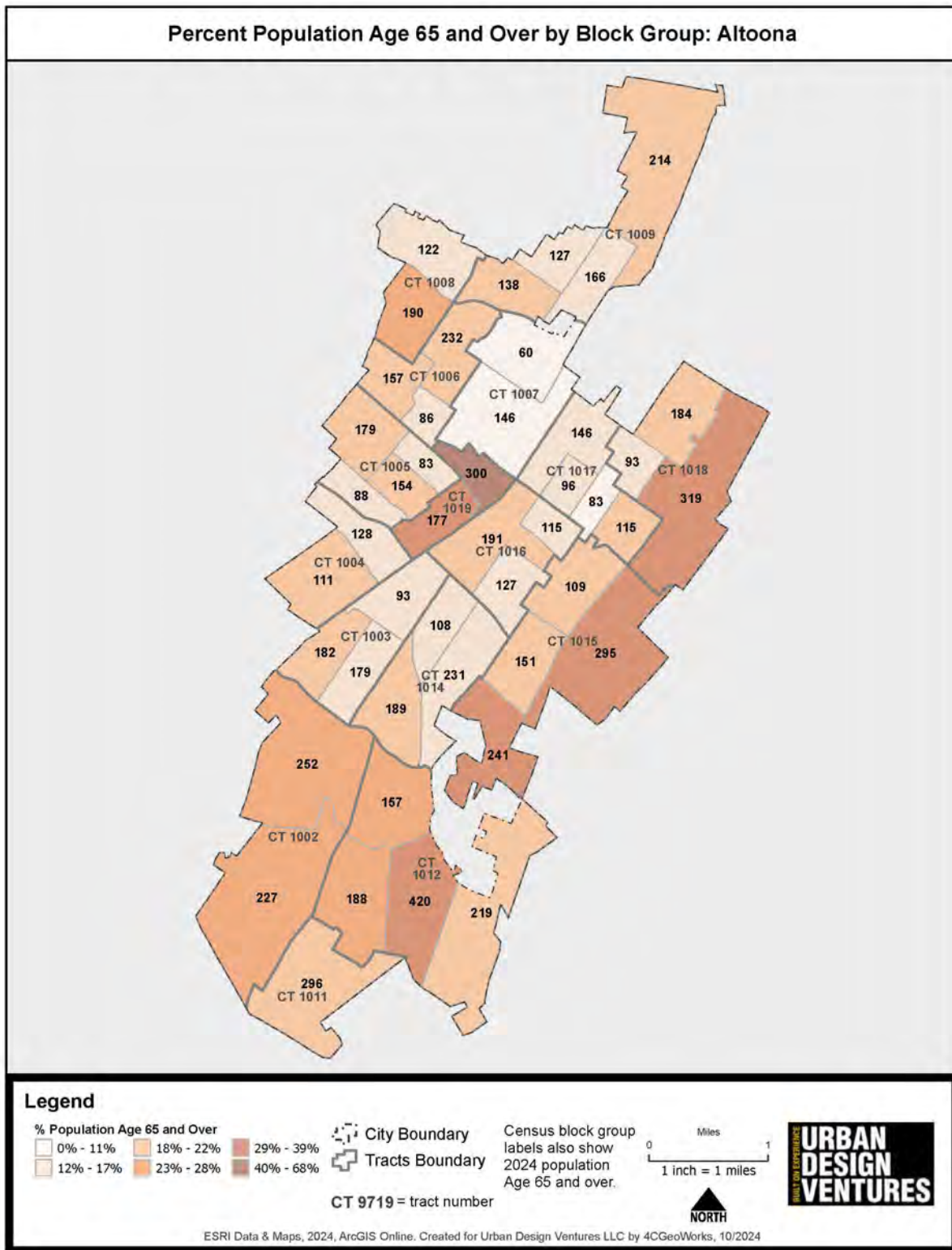
White Population by Block Group



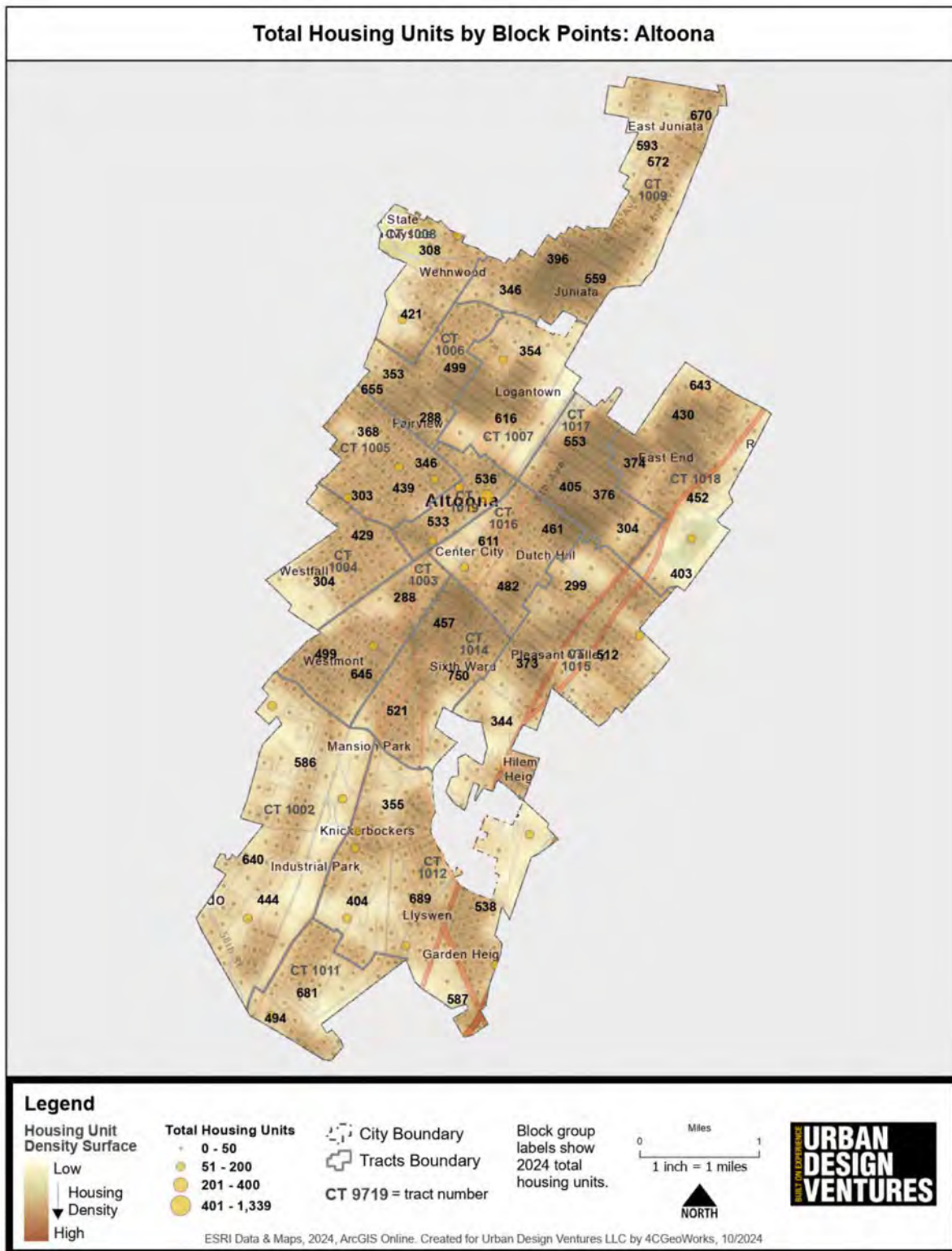
Percent Hispanic Population by Block Group



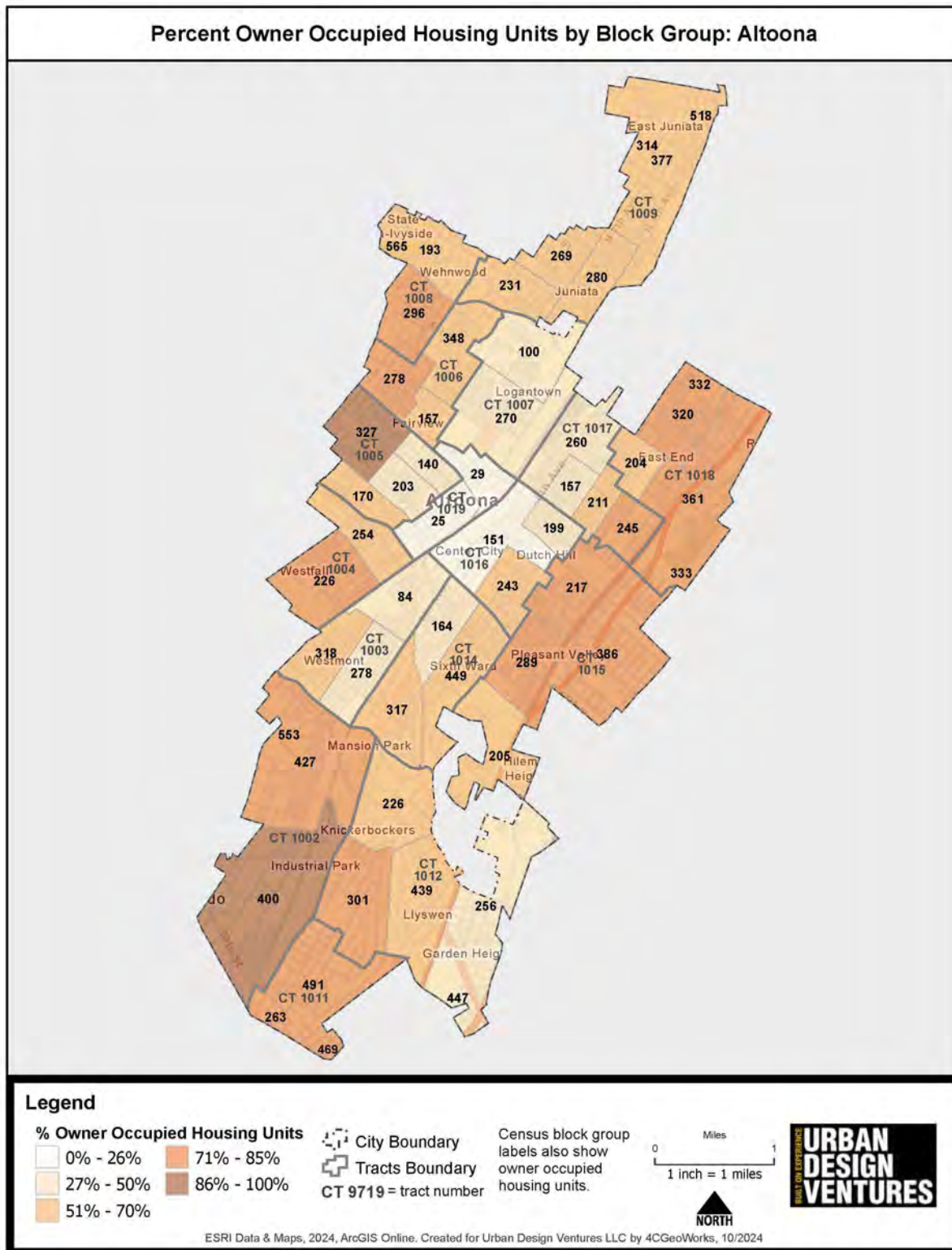
Minority Population by Block Group



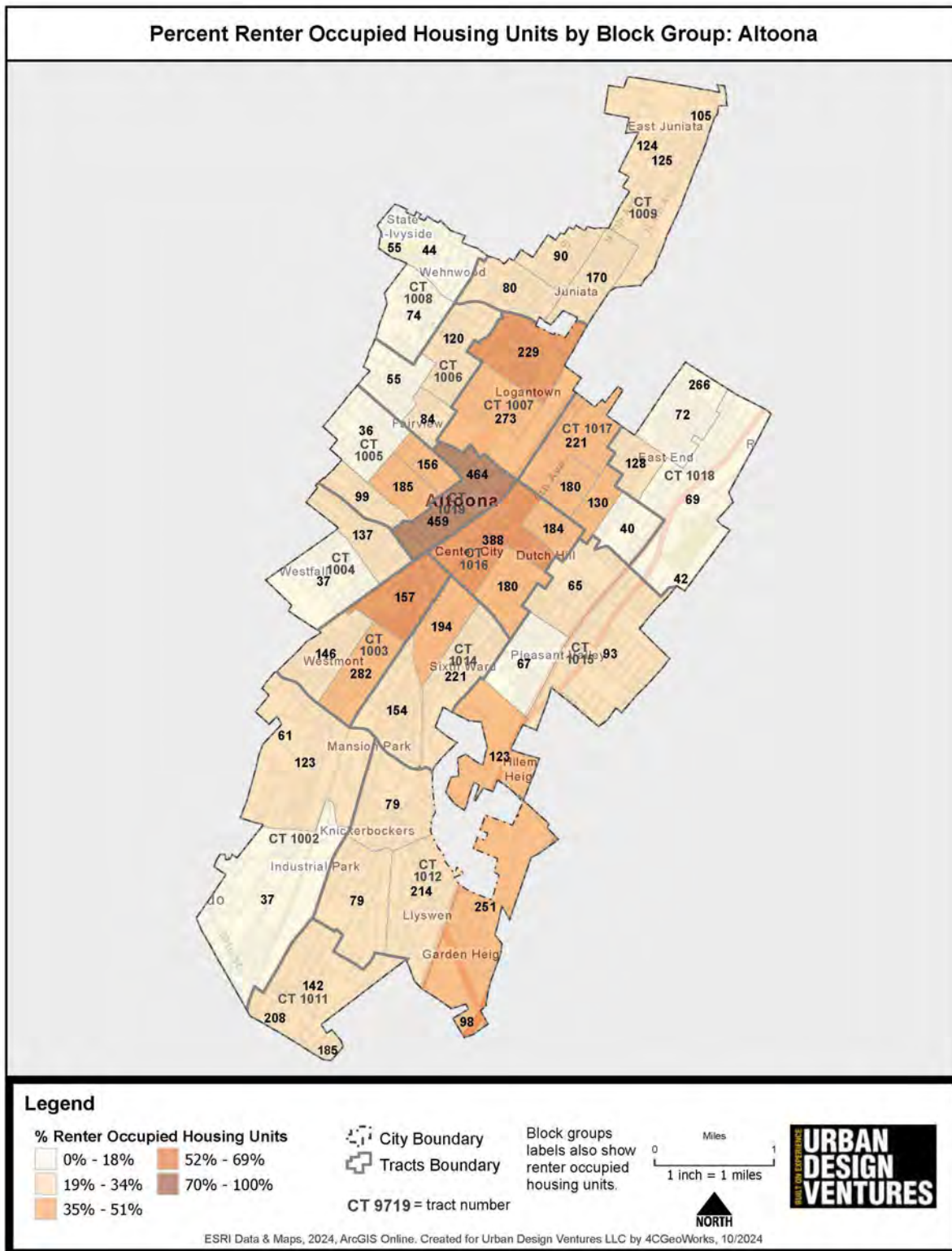
Population Age 65 and Over by Block Group



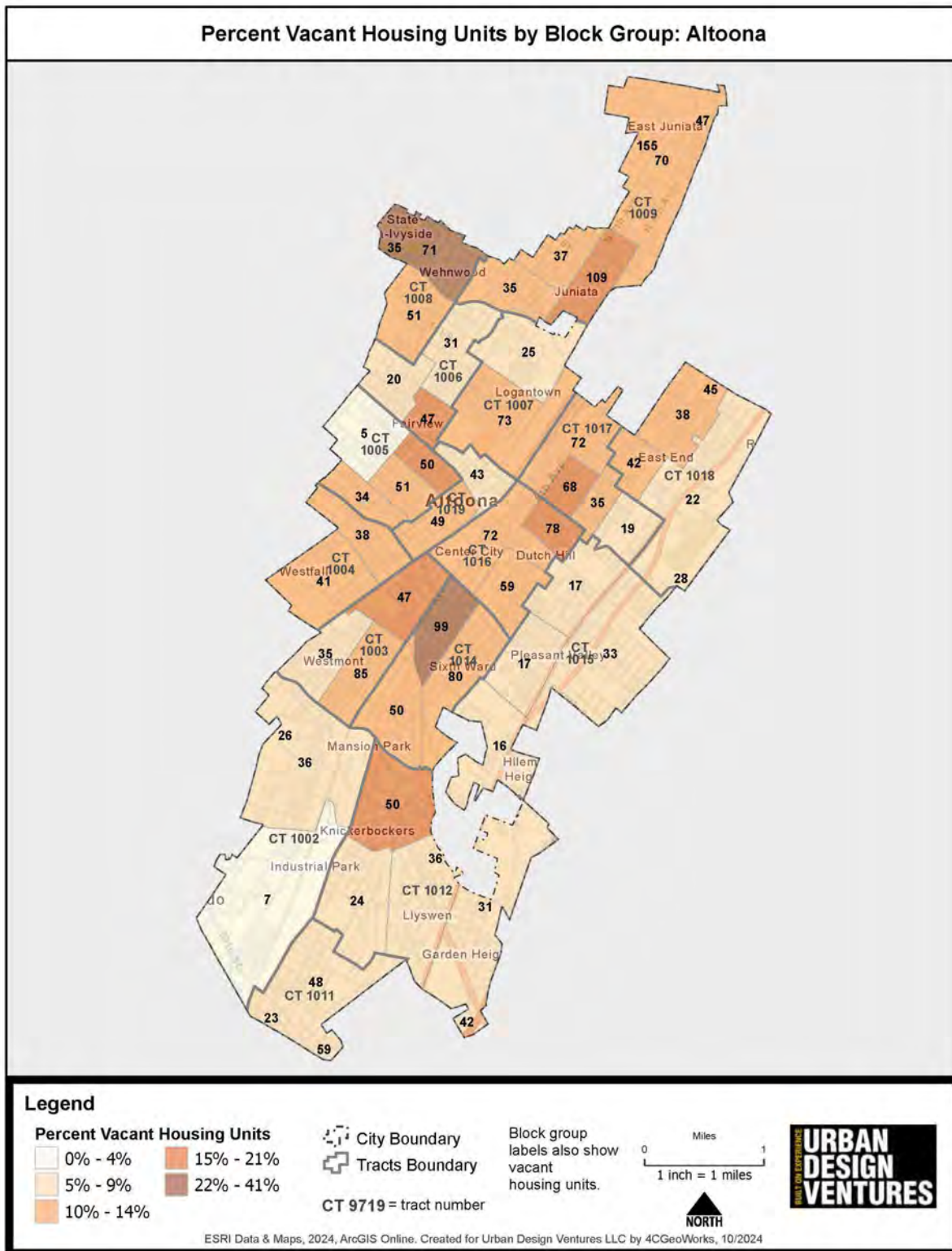
Total Housing Units by Block Point



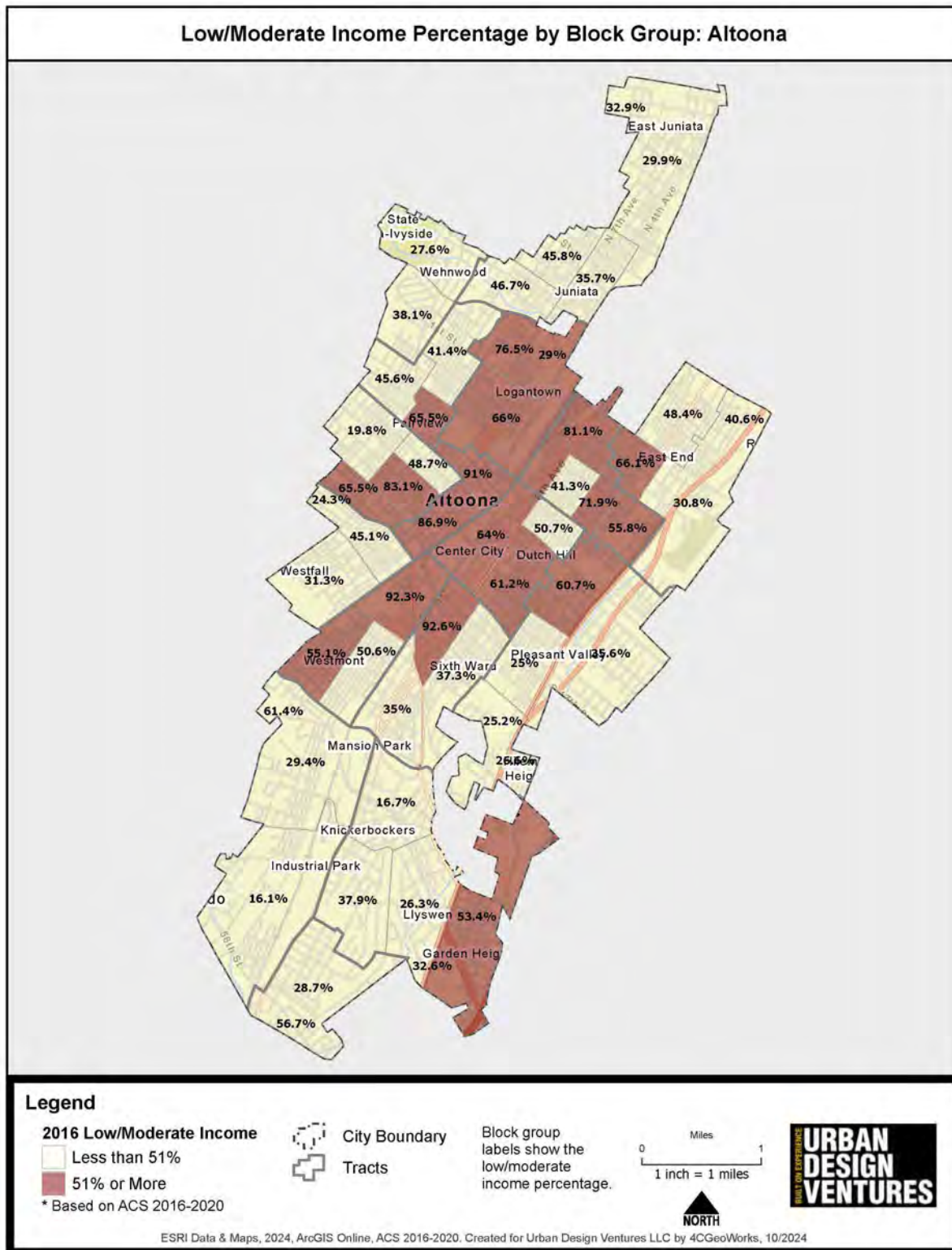
Owner-Occupied Housing Units by Block Group



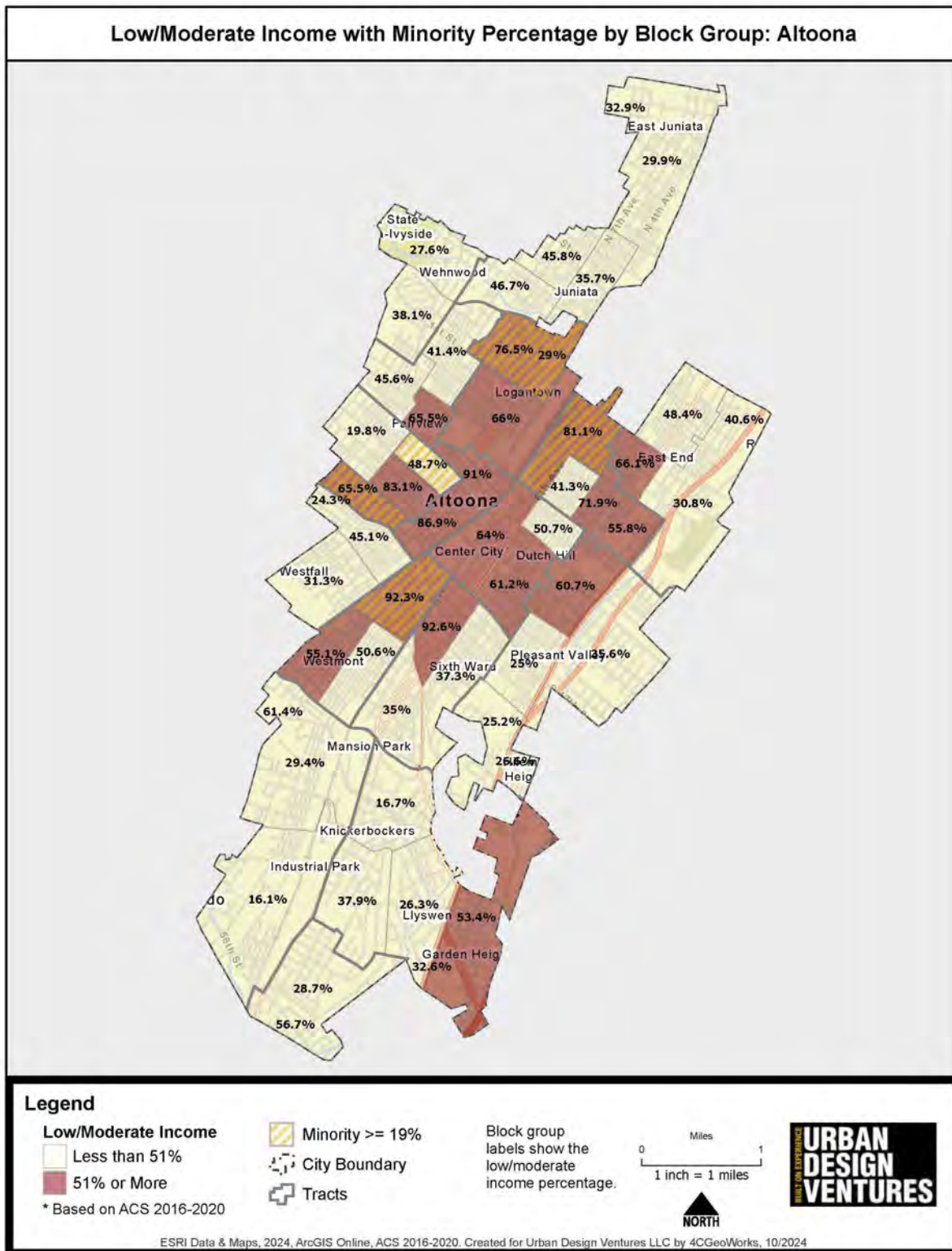
Renter-Occupied Housing Units by Block Group



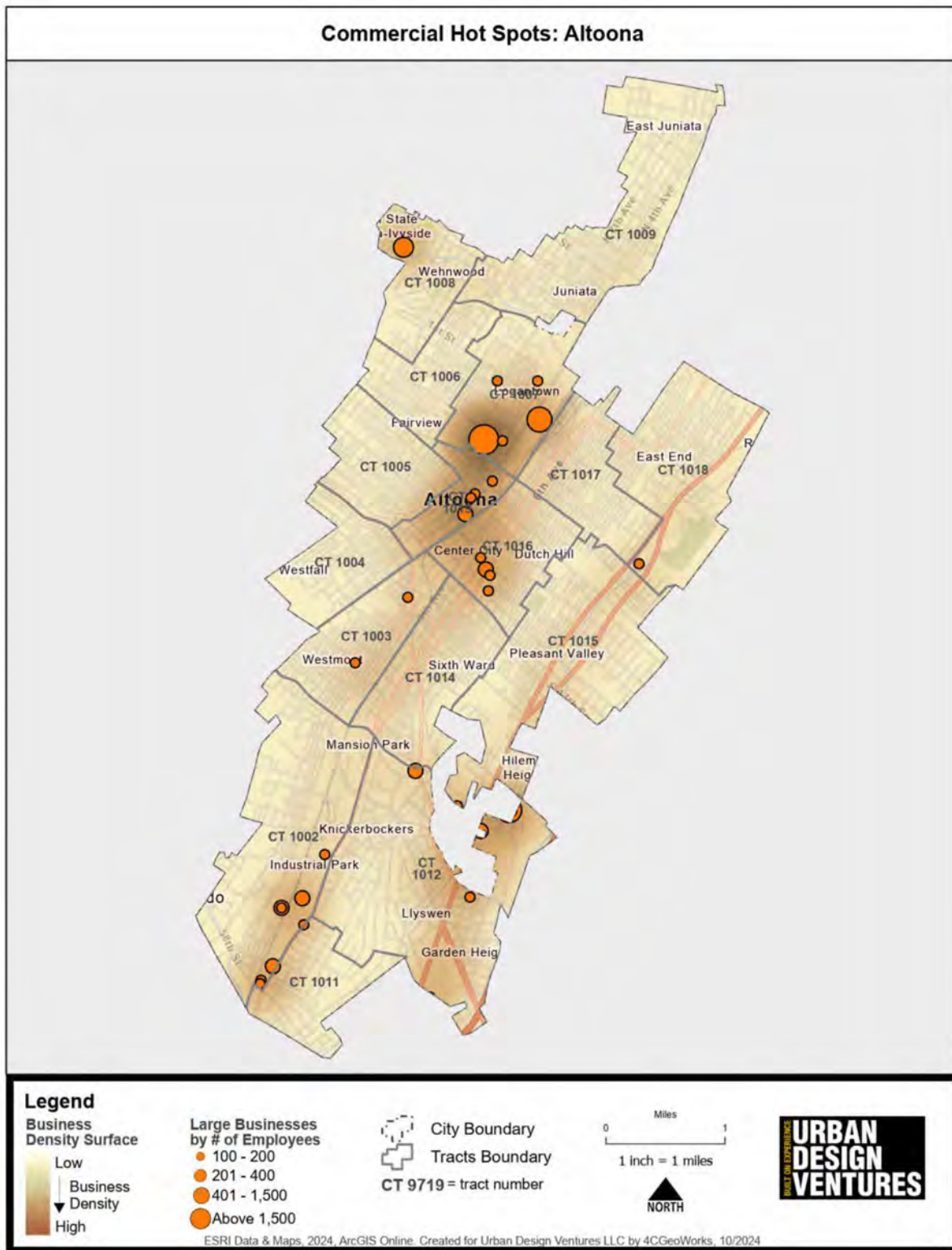
Vacant Housing Units by Block Group



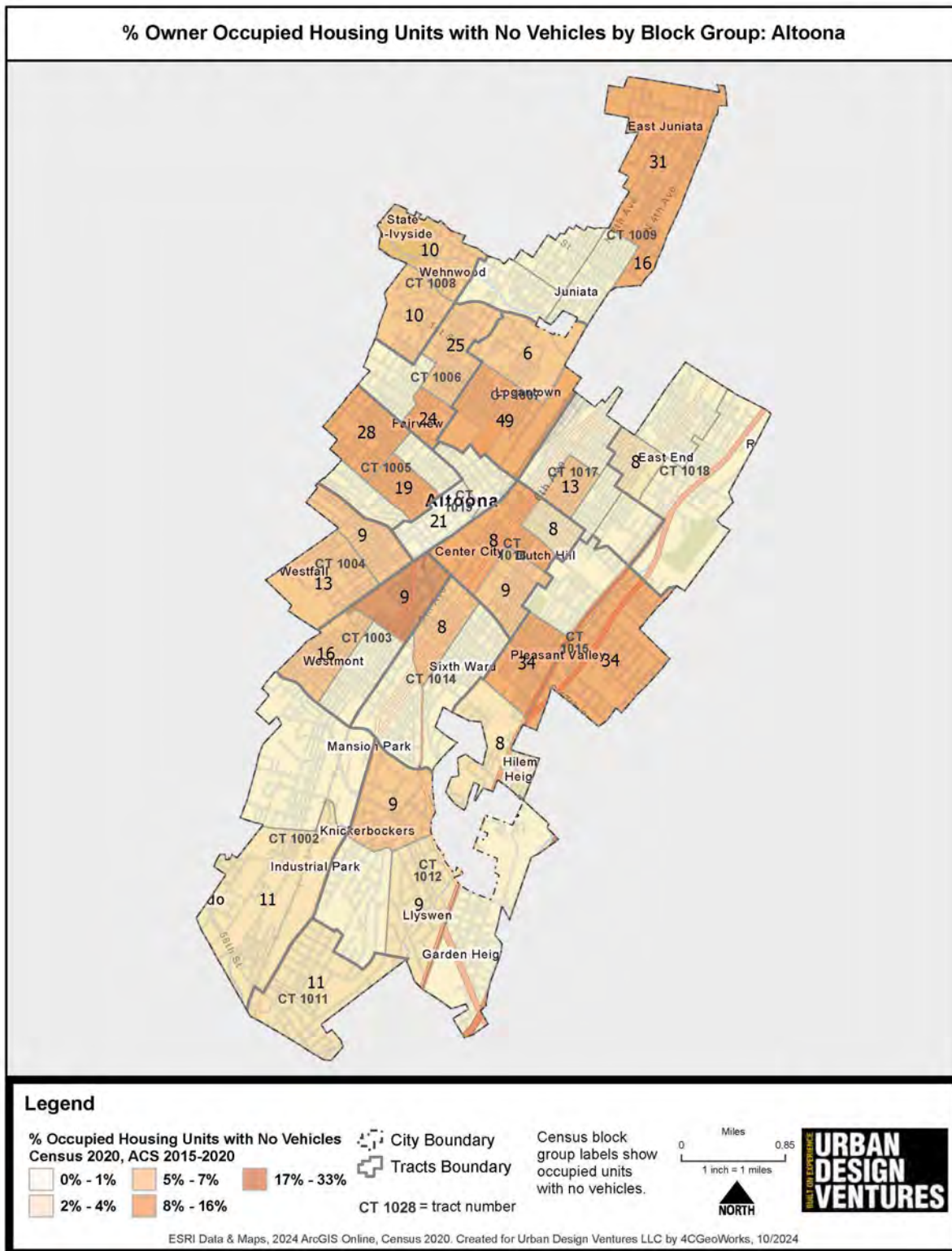
Low/Moderate Income Percentage by Block Group



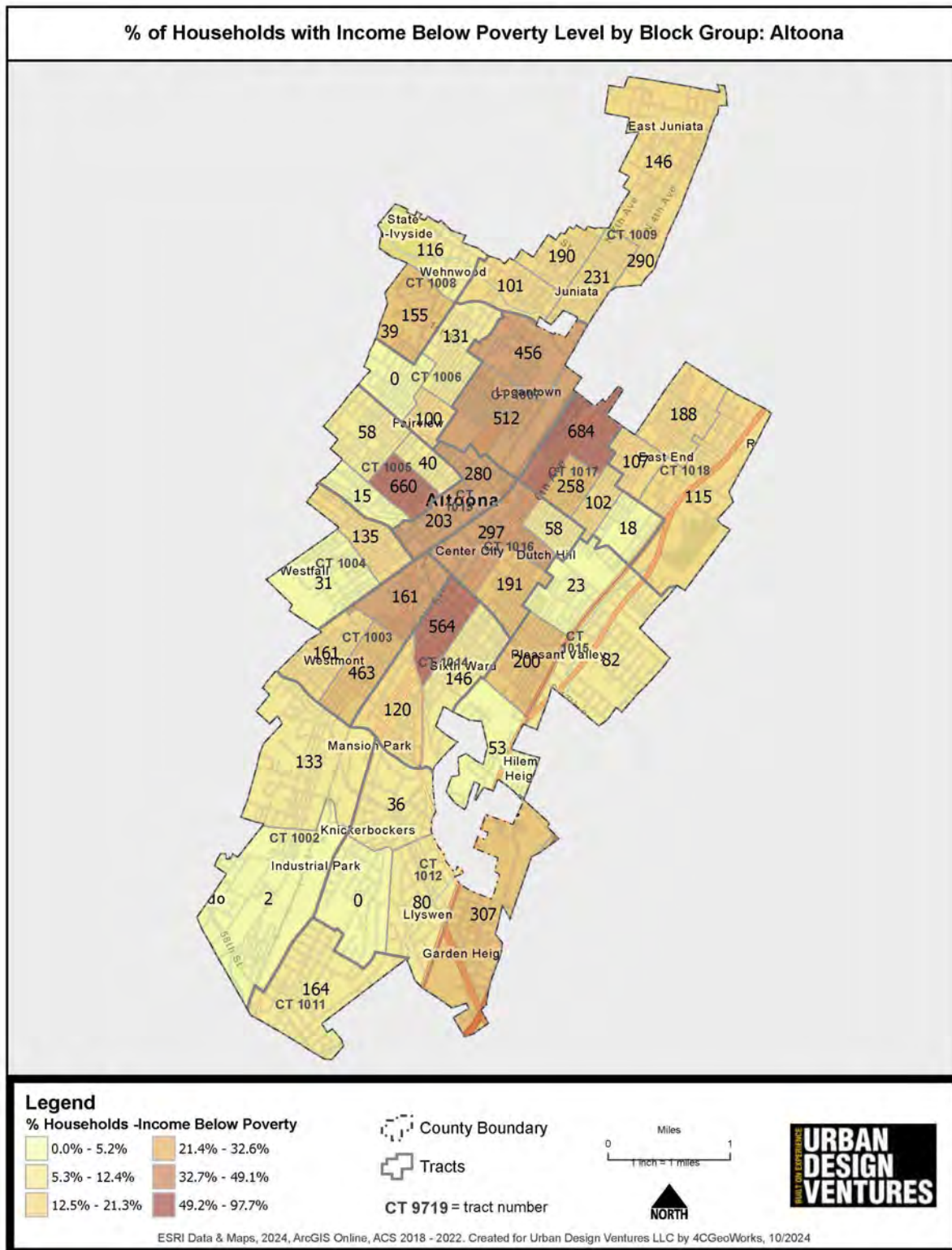
Low/Moderate Income with Minority Percentage by Block Group



Commercial Hot Spots

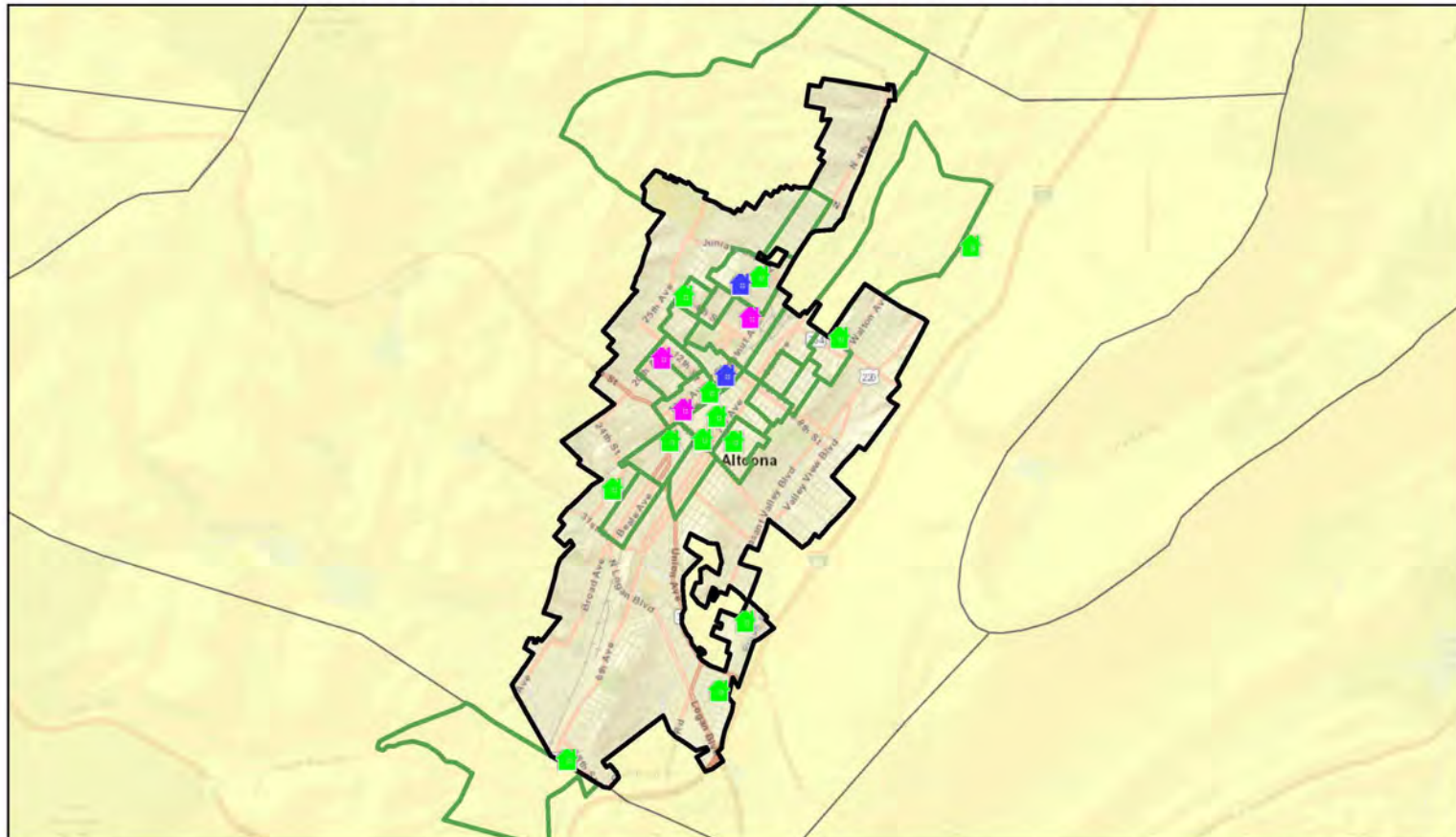


Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicles by Block Group



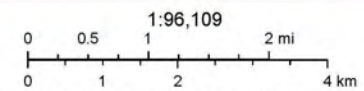
Households with Income Below Poverty Level by Block Group

City of Altoona, PA - Public Housing with Low/Mod Block Groups



June 30, 2025

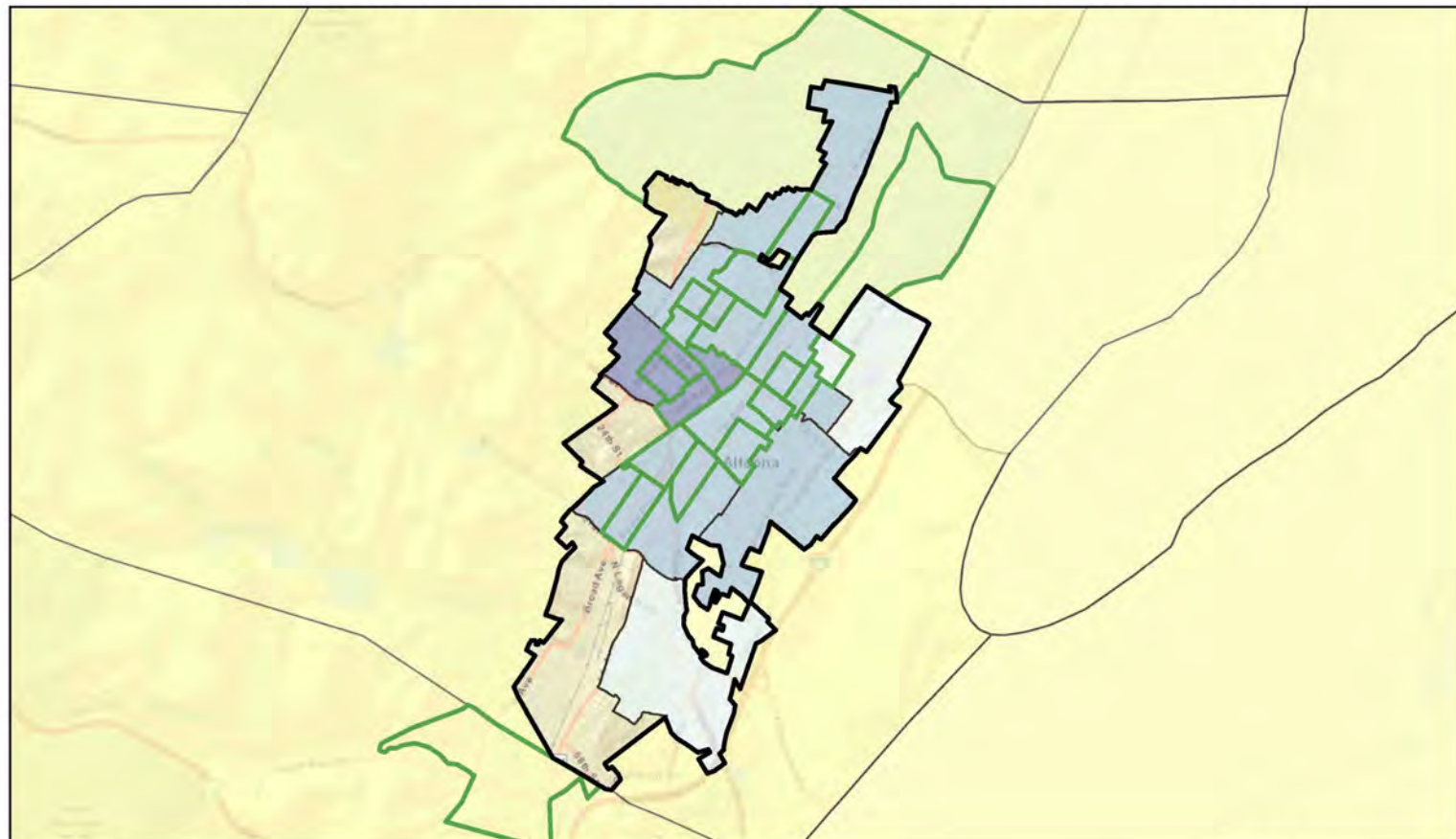
- | | |
|---|--|
|  Public Housing Development |  City of Altoona |
|  LIHTC Property |  Low/Mod Block Groups |
|  Multifamily Properties - Assisted |  UGLG Grantee |



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Public Housing with Low/Mod Block Groups

City of Altoona, PA - Voucher Concentration with Low/Mod Block Groups



June 30, 2025

City of Altoona

UGLG Grantee

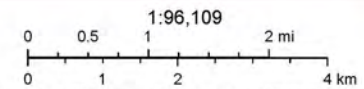
7.26-15.58%

Low Mod Blockgroup

VoucherConcentration

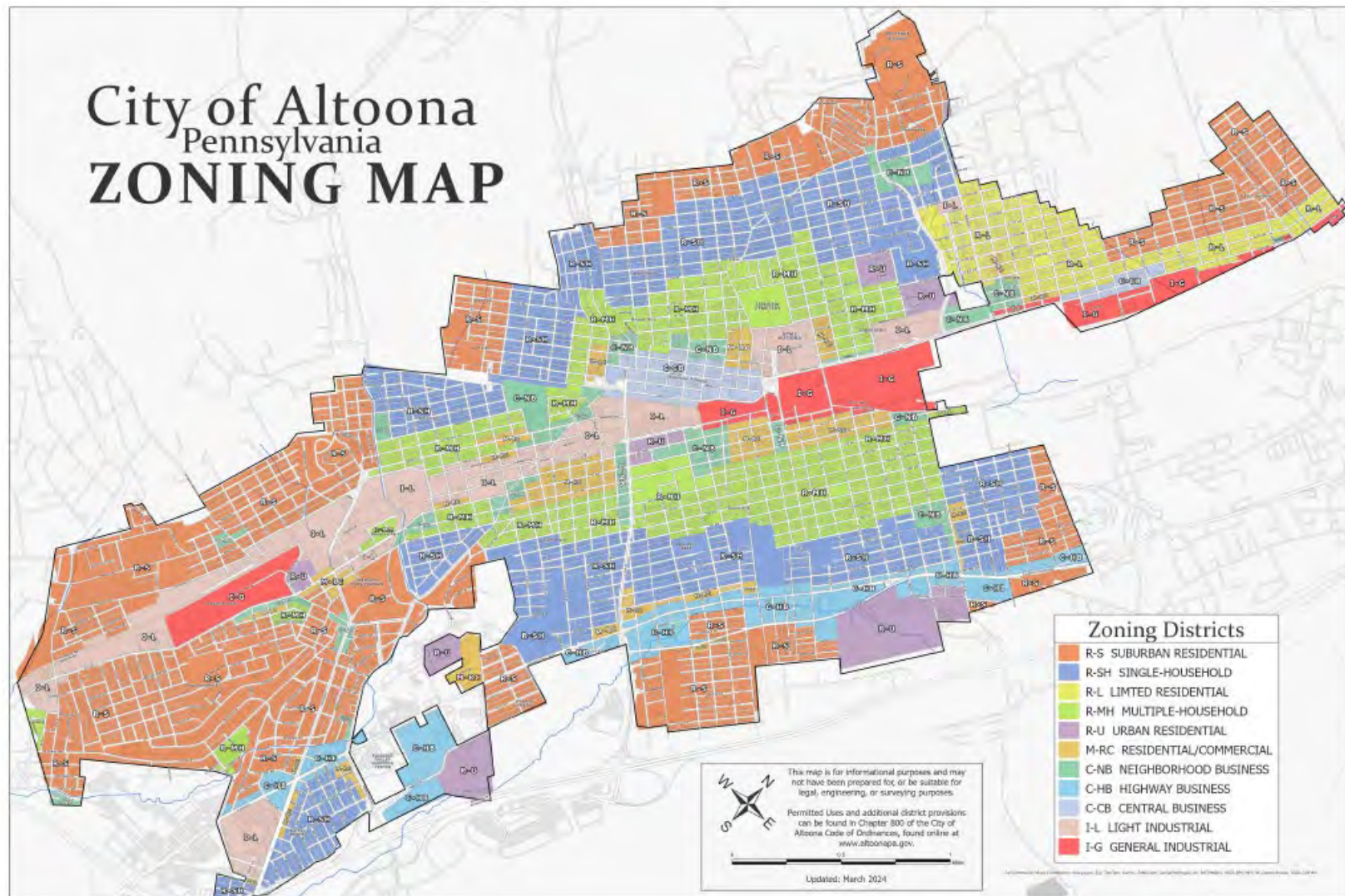
15.58-29.12%

0-7.26%



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Voucher Concentration with Low/Mod Block Groups



2024 Altoona Zoning Map

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

The City of Altoona's FY 2025-2029 Five-Year Consolidated Plan serves as a consolidated planning document, an application, and a Community Development Strategic Plan for the City of Altoona. The document proposes six (6) priority areas to address the needs in the City of Altoona. Following are the Five-Year priorities and subsequent goals:

Housing Priority - (HS)

There is a need to increase the amount of affordable, decent, safe, and sanitary housing for homebuyers, owner occupants, and renters.

Goals:

- **HS-1 Homeownership** - Assist low- and moderate-income homebuyers to purchase homes through down payment / closing cost assistance and associated housing counseling and training.
- **HS-2 Housing Development** - Increase the number of affordable, decent, safe, and sanitary housing units in the community for homebuyers and renters, through adaptive reuse of existing buildings and new construction.
- **HS-3 Housing Rehabilitation** - Conserve and rehabilitate existing affordable housing units occupied by owners and renters in the community by addressing code violations, emergency repairs and handicap accessibility.
- **HS-4 Rent and Utility Assistance** - Provide rental assistance for low- and moderate-income renters through utility payments, security deposits, and rental payments including Tenant Based Rental Assistance for low-income households who may be faced with the threat of eviction and who are at-risk of becoming homeless.

Homeless Priority - (HO)

There is a need to develop and preserve housing opportunities for homeless persons and persons or families at-risk of becoming homeless.

Goals:

- **HO-1 Housing** - Support the Continuum of Care and non-profit housing agencies' efforts to provide emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, and other permanent housing opportunities.
- **HO-2 Operation and Support** - Assist providers who operate housing or provide support services for the homeless and persons or families at-risk of becoming homeless to achieve self-sufficiency.

- **HO-3 Prevention and Re-Housing** - Continue to support the prevention of homelessness through anti-eviction activities and programs for re-housing.

Other Special Needs Priority - (SN)

There is a need to increase housing opportunities, services, and facilities for persons with special needs.

Goals:

- **SN-1 Housing** - Increase the supply of affordable, accessible, decent, safe, and sanitary housing for the elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDS, victims of domestic violence, persons with alcohol/drug dependency, and persons with other special needs through rehabilitation of existing buildings, construction of new housing, and providing rental assistance (including rent payments, security deposits, utility deposits and payments, and case management to achieve self-sufficiency) for low- and moderate-income residents.
- **SN-2 Social Services** - Support social service programs and facilities for the elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDS, victims of domestic violence, persons with alcohol/drug dependency, and persons with other special needs.

Community Development Priority - (CD)

There is a need to improve community facilities, infrastructure, public services, and the quality of life for residents living in the City of Altoona.

Goals:

- **CD-1 Community Facilities** - Improve parks, recreational facilities, trails, public buildings, community and neighborhood facilities throughout the City.
- **CD-2 Infrastructure** - Improve the public infrastructure through rehabilitation, reconstruction, and new construction, of streets, sidewalks, bridges, curbs, walkways, water, storm water, sanitary sewer, handicap accessibility improvements/removal of architectural barriers, etc.
- **CD-3 Public Services** - Improve and enhance public services, programs for youth, the elderly, and disabled, and general social/welfare public service programs for low- and moderate-income persons.
- **CD-4 Clearance/Demolition** - Remove and eliminate slum and blighting conditions through demolition of vacant, abandoned, and dilapidated structures.
- **CD-5 Accessibility Improvements** - Improve the physical, visual, and handicapped accessibility of community facilities and infrastructure.

- **CD-6 Transportation** - Support the expansion of transportation options for low- and moderate-income residents, the disabled and elderly to access services, shopping and employment.

Economic Development Priority - (ED)

There is a need to increase employment, workforce development, self-sufficiency, educational training, and empowerment for residents of the City of Altoona.

Goals:

- **ED-1 Employment** - Support and encourage job creation, job retention, and job training opportunities.
- **ED-2 Development** - Support entrepreneurial ventures, business and commercial growth through expansion and new development.
- **ED-3 Redevelopment** - Plan and promote the development, redevelopment, and revitalization of vacant commercial and industrial sites.
- **ED-4 Financial Assistance** - Support and encourage new economic development through local, state, and Federal tax incentives and programs such as Tax Incremental Financing (TIF), Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA), Enterprise Zones/Entitlement Communities, Section 108 Loan Guarantees, Economic Development Initiative (EDI) funds, Opportunity Zones, Congressionally Directed Spending, etc.
- **ED-5 Access to Transportation** - Support the expansion of public transportation and access to bus and automobile service to assist residents to get to work or training opportunities.

Administration, Planning, and Management Priority - (AM)

There is a need for planning, administration, management, and oversight of Federal, State, and local funded programs.

Goals:

- **AM-1 Overall Coordination** - Provide program management and oversight for the successful administration of Federal, State, and locally funded programs, including planning services for special studies, annual action plans, five-year consolidated plans, substantial amendments, consolidated annual performance and evaluation reports (CAPER), environmental reviews and clearances, fair housing, and compliance with all Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.
- **AM-2 Fair Housing** - Promote fair housing choice through education, training, and outreach and legal assistance for income-eligible households.

3. Evaluation of past performance

The City of Altoona has a good performance record with HUD. The City regularly meets its performance standards as set by HUD. Each year the City prepares the required Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER). The report is submitted within ninety (90) days after the start of the new program year. Copies of the CAPER are available for review at the City Department of Community Development, 1301 12th Street, Altoona, PA.

The FY 2023 CAPER, which was the fourth CAPER for the FY 2020-2024 Five-Year Consolidated Plan, was approved by HUD. In the FY 2023 CAPER, the City of Altoona expended 87.95% of its CDBG funds to benefit low- and moderate-income persons. The City expended 8.31% of its funds during the FY 2023 CAPER period on public service, which is below the statutory maximum of 15%. The City expended 19.56% of its funds during this CAPER period on Planning and Administration, which is below the statutory maximum of 20%. As of May 1, 2025, the City of Altoona has a drawdown ratio of 1.35, which is compliant with the required 1.5 maximum drawdown ratio.

The HOME program has been administered in a timely manner and in accordance with applicable activity limitations and match requirements. In Program Year 2023 the City received \$390,296.00. Total HOME funds expended for Program Year consisted of \$39,029.60 for administrative costs and \$351,266.40 in project costs.

The City was not required to provide a match for FY 2024's HOME funds as the City satisfied the distressed criteria for participating jurisdictions in accordance with HOME Program regulations. The City has also met the 15% Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) requirement.

4. Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process

The City of Altoona, in compliance with the City's Citizen Participation Plan, advertised and held a public hearing on the needs of the City of Altoona that provided residents with the opportunity to discuss the City's CDBG and HOME Programs and to offer their suggestions on future CDBG and HOME program priorities.

The City maintains a mailing list for the CDBG and HOME programs, and copies of all public hearing notices and a survey concerning the program were mailed to all the agencies and individuals on the list.

A "Draft Plan" was placed on display on the City's website at <https://www.altoonapa.gov/> and copies of the plan were available for review at the following locations:

- **City Clerk's Office and City Department of Community Development**
1301 12th Street

Altoona, PA

- **Altoona Housing Authority**
2700 Pleasant Valley Boulevard
Altoona, PA
- **Altoona Area Public Library**
1600 Fifth Avenue
Altoona, PA

Upon request, the City would email an electronic copy of the draft plans to any person who requested a copy of the plans via email or by calling (814) 949-2470, or 711 for the hearing impaired.

Additionally, the City developed and disseminated an online citizen's survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AltoonaCDBG2025-2029>.

The City developed the Five-Year Consolidated Plan based on the input received from the public and stakeholders through interviews, public hearings, draft plan review comments, and the citizen's survey.

5. Summary of public comments

The City of Altoona held its First Public Hearing on Thursday, August 22, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Comments received at the public hearing are included in the attachments at the end of the Five-Year Plan.

The Five-Year Consolidated Plan and FY 2025 Annual Action Plan were placed on public display and a Second Public Hearing was held on Wednesday, August 6, 2025. Comments received at the public hearing are included in the attachments at the end of the Five-Year Plan.

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

All comments and suggestions received to date have been accepted and incorporated into the planning documents.

7. Summary

The main goal of the Five-Year Consolidated Plan is to improve the living conditions of residents in the City of Altoona, create a suitable and sustainable living environment, and to address the housing, community, and economic development needs of residents.

The Five-Year Consolidated Planning process assists the City in setting priorities to pursue goals for all housing, community development, and planning programs. The City will use the Consolidated Plan's priorities and goals to allocate CDBG and HOME funding over the next five (5) years. The document helps provide direction for partners working to address the housing and community development needs of the low- and moderate-income population of the City. HUD evaluates the City's performance under the Consolidated Plan against these goals.

During the FY 2025 CDBG and HOME Program Year, the City of Altoona proposes to address the following strategies from its Five-Year Consolidated Plan:

- Housing
- Homelessness
- Other Special Needs
- Community Development
- Economic Development
- Administration, Planning, and Management

Drafts of the FY 2025-2029 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and FY 2025 Annual Action Plan were placed on display at:

- **City Clerk's Office and City Department of Community Development**
1301 12th Street, Altoona, PA
- **Altoona Housing Authority**
2700 Pleasant Valley Boulevard, Altoona, PA
- **Altoona Area Public Library**
1600 Fifth Avenue, Altoona, PA

The 30-day display period started on Tuesday, July 8, 2025 and ended on Thursday, August 7, 2025. A second public hearing was held on August 6, 2025 at the Altoona City Hall 4th Floor Conference Room to discuss the proposed activities and solicit citizen comments on the Plan. Upon completion of the 30-day comment period, the City of Altoona will submit the FY 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and FY 2025 Annual Action Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Pittsburgh Office on or about Friday, August 15, 2025.

8. FY 2025 CDBG and HOME Program Budgets:

FY 2025 Available Funds: The following financial resources are included in the FY 2025 Annual Action Plan to address the priority needs and goals identified in the City's FY 2025-2029 Five-Year Consolidated Plan. The City will receive the following Federal funds during the FY 2025 program year:

- FY 2025 CDBG Allocation: \$1,536,368.00

- CDBG Program Income: \$80,000.00
- FY 2025 HOME Allocation: \$266,494.73
- HOME Program Income: \$0.00
- **Total Funds: \$1,882,862.73**

FY 2025 CDBG and HOME Budget

The following CDBG activities are proposed for funding under the FY 2025 Annual Action Plan:

1. CDBG Administration	\$ 287,596.00
2. Fair Housing	\$ 30,000.00
3. Single Family Homeowner Rehabilitation Loan	\$ 400,000.00
4. Single Family Owner-Occupied Emergency Repair	\$ 50,000.00
5. Emergency Roof Replacement Program	\$ 110,000.00
6. Street Reconstruction	\$ 200,000.00
7. 8 th Street Sidewalk Project	\$ 415,557.00
8. Operation Safe Space	\$ 5,000.00
9. The Salvation Army - Rent, Fuel, and Utility Payments	\$ 25,000.00
10. Overflow Church - Jefferson Park Meal Program Initiative	\$ 33,295.00
11. Overflow Church Warming Center - Overnight Shelter	\$ 49,920.00
12. Railroaders Memorial Museum	\$ 10,000.00
Total FY 2025 CDBG Funds for Project Activities:	\$ 1,616,368.00

The following HOME activities are proposed for funding under the FY 2025 Annual Action Plan:

13. HOME Program Administration	\$ 26,649.00
14. HOME Rental Rehabilitation	\$ 131,777.73
15. IDA-CDC Kitchen Replacement at the Fairview Building	\$ 108,068.00
Total FY 2025 HOME Funds for Project Activities:	\$ 266,494.73

The Process

PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies 24 CFR 91.200(b)

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

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

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
Lead Agency	ALTOONA	Department of Community Development
CDBG Administrator	ALTOONA	Department of Community Development
HOME Administrator	ALTOONA	Department of Community Development

Table 1 - Responsible Agencies

Narrative

The administering lead agency and administrator is the City of Altoona's Department of Community Development for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Programs. The Director of Community Development, Mr. Eric Luchansky, reports directly to the Mayor and City Manager. The Department of Community Development is responsible for preparing Five-Year Consolidated Plans, Annual Action Plans, Environmental Review Records (ERRs), Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Reports (CAPER), monitoring, pay requests, contracting, and oversight of the programs on a day-to-day basis. Additionally, the City of Altoona has engaged a community planning and development consulting firm to assist the City on an as-needed basis for CDBG and HOME projects.

All Annual Action Plans submitted during the FY 2025-2029 period will be in accordance with the goals set forth in this Consolidated Plan. Should an unaddressed need be identified, the City will take actions up to and including preparation of a Substantial Amendment to this document. This process will include resident and organizational input per the City's Citizen Participation Plan.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Mr. Eric Luchansky
 Director of Community Development
 City of Altoona
 1301 12th Street, Suite 400
 Altoona, Pennsylvania 16601
 Phone: (814) 949-2470
 Fax: (814) 949-0372
planning@altoonapa.gov

PR-10 Consultation - 91.100, 91.200(b), 91.215(I)**1. Introduction**

The City of Altoona held a series of meetings with non-profit groups, housing providers, social service agencies, community and economic development organizations, and City departments. An online survey was created for stakeholders and residents to complete, which identified community needs, gaps in the system, etc. Input from the meetings and survey were used in the development of specific strategies and goals for the Five-Year Consolidated Plan.

Each year, as a part of the CDBG and HOME application process, local agencies/organizations are invited to submit applications for CDBG and HOME eligible activities as well as participate in public hearings. A complete list of agencies contacted and representatives that participated in meetings for the Consolidated Plan can be found in the Citizen Participation attachment.

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

The City of Altoona works with the following agencies to enhance coordination:

- **Altoona Housing Authority** - Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers and improvements to public housing communities.
- **Social Services Agencies** - funds to improve services to low- and moderate-income persons.
- **Housing Providers** - funds to rehabilitate and develop affordable housing and provide housing options for low- and moderate-income households.

Each year, as part of the CDBG and HOME application planning process, local agencies and organizations are invited to submit proposals for CDBG and HOME funds for eligible activities. These groups participate in the planning process by attending the public hearings, and having roundtable discussions, and completing survey forms.

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 Eastern Pennsylvania CoC (PA-509) is comprised of 33 Counties, including Blair County and the City of Altoona. For planning purposes, the CoC is divided into five regions and managed by a Regional Homeless Advisory Board (RHAB). Altoona is a member of the South Central RHAB and takes an active role in supporting the RHAB's mission to break the cycle of homelessness. This

structure provides a variety of local services ranging from outreach and assessment to emergency and transitional housing to permanent housing services. All persons are assessed to determine their individuals needs and referred appropriately.

The Center for Community Action Agency provides a HUD approved Housing Counseling Program offering one-on-one counseling services and workshops in the following areas: pre-purchase, post-purchase, mortgage delinquency, rental and near homeless.

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

The City of Altoona's Planning Department staff participates in the Blair County Local Housing Options Team (LHOT) which is the local group that represents Altoona/Blair County to the CoC. Issues facing homeless persons in Altoona are discussed at the LHOT meeting and these local needs are reported to the greater CoC. The Healthy Blair County Coalition (HBCC) conducts a regular Community Health Needs Assessment. While this assessment is not specifically geared toward homeless people, it does address issues regarding the social, economic, emotional, and physical well-being of area residents regardless of their housing status. The most recent version of this needs assessment was completed in June of 2021, and the 2024 Community Needs Assessment will be published in 2025.

The Point in Time survey of sheltered and unsheltered homeless is conducted annually on the date prescribed by HUD. The count from the most recent completed survey in 2024 indicated that there were 101 people in 67 families that were considered homeless. Of those, 63 individuals in 33 households were in emergency shelter; 12 persons in 12 households were in transitional housing; and 26 persons in 22 households were unsheltered.

The CoC does not directly receive ESG funds. ESG funds for member counties and cities in the Eastern Pennsylvania CoC are administered through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). DCED has developed a process for allocating funds, for evaluating outcomes and for developing policies and procedures. The CoC is consulted by DCED regarding past program performance and involvement of ESG applicants.

2. Describe Agencies, groups, organizations and others who participated in the process and describe the jurisdictions consultations with housing, social service agencies and other entities

1.	Agency/Group/Organization	City of Altoona
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Victims Service-Fair Housing Agency-Managing Flood Prone Areas Agency-Management of Public Land or Water Resources Agency-Emergency Management Other government-Local Planning Organization Grantee Department
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs HOPWA Strategy Market Analysis Economic Development Lead-based Paint Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The City of Altoona Department of Community Development is the lead agency for the FY 2025-2029 Five-Year Consolidated Plan. Staff consulted other City departments including the Code Enforcement, Fire, Police, and Public Works Departments. Staff also consulted the City Council and the acting City Manager.
2.	Agency/Group/Organization	Altoona Area Public Library
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Education Services-Narrowing the Digital Divide Other government-County
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Community Development Strategy

	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Altoona Area Public Library was consulted to ascertain educational needs and priorities within the City of Altoona.
3.	Agency/Group/Organization	Altoona Area School District
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Health Services-Education Child Welfare Agency Other government-Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Altoona Area School District was consulted to ascertain educational needs and priorities within the City of Altoona.
4.	Agency/Group/Organization	Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Regional Organization Planning Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission was consulted to ascertain the economic development needs of the City of Altoona.

5.	Agency/Group/Organization	Blair Drug and Alcohol Partnerships
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Health Services-Homeless Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-Victims Other government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs-Chronically Homeless Homeless Needs-Families with Children Homelessness Needs-Veterans Homelessness Needs-Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Blair Drug and Alcohol Partnerships was consulted to ascertain the social service and homeless needs of the City of Altoona.
6.	Agency/Group/Organization	Altoona Housing Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Public Housing Authority Services-Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Public Housing Needs Housing Needs Assessment Homelessness Strategy Market Analysis Economic Development Lead-based Paint Strategy Anti-Poverty Strategy Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Altoona Housing Authority was consulted to ascertain the housing needs of the City of Altoona.

7.	Agency/Group/Organization	Blair County Alliance for Business and Economic Growth (Blair Alliance)
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Regional organization Planning organization Business Leaders Civic Leaders Business and Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Blair Alliance (Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation and Blair County Chamber of Commerce) was consulted to ascertain the economic development needs of the City of Altoona.
8.	Agency/Group/Organization	Center for Community Action
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Victims Regional organization Continuum of Care
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	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 HOPWA Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy Community Development Strategy

	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Center for Community Action (which manages the Blair County Community Action Program) is the representative to the Eastern Pennsylvania Continuum of Care. It was consulted to ascertain the fair housing, housing, and homeless needs of the City of Altoona.
9.	Agency/Group/Organization	Altoona Curve Baseball Team
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Business Leaders Business and Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Market Analysis Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Altoona Curve was consulted to ascertain the economic development needs for the City of Altoona.
10.	Agency/Group/Organization	Center for Independent Living of South Central Pennsylvania
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Health Service-Fair Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Center for Independent Living was consulted to ascertain the housing and social service needs of the City of Altoona.
11.	Agency/Group/Organization	Blair Senior Services, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Blair Senior Services, Inc. was consulted to ascertain the housing needs and non-housing special needs of the City of Altoona.
12.	Agency/Group/Organization	Central Blair Recreation and Parks
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Agency-Managing Flood Prone Areas Agency-Management of Public Land or Water Resources Other government-County Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Central Blair Recreation and Park Commission was consulted to ascertain the community development needs of the City of Altoona.
13.	Agency/Group/Organization	UPMC Hospital-Altoona
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-Health Services-Victims Health Agency Child Welfare Agency Regional organization Major Employer

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs-Chronically homeless Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	UPMC Hospital-Altoona was consulted to ascertain the social service and healthcare needs of the City of Altoona.
14.	Agency/Group/Organization	Altoona Redevelopment Authority
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Agency-Management of Public Land or Water Resources Other government-Local Business and Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Altoona Redevelopment Authority was consulted to ascertain the housing, economic development, and community development needs of the City of Altoona.
15.	Agency/Group/Organization	Blair Planning
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Regional organization Planning organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Blair Planning was consulted to ascertain the housing, economic development, and community development needs of the City of Altoona.

16.	Agency/Group/Organization	Blair County Department of Social Services
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Housing Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Employment Health Agency Child Welfare Agency Other government-County
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	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 HOPWA Strategy Lead-based Paint Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Blair County Department of Social Services was consulted to ascertain the homeless, social service, and healthcare needs of the City of Altoona.
17.	Agency/Group/Organization	Blair Health Choices
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-homeless Services-Health Services-Victims Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Blair Health Choices (the Central PA Behavioral Health Collaborative, Inc.) was consulted to ascertain the social service and healthcare needs of the City of Altoona.
18.	Agency/Group/Organization	Curry Services, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Business Leaders Civic Leaders Business and Civic Leaders Major Employer
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Curry Services, Inc. was consulted to ascertain the economic and community development needs of the City of Altoona.
19.	Agency/Group/Organization	Family Services, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-Homeless Services-Victims Child Welfare Agency Publicly Funded Institution/System of Care

	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs HOPWA Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency/Group/Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Family Services, Inc. was consulted to ascertain the social service, homeless, housing, and healthcare needs of the City of Altoona.
20.	Agency/Group/Organization	First Commonwealth Bank
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Business Leaders Private Sector Banking/Financing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	First Commonwealth Bank was consulted to ascertain the housing, economic, and community development needs of the City of Altoona.
21.	Agency/Group/Organization	Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Education Civic Leaders Foundation
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy Community Development Strategy

	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation was consulted to ascertain the social service needs of the City of Altoona.
22.	Agency/Group/Organization	Improved Dwellings for Altoona, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Housing Services - Housing Service-Fair Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Improved Dwellings of Altoona, Inc. was consulted to ascertain the housing needs of the City of Altoona.
23.	Agency/Group/Organization	Healthy Blair County Coalition
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Health Regional organization Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Non-Homeless Special Needs Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Healthy Blair County Coalition was consulted to ascertain the social service and healthcare needs of the City of Altoona.

24.	Agency/Group/Organization	James A. Van Zandt Altoona Veterans Administration Medical Center
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-Homeless Services-Health Services-Victims Health Agency Other government-Federal Major Employer
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically Homeless Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Van Zandt Altoona VA Medical Center was consulted to ascertain the social service and healthcare needs of the City of Altoona.
25.	Agency/Group/Organization	M&T Bank
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Business Leaders Major Employer Private Sector Banking/Financing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	M&T Bank was consulted to ascertain the housing and economic development needs of the City of Altoona.
26.	Agency/Group/Organization	National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Blair County

	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Health
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	NAMI Blair County was consulted to ascertain the social service and healthcare needs of the City of Altoona.
27.	Agency/Group/Organization	Overflow Church
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Homeless Civic Leaders Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Overflow Church was consulted to ascertain the social service and community development needs of the City of Altoona.

28.	Agency/Group/Organization	Operation Our Town
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Planning organization Civic Leaders Neighborhood Organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Operation Our Town was consulted to ascertain the housing, homeless, social service, economic development, and community development needs of the City of Altoona.
29.	Agency/Group/Organization	Pennsylvania State University (Penn State) at Altoona
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Education Services-Employment Services-Narrowing the Digital Divide Other government-State Major Employer
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Penn State-Altoona was consulted to ascertain the education, economic development, and community development needs of the City of Altoona.

30.	Agency/Group/Organization	Salvation Army
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Homeless Services-Employment Regional organization Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Salvation Army was consulted to ascertain the housing, homeless, social service and community development needs of the City of Altoona.
31.	Agency/Group/Organization	Sheetz, Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Regional organization Business Leaders Business and Civic Leaders Major Employer
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Sheetz, Inc. was consulted to ascertain the economic and community development needs of the City of Altoona.

32.	Agency/Group/Organization	Summit Legal Aid
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Service-Fair Housing Services-Victims Regional organization
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs HOPWA Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Summit Legal Aid is the Fair Housing provider under contract with the City. It was consulted to ascertain the housing and community development needs of the City of Altoona.
33.	Agency/Group/Organization	United Way of the Southern Alleghenies
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Housing Services-Children Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Persons with HIV/AIDS Services-Victims of Domestic Violence Services-Homeless Services-Health Services-Employment Service-Fair Housing Services-Victims Regional organization Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	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 HOPWA Strategy Anti-poverty Strategy Community Development Strategy

	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	United Way of the Southern Alleghenies was consulted to ascertain the housing, homeless, social service and community development needs of the City of Altoona.
34.	Agency/Group/Organization	Veterans Leadership Program
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Elderly Persons Services-Persons with Disabilities Services-Homeless Services-Employment Regional organization Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Strategy Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Veterans Leadership Program was consulted to ascertain the homeless and social service needs of the City of Altoona.
35.	Agency/Group/Organization	Webber Advisors
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Planning organization Business Leaders Business and Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Market Analysis Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Webber Advisors was consulted to ascertain the housing, economic and community development needs of the City of Altoona.

36.	Agency/Group/Organization	Crowsnest Broadband
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Broadband Internet Service Providers Services-Narrowing the Digital Divide Regional organization Business Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Crowsnest Broadband website was examined to ascertain the availability of broadband internet in the City of Altoona.
37.	Agency/Group/Organization	Verizon
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-Broadband Internet Service Providers Services-Narrowing the Digital Divide Regional organization Business Leaders Major Employer
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Anti-poverty Strategy Community Development Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Verizon website was examined to ascertain the availability of broadband internet in the City of Altoona.

Table 2 - Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

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

All known agency types were consulted and contacted during the planning process. See Appendices for meeting notes.

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?
Continuum of Care	Center for Community Action	They are incorporated in the FY 2025-2029 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plans.
Annual Plan and 5-Year Plan	Altoona Housing Authority	They are incorporated in the FY 2025-2029 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plans.
All Together Altoona Comprehensive Plan	Altoona Department of Community Development	They are incorporated in the FY 2025-2029 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plans.
BRAVE - Blair Resilience: Addressing Vulnerability and Exposure Hazard Mitigation Plan	Blair Planning	They are incorporated in the FY 2025-2029 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plans.
Alleghenies Ahead Comprehensive Plan	Blair Planning	They are incorporated in the FY 2025-2029 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plans.
Blair County 2021-2045 Long Range Transportation Plan	Blair Planning	They are incorporated in the FY 2025-2029 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plans.
2022 Childhood Lead Surveillance Annual Report	Pennsylvania Department of Health	They are incorporated in the FY 2025-2029 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plans.
Connecting the Commonwealth Five-Year Plan	Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority	They are incorporated in the FY 2025-2029 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plans.

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(I))

The City of Altoona Department of Community Development is the administering agency for CDBG and HOME programs. Coordination is maintained with all City Departments.

Development policies are promoted by the City Manager with approval and oversight by the Mayor and City Council. The City works with the Blair County Commissioners and County staff to address projects and activities that extend beyond the City limits. The City and the County have good working relationships.

Narrative (optional):

The City of Altoona works in conjunction with Blair County and Logan Township to address needs and to implement projects and activities that extend beyond the Altoona municipal limits. Close consultation is maintained between City, County and Township departments to ensure the needs of the area are adequately addressed.

PR-15 Citizen Participation

1. Summary of citizen participation process/Efforts made to broaden citizen participation Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goalsetting

The FY 2025-2029 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and FY 2025 Annual Action Plan used several approaches to encourage citizen participation. These activities included the following: interviews and roundtable discussions with various stakeholders; a needs public hearing; request for proposals for funding (RFPs) from agencies/organizations; meeting with agencies/organizations on completing an RFP; and a second public hearing to gather public comments on the draft plan which was placed on public display. The City posted a survey on the City's website in both English and Spanish and received 71 completed resident surveys. All comments received are included in the Appendix Section of this document. The City uses citizen input to develop the plan which will serve the low- and moderate-income population of the City to attain the goals in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan.

The City followed its approved Citizens Participation Plan to develop its FY 2025-2029 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and FY 2025 Annual Action Plan.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response / attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1.	Newspaper Ad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Minorities -Persons with disabilities -Non-targeted/ broad community -Residents of Public and Assisted Housing -Agencies/ organizations 	None	None	None	Not Applicable.
2.	Public Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Minorities -Persons with disabilities -Non-targeted/ broad community -Residents of Public and Assisted Housing -Agencies/ organizations 	A Public Meeting was held on Thursday, August 22, 2024, to discuss the Five-Year Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plan. There was a total of 10 attendees.	Meeting minutes can be found in the appendix section of this Consolidated Plan.	All comments were accepted.	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)
3.	Resident Surveys	-Minorities -Persons with disabilities -Non-targeted/ broad community -Residents of Public and Assisted Housing -Agencies/ organizations	There was a total of 71 residents that completed the online survey.	A summary of the survey responses can be found in the appendix section of this Consolidated Plan.	All comments were accepted.	www.surveymonkey.com/r/AltoonaDBG2025-2029
4.	Agencies/ Organizations Surveys	-Agencies/ Organizations	There was a total of 9 organizations that completed surveys. In addition, the City met with 41 local agencies, organizations and other stakeholders.	A summary of the survey responses and meeting minutes can be found in the appendix section of this Five-Year Consolidated Plan.	All comments were accepted.	Not Applicable.
5.	Stakeholder Meetings	-Minorities -Persons with disabilities -Non-targeted/ broad community -Residents of Public and Assisted Housing -Agencies/ organizations	The City met with agencies and organizations as part of its stakeholders and individual meetings.	A summary of meeting minutes can be found in the appendix section of Five-Year Consolidated Plan.	All comments were accepted.	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)
6.	Public Hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Minorities -Persons with disabilities -Non-targeted/broad community -Residents of Public and Assisted Housing -Agencies / organizations 	A Public Hearing was held on Wednesday, August 6 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the Five Year Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plan. There was a total of attendees.	Meeting minutes can be found in the appendix section of this Consolidated Plan.	All comments were accepted.	Not Applicable.

Table 4 - Citizen Participation Outreach

Needs Assessment

NA-05 Overview

Needs Assessment Overview

The City of Altoona used the HUD Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data, which provides information on housing needs, to prepare its estimates and projects. The tables in this section have been populated with the 2016-2020 CHAS data sets provided by HUD, and additional data has been obtained from the 2018-2022 American Community Survey (ACS) five-year estimates and the 2020 U.S. Census. This data is the most current information on which to base the five-year needs assessment.

Altoona is part of the Eastern PA Continuum of Care which includes thirty-three (33) counties in Eastern PA. Blair County is a member of the South Central Regional Homeless Advisory Board which includes nine (9) counties in central and south/central Pennsylvania. Data for the development of the needs for the homeless in the area have been obtained from the Eastern PA Continuum of Care.

Additional needs for the City of Altoona were obtained from input and interviews with various social service agencies, housing providers, city staff, and resident survey comments.

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

Summary of Housing Needs

Based on a comparison between the 2000 and 2020 population, the City of Altoona had a 5% decrease in population of 2,145 persons. The number of households decreased by 190 or 1%. This indicates that the size of households has decreased. Furthermore, the median income of the area increased by 17%. This increase in median income represents a change in nominal dollars and not a change in real dollars. In order to calculate the change in real dollars, the Consumer Price Index is used to calculate the inflation rate for a given period. Between 2000 and 2020, the cumulative inflation rate was 50.3%, meaning that the \$36,215.00 median income in 2000 would be \$55,830.66 if it were expressed in 2020 dollars. The median income in Altoona has not kept up with the rate of inflation.

Demographics	Base Year: 2000	Most Recent Year: 2020	% Change
Population	45,815	43,670	-5%
Households	18,735	18,545	-1%
Median Income	\$36,215.00	\$42,244.00	17%

Table 5 - Housing Needs Assessment Demographics

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

Number of Households Table

	0-30% HAMFI	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	>80-100% HAMFI	>100% HAMFI
Total Households	3,425	2,550	3,405	1,945	7,220
Small Family Households	825	700	1,380	715	3,815
Large Family Households	165	175	245	175	530
Household contains at least one person 62-74 years of age	760	875	700	450	1,650
Household contains at least one person age 75 or older	500	400	625	235	654
Households with one or more children 6 years old or younger	575	425	630	350	614

Table 6 - Total Households Table

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

Housing Needs Summary Tables

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

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30- 50% AMI	>50- 80% AMI	>80- 100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30- 50% AMI	>50- 80% AMI	>80- 100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Substandard Housing - Lacking complete plumbing or kitchen facilities	120	0	15	0	135	25	0	0	4	29
Severely Overcrowded - With >1.51 people per room (and complete kitchen and plumbing)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
Overcrowded - With 1.01-1.5 people per room (and none of the above problems)	4	0	50	0	54	4	0	0	0	4
Housing cost burden greater than 50% of income (and none of the above problems)	1,280	270	20	0	1,570	380	190	25	20	615
Housing cost burden greater than 30% of income (and none of the above problems)	460	740	425	35	1,660	205	295	205	90	795
Zero/negative Income (and none of the above problems)	235	0	0	0	235	35	0	0	0	35

Table 7 - Housing Problems Table

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

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

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30- 50% AMI	>50- 80% AMI	>80- 100% AMI	Total	0- 30% AMI	>30- 50% AMI	>50- 80% AMI	>80- 100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Having 1 or more of four housing problems	1,405	270	85	0	1,760	415	190	30	25	660
Having none of four housing problems OR has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems	1,135	1,145	1,190	565	4,035	465	945	2,100	1,355	4,865

Table 8 - Housing Problems 2

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

3. Cost Burden > 30%

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30- 50% AMI	>50- 80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30- 50% AMI	>50- 80% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS								
Small Related	560	305	265	1,130	75	145	45	265
Large Related	74	90	55	219	45	25	25	95
Elderly	450	255	55	760	280	290	130	700
Other	700	365	75	1,140	215	30	25	270
Total need by income	1,784	1,015	450	3,249	615	490	225	1,330

Table 9 - Cost Burden > 30%

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

4. Cost Burden > 50%

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS								
Small Related	0	0	70	70	60	85	0	145
Large Related	0	0	45	45	35	0	0	35
Elderly	190	60	10	260	180	95	20	295
Other	0	550	100	650	130	0	0	130
Total need by income	190	610	225	1,025	405	180	20	605

Table 10 - Cost Burden > 50%

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

5. Crowding (More than one person per room)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Single family households	39	0	50	0	89	4	0	4	0	8
Multiple, unrelated family households	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other, non-family households	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total need by income	39	0	50	0	89	4	0	4	0	8

Table 11 - Crowding Information - 1/2

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
Households with Children Present	490	270	390	1,339	85	155	240	1,520

Table 12 - Crowding Information - 2/2

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

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

According to the 2018-2022 American Community Survey (ACS), there were 18,518 households in the City of Altoona and single-person households comprised 6,226 (33.6%) of these households. There were 2,756 (44.3%) single-person households aged 65 and over, which indicates that 36.1% of Altoona's seniors live alone. It is presumed they will need additional accommodation and support to age in place, and the City will need to assist in obtaining funding and work with housing services and elderly support agencies to provide programs, activities and accommodations for its elderly population.

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

Disabled Population - Many elderly and disabled residents of Altoona live on fixed or limited incomes and lack the resources to afford home maintenance costs. The lack of affordable housing that is decent, safe, sound, sanitary and accessible forces them into substandard and often inaccessible housing. There are 7,599 residents (17.5%) of Altoona who have a disability; of the overall population, 2,345 persons or 5.4% have a hearing difficulty, 1,050 persons or 2.4% have a vision difficulty, 3,597 persons or 9.9% have a cognitive difficulty, 3,255 persons or 8.0% have an ambulatory difficulty, 1,171 persons or 2.9% have a self-care difficulty, and 2,518 persons or 7.4% have an independent living difficulty.

Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, sexual assault, and stalking - Based on the local crime statistics and social service agency responses to interviews and surveys, the Altoona Police Department received 30,786 police calls in calendar year 2024 and recorded 1,459 offenses. Of these, 32 offenses were for rape and one was for human trafficking; there were also 777 aggravated assaults and 521 simple assaults of which some may have involved intimate partner violence. Overall, in Blair County, there were 54 rape offenses, 2 human trafficking offenses, 112 aggravated assaults and 1,102 simple assaults. Victims were referred for domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and/or housing assistance services. Local shelters offer programs to assist those experiencing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and serve approximately 4,000 people each year through shelter programs, peer to peer groups, confidential counseling, Civil Protection Orders, and legal assistance.

What are the most common housing problems?

Altoona's largest housing problem is affordability. According to the 2016-2020 CHAS data, 51.1% of renter-occupied households and 11.0% of owner-occupied households are cost burdened by 30% or more.

In consultations, interviews and surveys, affordable and accessible housing specifically for the elderly and disabled is an unmet housing need and problem. Most affordable housing units are located in the central portion of the City in and around the traditional Central Business District. These housing units tend to be the oldest housing in the City. Most of these units are unsuitable for persons who are elderly or have disabilities due to accessibility issues, which include lack of elevators in multi-story structures. For elderly

and disabled residents who are homeowners, the cost of accessibility improvement is a burden that many are unable to afford without some type of assistance.

Another housing problem is the lack of housing opportunities for the homeless population, hindered by the reduced availability and affordability of quality housing units. This includes rapid re-housing units, transitional housing for the chronically homeless, and permanent housing.

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

The elderly and disabled populations are the most affected by the cost of housing in the City of Altoona. Many elderly and disabled residents live on fixed or limited incomes making it unaffordable to maintain their homes. The lack of affordable housing that is decent, safe, sound, sanitary and accessible often forces them into substandard and/or inaccessible housing.

The other group of residents affected by lack of affordable housing are the homeless and persons at risk of becoming homeless, as well as victims of domestic violence.

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

The South Central Regional Homeless Advisory Board (RHAB) reports to the PA-507 Eastern Pennsylvania Continuum of Care. The South Central RHAB consists of nine (9) member counties: Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, and Somerset.

The City of Altoona is not an Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) entitlement grantee. Nonprofit shelter and homeless services organizations apply for ESG funding through the PA-507 Eastern Pennsylvania Continuum of Care Continuum of Care, which receives ESG and other funding administered through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

The specific needs of extremely low-income persons/households who are housed, but in imminent risk of becoming unsheltered or living in shelters are food, clothing, transportation, and job training. Local social service agencies provide food and clothing through food pantries, food kitchens and thrift stores. Transportation and job training opportunities are limited, and funds are needed to address those options.

Local organizations maintain records in the HMIS system and continue to monitor and track assisted person/households.

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

The methodology used to generate estimates, per the Eastern Pennsylvania CoC, is based on historical data from sources such as the Point-in-Time Survey and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data. HMIS is a database used to collect client-level data regarding the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and those at-risk of homelessness. Providers participating in the PA HMIS are required to collect and record specific data elements for all new and continuing clients in the database. Data entry is to be completed weekly with the exception of Emergency Shelter clients, which should be completed daily. All weekly records are to be updated every Monday for clients served during the prior week. The PA HMIS is an “open” system which allows for the sharing of client-level data electronically between collaborating agencies. All participating agencies must adhere to the PA HMIS privacy policy as well as the operating policies and procedures. Agencies may also be able to share information through other methods unrelated to the PA HMIS, as outlined in their specific program policies. Data shared outside of PA HMIS is not to be controlled or monitored by DCED; therefore, this data is not covered by the PA HMIS privacy policy. DCED is the System Administrator for the PA HMIS and as such is the only entity with access to all client-level information, including personal identifiers, contained in the PA HMIS.

The definition of At-Risk of Homelessness according to the HUD/HAP Standards and Operating Procedures Handbook includes the following three categories:

Category 1: Individuals and families who:

- Have annual incomes below 30% AMI; and
- Do not have sufficient resources or support networks immediately available to prevent literal homelessness; and
- Meet at least one of the following seven conditions:
 - Moved 2 or more times due to economic reasons 60 days prior to application for assistance;
 - Living in home of another due to economic hardship;
 - Losing housing within 21 days after application date;
 - Lives in a hotel/motel not paid for by charitable organizations or Federal/state/local government programs;
 - Lives in a severely overcrowded unit as defined by the US Census Bureau (Lives in a single-room occupancy [SRO] or studio apartment unit in which there reside more than two persons or lives in a larger housing unit in which there reside more than 1.5 persons per room as defined by the US Census Bureau);
 - Exiting publicly funded institution or system of care (e.g. health care facility, mental health facility, foster care or other youth facility or correction program or institution.);

- Lives in housing associated with instability and increased risk of homelessness as defined in the Consolidated Plan.

Category 2: Children/youth who do not qualify under other federal statute;

- Runaway and Homeless Youth Act; Section 637 (11) of the Head Start Act; Section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994; Section 330(h) (5) (A) of the Public Health Service Act; Section 3 (m) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008; Section 17 (b) (15) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966.

Category 3: Unaccompanied children and youth and their families who:

- Qualify as homeless under the Education for Children and Youth (Section 725 (2)) of the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a (2) and parent or guardian of that child or youth if living with her or him.

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

The high cost of decent, safe, sound, sanitary and accessible housing in the City creates instability in housing available for the lower income families in the area. Many families live paycheck to paycheck and are paying over 30% of their income for housing.

The other housing characteristic is the lack of housing counseling to prevent homeowners from being unable to afford or maintain a home. Examples of risk factors that housing counseling would prevent include predatory lending practices, purchasing a house on a “land contract,” renting homes on a “verbal agreement”, the lack of knowledge or desire to lodge a Fair Housing complaint against a substandard landlord, and the lack of knowledge and education on maintaining a home.

Discussion

The City of Altoona has higher property values than in prior years, but the median household income has not kept pace with year-over-year inflation. There is an aging and elderly population which requires more accessible and affordable housing, a growing unhoused population which needs shelter, and a deteriorating and aging housing stock that is increasingly unsuited to Altoona’s needs.

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

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

Introduction

In order for the City of Altoona to determine its goals and strategies, it must determine the extent to which any racial or ethnic group has a greater need in comparison to the City's overall population need. Disproportionately greater need is defined as a group having a housing problem at least 10 percentage points more than the percentage of persons as a whole in that category. According to the 2016-2020 CHAS data, the City of Altoona had 17,205 (92.8%) White households, 719 (3.9%) Black or African American households, 10 (0.1%) American Indian and Alaska Native households, 14 (0.1%) Asian households, 20 (0.1%) Pacific Islander households, and 304 (1.6%) Hispanic households of any race.

The following tables examine the disproportionality of housing problems on racial or ethnic groups in the City of Altoona. Note: in the 2016-2020 CHAS data, the column "Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems" has been combined with "Has none of the four housing problems".

0%-30% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems OR household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	2,485	940
White	2,180	820
Black / African American	120	50
Asian	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0
Pacific Islander	10	10
Hispanic	130	0

Table 13 - Disproportionally Greater Need 0 - 30% AMI

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

**The four housing problems are:*

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

30%-50% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems OR household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	1,495	1,060
White	1,330	975
Black / African American	164	50
Asian	0	4
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0
Hispanic	0	30

Table 14 - Disproportionally Greater Need 30 - 50% AMI

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

**The four housing problems are:*

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

50%-80% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems OR household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	745	2,665
White	620	2,585
Black / African American	10	75
Asian	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0
Hispanic	15	0

Table 15 - Disproportionally Greater Need 50 - 80% AMI

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

**The four housing problems are:*

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

80%-100% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems OR household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	150	1,795
White	150	1,620
Black / African American	0	70
Asian	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	10
Pacific Islander	0	0
Hispanic	0	95

Table 16 - Disproportionally Greater Need 80 - 100% AMI

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

**The four housing problems are:*

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

Discussion

Housing problems affected 72.6% of households in the 0-30% AMI group, 58.5% of households in the 30-50% AMI group, 21.8% of households in the 50-80% AMI group, and 7.7% of households in the 80-100% AMI group.

Three racial/ethnic categories were disproportionately affected by housing problems: Hispanic households in the 0-30% AMI group (100% had one or more housing problem), Black households in the 30-50% AMI group (76.6% had one or more problem), and Hispanic households in the 50-80% AMI group (100% had one or more housing problem). Note that minority households comprise only 7.2% of the City of Altoona's total number of households. While housing problems appear to affect these households disproportionately, the small number of minority households indicates that a holistic approach will be more effective in ameliorating the City's housing issues.

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

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

Introduction

In order for the City of Altoona to determine its goals and strategies, it must determine the extent to which any racial or ethnic group has a greater need in comparison to the City's overall population need. Disproportionately greater need is defined as a group having a housing problem at least 10 percentage points more than the percentage of persons as a whole in that category. According to the 2016-2020 CHAS data, the City of Altoona had 17,205 (92.8%) White households, 719 (3.9%) Black or African American households, 10 (0.1%) American Indian and Alaska Native households, 14 (0.1%) Asian households, 20 (0.1%) Pacific Islander households, and 304 (1.6%) Hispanic households of any race.

The following tables examine the disproportionality of severe housing problems on racial or ethnic groups in the City of Altoona. Note: in the 2016-2020 CHAS data, the column "Household has no/negative income, but none of the other severe housing problems" has been combined with "Has none of the four severe housing problems".

0%-30% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems	Has one or more of four severe housing problems	Has none of the four severe housing problems OR household has no/negative income, but none of the other severe housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	1,820	1,600
White	1,565	1,435
Black / African American	85	85
Asian	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0
Pacific Islander	10	10
Hispanic	120	10

Table 17 - Severe Housing Problems 0 - 30% AMI

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

**The four severe housing problems are:*

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

30%-50% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems	Has one or more of four severe housing problems	Has none of the four severe housing problems OR household has no/negative income, but none of the other severe housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	460	2,090
White	455	1,855
Black / African American	4	205
Asian	0	4
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0
Hispanic	0	30

Table 18 - Severe Housing Problems 30 - 50% AMI

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

**The four severe housing problems are:*

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

50%-80% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems	Has one or more of four severe housing problems	Has none of the four severe housing problems OR household has no/negative income, but none of the other severe housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	115	3,290
White	115	3,090
Black / African American	0	85
Asian	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0
Hispanic	0	15

Table 19 - Severe Housing Problems 50 - 80% AMI

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

**The four severe housing problems are:*

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

80%-100% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems	Has one or more of four severe housing problems	Has none of the four severe housing problems OR household has no/negative income, but none of the other severe housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	25	1,920
White	25	1,745
Black / African American	0	70
Asian	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	10
Pacific Islander	0	0
Hispanic	0	95

Table 20 - Severe Housing Problems 80 - 100% AMI

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

**The four severe housing problems are:*

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

Discussion

Severe housing problems affected 53.2% of households in the 0-30% AMI group, 18.0% of households in the 30-50% AMI group, 3.4% of households in the 50-80% AMI group, and 1.3% of households in the 80-100% AMI group.

One racial/ethnic category was disproportionately affected by severe housing problems: Hispanic households in the 0-30% AMI group (92.3% had one or more severe housing problem). Note that minority households comprise only 7.2% of the City of Altoona's total number of households. While housing problems appear to affect these households disproportionately, the small number of minority households indicates that the City would be best served by a holistic approach will be more effective in ameliorating the City's housing issues.

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

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

Introduction:

Housing affordability is the most pressing housing issue in the City of Altoona. While 72.3% of households in the City pay less than 30% of their household income toward monthly housing expenses, there were also 14.2% of households that were cost burdened (between 30% and 50% of their household income going to housing expenses) and 12.0% of households that were severely cost burdened (over 50% of their household income went to housing expenses).

According to the 2016-2020 CHAS data, the City of Altoona had 17,205 (92.8%) White households, 719 (3.9%) Black or African American households, 10 (0.1%) American Indian and Alaska Native households, 14 (0.1%) Asian households, 20 (0.1%) Pacific Islander households, and 304 (1.6%) Hispanic households of any race. The following table examines housing cost burden by racial or ethnic group.

Housing Cost Burden

Housing Cost Burden	<=30%	30-50%	>50%	No / negative income (not computed)
Jurisdiction as a whole	13,410	2,625	2,224	280
White	12,780	2,275	1,965	195
Black/African American	365	205	89	50
Asian	14	0	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	10	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	10	0	10	0
Hispanic	165	25	120	0

Table 21 - Greater Need: Housing Cost Burdens AMI

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

Discussion:

Of White households, 74.3% were not cost burdened, 13.2% were cost burdened by 30-50% of household income, and 11.4% were severely cost burdened by over 50% of household income. By comparison, 50.8% of Black/African American households were not cost burdened while 28.5% faced a 30-50% cost burden and 12.4% faced a >50% severe cost burden. No Asian or American Indian & Alaska Native households were cost burdened. Half of Pacific Islander households faced a >50% severe cost burden. Finally, 54.3%

of Hispanic households were not cost burdened, 8.2% had a cost burden of 30-50%, and 39.5% had a severe cost burden of over 50%.

The disproportionately affected groups were: Black/African American households with a cost burden of 30-50%; Pacific Islander households with a severe cost burden of >50%; and Hispanic households with a severe cost burden of >50%. Note that minority households comprise only 7.2% of the City of Altoona's total number of households. While housing problems appear to affect these households disproportionately, the small number of minority households indicates that a holistic approach will be more effective in ameliorating the City's housing issues.

DRAFT

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

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

According to the 2016-2020 CHAS data, the City of Altoona had 17,205 (92.8%) White households, 719 (3.9%) Black or African American households, 10 (0.1%) American Indian and Alaska Native households, 14 (0.1%) Asian households, 20 (0.1%) Pacific Islander households, and 304 (1.6%) Hispanic households of any race.

Three racial/ethnic categories were disproportionately affected by housing problems: Hispanic households in the 0-30% AMI group (100% had one or more housing problem), Black households in the 30-50% AMI group (76.6% had one or more problem), and Hispanic households in the 50-80% AMI group (100% had one or more housing problem).

One racial/ethnic category was disproportionately affected by severe housing problems: Hispanic households in the 0-30% AMI group (92.3% had one or more severe housing problem).

Three racial/ethnic categories were disproportionately affected by cost burdens: Black/African American households with a cost burden of 30-50%; Pacific Islander households with a severe cost burden of >50%; and Hispanic households with a severe cost burden of >50%.

Note that minority households comprise only 7.2% of the City of Altoona's total number of households. While housing problems appear to affect these households disproportionately, the small number of minority households indicates that a holistic approach will be more effective in ameliorating the City's housing issues.

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

There are no additional unidentified needs.

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

The City of Altoona has a minority population of 7.2% of its total population. The City uses the definition of an Area of Minority Concentration as a Census Tract or Block Group where at least 50% of the population who reside in that area are identified as being a minority person. Based on this definition there are no Census Tracts or Block Groups that are considered an Area of Minority Concentration.

Below are the concentrations of minority residents by Census Tract, according to the 2018-2022 ACS Estimates:

- CT 1002: 3.7% minority
- CT 1003: 6.3% minority
- CT 1004: 4.8% minority
- CT 1005: 21.3% minority
- CT 1006: 5.6% minority
- CT 1007: 15.6% minority
- CT 1008: 14.4% minority
- CT 1009: 4.1% minority
- CT 1011: 6.8% minority
- CT 1012: 5.8% minority
- CT 1014: 18.4% minority
- CT 1015: 4.1% minority
- CT 1016: 5.3% minority
- CT 1017: 6.9% minority
- CT 1018: 11.6% minority
- CT 1019: 8.3% minority

NA-35 Public Housing - 91.205(b)

Introduction

The Altoona Housing Authority has composed the following Progress Report on Goals/Objectives:

- Continue to educate Section 8 Voucher landlords on regulations associated with program regulations and annual Landlord Workshop.
- Continue to educate the community on Authority programs through various agencies.
- Continue to work with the City of Altoona in promoting Fair Housing events.
- Continue to increase Section 8 Voucher landlord participation.
- Continue to improve public housing vacancies.
- Continue to maintain PHAS high performer ranking.
- Continue to maintain SEMAP high performer ranking.
- Rent analysis for Public Housing Developments - Rent Charged vs. Rent Collected 98%.
- Continue to update Preventative Maintenance Plan and provide training to maintenance employees.
- Continue to provide training to staff through the Pennsylvania Association of Housing & Redevelopment Agencies (PAHRA) and the Western Pennsylvania Housing Directors Association (WPHDA) in person or via the internet.
- Continuation of the Head Start Program on-site at the Public Housing Family Development. Enrollment is currently 14 children.
- Continuation of seeking input from residents on customer service.
- Continuation of Altoona Police Department coverage at all Public Housing Developments.
- Continuation of Fair Housing Programs and City recognition of April as Fair Housing month.
- Continuation of providing Reasonable Accommodation training to staff and residents and the proper procedure for reviewing said requests.
- Continue to update bulletin boards at all developments with notices and brochures.
- Continue to monitor funding allocations for the Section 8 Voucher Program to assist as many households as possible with leasing.
- Continue to renovate and upgrade Public Housing units through Capital Fund modernization.
- Continue to offer an on-site After School Program at our Public Housing Family Development.
- Continue to conduct staff meetings to update staff on current regulation.
- Continue to educate staff and provide updates to residents on the HOTMA regulations.
- Continue to encourage residents at all public housing developments the importance of active resident organizations.
- Continue to address concerns/issues from residents.
- Continue to review the recently adopted Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP) and Administrative Plan for Section 8 on regulatory changes.
- Continue to educate residents on lease revisions.
- Continue to educate staff and residents on the Violence Against Women Policy.

The Altoona Housing Authority's Fair Housing Policy has the following fair housing strategies and actions to achieve their goals:

1. The Authority prohibits discrimination in housing because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status and disability. The Authority hosts educational workshops throughout the year and includes a component addressing Fair Housing regulations to landlords. Flyers are sent throughout the year to various agencies advising them of said regulations. The Authority also provides new clients with information on Fair Housing regulations at lease up. The Authority will continue to expand on these efforts in 2024. The Authority provides applicants and clients with brochures such as *Fair Housing is Your Right*, *Fair Housing Equal Opportunity* and *Your Fair Housing Rights - Sexual Harassment*.
2. The Authority continues to promote Fair Housing Awareness Month through participating in an annual poster contest at our family public housing development. In celebration of Fair Housing Awareness Month in April 2024, the Authority invited Summit Legal Aid (formerly Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Services) to host an all-staff educational session on Fair Housing regulations.
3. The Authority participates in quarterly fair housing task force meetings. The lead participant is Summit Legal Aid. The Authority works very closely with Attorney Jaime Milligan from Summit Legal throughout the year promoting awareness and various workshops through the City of Altoona.

Totals in Use

	Program Type								
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers					
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
# of units vouchers in use	0	48	509	771	0	771	10	0	0

Table 22 - Public Housing by Program Type

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

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Characteristics of Residents

	Program Type							
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers				
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Special Purpose Voucher	
							VASH	Family Unification Program
Average Annual Income	0	10,315	11,783	10,957	0	10,985	8,680	0
Average length of stay	0	3	4	2	0	2	0	0
Average Household size	0	1	1	2	0	2	1	0
# Homeless at admission	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of Elderly Program Participants (>62)	0	16	237	153	0	153	0	0
# of Disabled Families	0	30	123	327	0	322	5	0
# of Families requesting accessibility features	0	48	509	822	0	812	10	0
# of HIV/AIDS program participants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of DV victims	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 23 - Characteristics of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Race of Residents

Race	Program Type								
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers					
				Total	Project -based	Tenant -based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							VASH	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
White	0	46	482	723	0	717	6	0	0
Black/African American	0	2	24	93	0	89	4	0	0
Asian	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	0	2	3	0	3	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-Year, and Nursing Home Transition									

Table 24 - Race of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Ethnicity of Residents

Ethnicity	Program Type								
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers					
				Total	Project -based	Tenant -based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							VASH	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
Hispanic	0	0	6	10	0	10	0	0	0
Not Hispanic	0	48	503	812	0	802	10	0	0
*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-Year, and Nursing Home Transition									

Table 25 - Ethnicity of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

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

The Housing Authority's waitlist for Housing Choice Vouchers is currently closed and expected to reopen on or after May 1, 2025. As of October 25, 2024, there were 402 persons on the voucher waiting list. In addition, there were 169 families/individuals on the waiting lists for public housing of which 42 were for the elderly/disabled units at the 11th Street and Green Avenue Towers and 127 were on lists for Fairview Hills separated by bedroom size. The waiting list for Public Housing is still open and is expanding as the need for public housing grows. The AHA 2024 Annual Plan shows the following housing needs for the applicants on the public housing waiting lists:

Fairview Hills (family): 10 - one bedroom; 72 - two bedroom; 20 - three bedroom; 27 - four bedroom; 1 - five bedroom.

Towers (elderly/disabled): 18 - Studio; 4 - one bedroom; 0 - two bedroom.

There is a need for accessible housing accommodations for elderly and disabled applicants on the waiting list. According to the AHA 2024 Annual Plan, there were 33 elderly or disabled applicant families on the waiting list for public housing and 83 elderly or disabled families on the Section 8 waiting list.

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

The most immediate need of the current residents of Public Housing is for employment training, job opportunities, and transportation for shopping, medical services, and community services such as youth activities. Their housing needs are being addressed by the Public Housing Authority. The immediate needs of the Housing Choice Voucher holders are similar. They need housing units that are close to public transportation or their place of employment, and access to community services. The supply of available affordable units is limited and therefore there is a shortage of housing choices, especially since in recent years landlords have become increasingly reticent to accept Section 8 vouchers.

There is a need for accessible housing for the elderly and disabled applicants on the Section 8 waiting list. As of October 2024, the AHA reported that there are 42 applicants on the wait list for senior/disabled housing communities. The Housing Authority has been working to make reasonable accommodation to its public housing units to satisfy the Section 504 requirements for persons with physical disabilities such as mobility, visual, and hearing impairments.

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

The needs of the existing public housing residents and Housing Choice Voucher Holders are not similar to the population at large, which has a much higher income. Those residents are living in decent, safe, and sanitary housing that is affordable to them since they are in a higher income bracket. Members of the

population at large in the lower income brackets need to include quality and affordable housing that is close to their places of employment or has access to quality public transportation.

Discussion

The Altoona Housing Authority is a partner with the City in addressing the housing needs for the residents of Altoona who are very low and extremely low income. The City of Altoona has identified the need for affordable housing that is decent, safe, and sanitary for those whose income is at or below 30% AMI. The Housing Authority is a valuable resource in addressing that need. There is a significant number of households in the City that are at or below 50% of AMI that are affected by housing problems, severe housing problems and housing cost burdens.

The Altoona Housing Authority is not rated as a “troubled” agency by HUD and is designated as a “high performer”. The Housing Authority’s biggest challenges are the lack of sufficient Housing Choice Vouchers to meet the demand for housing by low-income persons, and the need to renovate existing public housing units. There is a total of 169 people on waiting lists for Fairview Hills, Pleasant Village, and Green Avenue and 11th Street Tower, and another 402 persons on the Housing Choice Voucher waiting list. At least 42 persons on the waiting list are elderly or disabled persons indicating a need for additional accessible housing units and accommodations. The Housing Authority continues to make reasonable accommodations and improvements to its public housing units to satisfy the Section 504 requirements for persons with physical disabilities such as mobility, visual, and hearing impairments.

The Altoona Housing Authority is working to recruit additional landlords to expand the Section 8 Voucher Program. The Housing Authority offers landlords training and resource guides to help educate and guide landlords on policies and procedures, such as the inspection, payment, and termination of the Section 8 process, as well as Fair Housing laws. The Housing Authority also offers several workshops and training for tenants throughout the year regarding the Family Self-Sufficiency program, Fair Housing laws, and other educational topics related to housing.

According to its FY 2024-2028 Five-Year Plan, the Altoona Housing Authority’s FY 2025 Capital Fund Grant Budget is as follows:

- **Operations = \$100,000.00**
- **Site Improvement = \$245,000.00**
- **Dwelling Improvement = \$1,065,836.00**
- **Total = \$1,140,836.00**

NA-40 Homeless Needs Assessment - 91.205(c)

Introduction:

The PA 509 Eastern Pennsylvania Continuum of Care (CoC) is comprised of 33 counties in northeast and central Pennsylvania, organized by geography into five Regional Homeless Advisory Boards (RHABs). The City of Altoona is a member of the South Central RHAB which serves nine (9) counties: Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, and Somerset.

The Homeless Needs Assessment table illustrates the 2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) data for Blair County.

Note: the 2025 Point-in-Time data was published in June 2025 and due to time constraints has not been included in this Plan. It is available at the Eastern Pennsylvania CoC website, <https://pennsylvaniacoc.org/>.

Homeless Needs Assessment

Population	Estimate the # of persons experiencing homelessness on a given night		Estimate the # experiencing homelessness each year	Estimate the # becoming homeless each year	Estimate the # exiting homelessness each year	Estimate the # of days persons experience homelessness
	Sheltered	Unsheltered				
Persons in Households with Adult(s) and Child(ren)	27	0	-	-	-	-
Persons in Households with Only Children	2	0	-	-	-	-
Persons in Households with Only Adults	46	26	-	-	-	-
Chronically Homeless Individuals	1	2	-	-	-	-
Chronically Homeless Families	0	0	-	-	-	-
Veterans	10	1	-	-	-	-
Unaccompanied Youth	6	0	-	-	-	-
Persons with HIV	1	1	-	-	-	-

Table 26 - Homeless Needs Assessment

Data Source Comments: Eastern PA CoC 2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

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):

For all categories of individuals and families experiencing homelessness, the biggest challenge faced is the lack of affordable housing and the high cost of available housing.

Chronically Homeless: Chronically homeless individuals often lack access to basic needs such as food, shelter, health and mental health services. When a person cannot access these basic services other aspects of life are heavily impacted and create situations such as gaps in employment and unmanageable chronic health conditions.

Families with Children: Families with children face difficulties finding affordable housing that can accommodate the needs of families such as an appropriate number of bedrooms, safe and sound housing conditions, etc. Children experiencing homelessness tend to miss more school days and fall behind on grades and test scores compared to their peers.

Unaccompanied Children Under Age 18: There were two unaccompanied children under age 18 counted during the 2024 Point-in-Time count in Blair County. Both were in emergency shelter on the night of the PIT count. Unaccompanied homeless children are at very high risk from factors ranging from lack of financial resources to potential sexual assault and face great difficulty in obtaining a quality education or a well-paying career.

Veterans: There were eleven homeless veterans counted during the 2024 Point-in-Time count in Blair County. Two of these veterans were in emergency shelter, eight were in transitional housing, and one was unsheltered. Veterans have unique challenges such as high instances of PTSD and other mental and physical health challenges but also have dedicated services through the VA Hospital system and other nonprofit organizations.

Unaccompanied Youth Age 18-24: There were six unaccompanied youth counted during the 2024 Point-in-Time count in Blair County. Five of them were in emergency shelter and one was in transitional housing. These young adults are at high risk of alcohol and drug addiction and often have difficulty obtaining long-term housing and employment.

Nature and Extent of Homelessness: (Optional)

Race:	Sheltered:	Unsheltered (optional)
White	-	-
Black or African American	-	-
Asian	-	-

Race:	Sheltered:	Unsheltered (optional)
American Indian or Alaska Native	-	-
Pacific Islander	-	-

Ethnicity:	Sheltered:	Unsheltered (optional)
Hispanic	-	-
Not Hispanic	-	-

Data Source Comments: Data not available

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

There were five (5) families with children (27 individuals) experiencing homelessness in Blair County on the night of the 2024 PIT count. All of these households were in emergency shelter. None of these were parenting youth households.

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

A majority of individuals and families experiencing homelessness, regardless of race or ethnicity, suffer from mental health issues and/or substance abuse disorders. The majority of homeless persons are White, but there is a higher percentage of minority persons who are homeless than there is of the City population at large. However, there was no available information regarding the racial or ethnic distribution of homeless persons.

Describe the Nature and Extent of Unsheltered and Sheltered Homelessness.

Unsheltered Homeless refers to the segment of a homeless community who do not have ordinary lawful access to buildings in which to sleep, as referred to in the HUD definition as persons occupying "place not meant for human habitation" (such as a bus stop, beach, riverbed, van, or sidewalk). Those who are unsheltered in the City of Altoona regularly sleep in vehicles or abandoned buildings.

Sheltered Homelessness would refer to those in an emergency shelter, in transitional housing, or are exiting an institution where they temporarily resided lacking a fixed nighttime residence. People will be considered homeless if they are exiting an institution where they resided for up to 90 days. People who are losing their primary nighttime residence which may be a motel, hotel or a doubled-up situation (aka "couch-surfing") within 14 days and lack resources or support networks to remain housing.

According to the 2024 Point-in-Time count for Blair County, there were 45 sheltered households with 75 individuals, and 22 unsheltered households with 26 individuals. For households without children, there were 38 sheltered households with 46 individuals, and 22 unsheltered households with 26 persons.

Service providers report a rising number of individuals and families whose homelessness results from an inability to obtain affordable housing. This especially applies to unhoused elderly and disabled persons.

Discussion:

According to the 2024 Point-In-Time data for Blair County, 7 (6.9%) were considered “Severely Mentally Ill,” 1 (1.0%) experienced “Chronic Substance Abuse,” 2 (2.0%) had HIV/AIDS, 11 (10.9%) were Veterans, and 6 (5.9%) were “Victims of Domestic Violence.”

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

Introduction:

The assessment of non-homeless special needs includes the following:

- Elderly persons (age 62 years and older)
- Frail elderly
- Persons with mental, physical and/or developmental disabilities
- Persons with alcohol or other substance abuse disorders
- Persons with HIV/AIDS and their families
- Victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking

The housing need of each of these groups were determined by consultation with social service providers and statistical information provided by social services providers.

Describe the characteristics of special needs populations in your community:

- Elderly Persons are defined as persons who are age 62 years and older. According to the 2018-2022 American Community Survey, elderly persons represent 16.8% of the City's total civilian noninstitutionalized population. Approximately 6.8% of the elderly population are age 75 years and older. In addition, 15.3% of the City's households consist of elderly persons living alone.
- Frail Elderly are those persons who are elderly and have a form of disability, ranging from a hearing loss, vision difficulty, cognitive difficulty, ambulatory problems, and lack of self-help skills. It is estimated that approximately 36.0% of the total elderly population are frail elderly.
- Persons with mental, physical, and developmental disabilities comprise 17.5% of the City of Altoona's total population, according to the ACS data for 2018-2022.
- Persons with HIV/AIDS and their families comprise a small percentage of the City's overall population. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Health's "Annual HIV Surveillance Summary Report" for 2023 reports by county the number of HIV/AIDS diagnoses. As of December 31, 2023, there were 136 persons living with HIV in Blair County, with the last reported HIV/AIDS diagnosis in 2022.
- Victims of Domestic Violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking is rapidly increasing both locally and nationally. Based on crime statistics and agency data, it can be estimated that over 80 residents are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

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

- **Elderly Persons** - Accessible housing units plus supportive services such as transportation to health services and recreation opportunities.

- **Frail Elderly** - Accessible housing units and community infrastructure plus supportive services such as transportation to health services and recreation opportunities.
- **Mentally and/or Physically Disabled** - Accessible housing/permanent supportive housing using the Housing First model to avoid transitional housing; supportive services such as PATH (Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness) and SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery) case management for those with mental illness, substance abuse, or coexisting disorders; education and job training; financial counseling; and access to health care services.
- **Persons With Substance Addiction Issues** - Permanent supportive housing, using the Housing First model to avoid transitional housing; supportive services such as PATH (Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness) and SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery) case management for those suffering from mental illness, substance abuse, or coexisting disorders; education and job training; financial counseling; and access to health care services.
- **HIV/AIDS Persons** - Permanent supportive housing plus supportive services such as case management and continued access to health services and counseling.
- **Victims of Domestic Violence** - Permanent supportive housing, using the Housing First model to avoid transitional housing, plus supportive services such as case management, peer support, legal assistance, education and job training, financial counseling, and access to victim counseling.

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

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Health's "2023 Annual HIV Surveillance Summary Report" is the last statewide publication that reports by county the number of HIV/AIDS diagnoses, persons living with HIV/AIDS, methods of transmission and demographic information. The report estimates that there were 136 persons living with an HIV/AIDS diagnosis in Blair County and 8 new diagnoses of HIV between 2019-2023. Of those persons, 97 were White, 22 were Black/African American, and 8 were Hispanic; 25 were female and 111 were male; over half (53.7%) were between 45 and 64 years of age with no persons below 25 years of age living with HIV or AIDS. Persons living with HIV comprise approximately 0.1% of the 2018-2022 ACS Blair County population estimate of 122,640 persons.

Discussion:

While many supportive service providers for the special needs population are located in the City of Altoona, their service area and clients are not limited to City limits. Therefore, when appropriate the above statistics include areas beyond the City such as County-level or State-level data. The needs for these various groups of the Special Needs Population were determined based on data from HUD, the U.S. Census Bureau, other local, state, and Federal data sources, and interviews with housing providers and social service agencies.

NA-50 Non-Housing Community Development Needs - 91.215 (f)**Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Facilities:**

The following are needs for improvement to the City's public facilities:

- Public facilities need to be provided by the City to maintain a good quality of life for its residents.
- Public facilities for parks, playgrounds, recreational areas, and fields of play need to be improved and upgraded.
- Public and community facilities need to be improved and upgraded.

How were these needs determined?

These needs for public facilities were determined through resident surveys, agency needs surveys, interviews with City staff and officials, discussions with local stakeholders, public hearing comments on needs, and examination of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Improvements:

The following are the City's needs for public improvements:

- The City needs to improve and upgrade its storm water management system and flood mitigation infrastructure.
- The City needs to reconstruct and improve its streets, curbs, and alleyways.
- The City needs to repair its sidewalk infrastructure to improve ADA accessibility.
- The City needs to improve ADA accessibility at intersections, public buildings and facilities.
- The City needs to work with the County to improve its offroad recreational network.
- The City needs to improve and upgrade its sanitary sewer system.
- The City needs to improve and upgrade its water lines and distribution system.
- The City needs to continue its public improvements through public greening, greenway streets, and beautification activities.
- The City needs to use publicly funded infrastructure improvements to attract private investment in housing and economic development.

How were these needs determined?

These needs for public facilities were determined through resident surveys, agency needs surveys, interviews with City staff and officials, discussions with local stakeholders, public hearing comments on needs, and examination of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Services:

The City of Altoona provides public safety services and other public services to its residents. The following are the City's needs for public services:

- The City needs to continue to facilitate utility and rental assistance.
- The City needs to continue to provide a high level of public safety to its residents.
- The City needs to continue its code enforcement efforts to ensure the health and safety of its residents.
- The City needs to continue to facilitate medical transport for its residents.
- The City needs to support, encourage, and further fair housing throughout its neighborhoods.
- The City needs to continue to support housing counseling services for low- and moderate-income families in the City.
- The City needs to continue to support programs that serve elderly Altoona residents.
- The City needs to continue to support programs that assist the homeless population in the City.
- The City needs to support increased access, capacity, and quality of mental health providers and drug and alcohol recovery services.
- The City needs to continue to support programs for victims of domestic violence and abuse.
- The City needs to continue to support programs that assist youth through afterschool, educational, and recreational programs.
- The City needs to continue to support micro-enterprise programs through technical assistance, advice, and business support services.
- The City needs to continue to support its job training programs for youth, unemployed and underemployed persons, and persons reentering the workforce.
- The City needs to continue to support social programs for low- and moderate-income persons.

How were these needs determined?

These needs for public facilities were determined through resident surveys, agency needs surveys, interviews with City staff and officials, discussions with local stakeholders, public hearing comments on needs, and examination of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Housing Market Analysis

MA-05 Overview

Housing Market Analysis Overview:

According to the 2018-2022 American Community Survey Data, there are 20,849 housing units in the City of Altoona of which 18,418 (88.3%) are occupied; this leaves 2,431 vacant units or a rate of 11.7%. Most of the vacant units are located in the center of the City.

Based on the 2018-2022 ACS, the City of Altoona's housing stock is considered older. Almost half (46.6%) was constructed prior to 1939 and 27.1% was constructed between 1940 and 1959, meaning that nearly three-quarters of the City's housing stock (73.7%) was built prior to 1960. Over nine-tenths (91.9%) of Altoona's housing stock was constructed prior to 1980 and is at elevated risk of Lead Based Paint (LBP) presence. The City of Altoona has seen a low amount of construction of housing to meet the demands of the City's declining population. Only 2.0% of the City's housing stock was built since the year 2000.

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

Introduction

According to the 2018-2022 ACS data, there are 20,849 total housing units. Of these, 18,418 (88.3%) are occupied and 2,431 (11.7%) are vacant. 11,870 of these housing units are owner-occupied and 6,965 are renter-occupied; homeowner housing has a 2.1% vacancy rate and rental housing has a 7.9% vacancy rate. A majority of owner-occupied houses have 3 bedrooms (57.4%) and a large majority have 3 or more bedrooms (79.3% of all owner-occupied houses). A plurality of renter-occupied housing units have 1 bedroom (29.9%) and a large majority have between 1 and 3 bedrooms (83.7% of all renter-occupied housing units).

All residential properties by number of units

Property Type	Number	%
1-unit detached structure	15,300	73.4%
1-unit, attached structure	860	4.1%
2-4 units	2,341	11.2%
5-19 units	942	4.5%
20 or more units	1,316	6.3%
Mobile Home, boat, RV, van, etc	90	0.4%
Total	20,849	100%

Table 27 - Residential Properties by Unit Number

Data Source: 2018-2022 ACS

Unit Size by Tenure

	Owners		Renters	
	Number	%	Number	%
No bedroom	19	0.2%	284	4.5%
1 bedroom	166	1.4%	1,901	29.9%
2 bedrooms	2,304	19.1%	1,775	27.9%
3 bedrooms	6,922	57.4%	1,647	25.9%
4 or more bedrooms	2,646	21.9%	754	11.9%
Total	12,057	65.5%	6,361	34.5%

Table 28 - Unit Size by Tenure

Data Source: 2018-2022 ACS

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

The following number of units in the City of Altoona are assisted with Federal, State and Local Programs:

- Public Housing - 516 housing units. The income levels are at 50% and below AMI.
- Housing Choice Vouchers - 937 vouchers of which 37 are Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers. The income levels are at 80% and below AMI.

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

The Altoona Housing Authority estimates that it will lose five (5) units from the expiration of Section 8 contracts for FY 2025.

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

There is a sufficient supply of housing units within the City of Altoona. According to the 2018-2022 ACS there are 12,057 owner-occupied housing units, 6,361 renter-occupied housing units, and 2,431 vacant units for a total of 20,813 housing units. The population over the past ten years has steadily declined as has the total number of households. The 2:1 ratio of owner-occupied housing units to renter-occupied units limits renter choice of affordable, decent, safe, and sound rental housing units.

Describe the need for specific types of housing:

Based on the statistics above and through interviews, meetings, and surveys, the City has determined that the greatest housing need in the City of Altoona is for decent, safe, and sanitary affordable housing units. There is a particular need for accessible housing for the disabled and elderly.

Discussion

There is a continuing need for affordable and accessible housing in the City of Altoona. However, there is a lack of financial resources to adequately address these issues, and the multi-level aging housing stock creates difficulties in making accommodations such as ramps. The City is willing to cooperate with private developers and not-for-profit housing development agencies to construct new for-sale housing in the City that is affordable to lower-income families.

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

Introduction

The value of housing has increased in the last five years in the City of Altoona. According to the 2013-2017 American Community Survey the median home value was \$87,600, which has increased by 26.4% to \$110,700 as of the 2018-2022 American Community Survey estimates. Median rent has also risen from \$623 per month to \$795 per month, a 27.6% increase. Of all rental housing units, 74.1% rented for less than \$1,000 per month in the 2018-2022 ACS (down from 91.0% that were less than \$1,000 per month in the 2013-2017 ACS), and apartments renting for less than \$500 per month went from 29.4% of the rental market in 2017 to 22.9% in 2022.

According to Zillow.com, the median sales price for a single-family home in Altoona, PA was \$130,000 on March 31, 2025.

According to the 2016-2020 American Community Survey, 270 for-rent housing units were affordable to households whose income was 50% or less of HUD Area Median Family Income (HAMFI). For homebuyers and homeowners, 125 for-sale housing units were affordable to households with 50% or less HAMFI.

Cost of Housing

	Base Year: 2017	Most Recent Year: 2022	% Change
Median Home Value	\$87,600	\$110,700	26.4%
Median Contract Rent	\$623	\$795	27.6%

Table 29 - Cost of Housing

Data Source: 2013-2017 ACS (Base Year), 2018-2022 ACS (Most Recent)

Rent Paid	Number	%
Less than \$500	1,359	22.9%
\$500-999	3,040	51.2%
\$1,000-1,499	1,216	20.5%
\$1,500-1,999	224	3.8%
\$2,000 or more	94	1.6%
Total	5,933	100%
Median Rent (\$)	\$795	--
No Rent Paid	428	--

Table 30 - Rent Paid

Data Source: 2018-2022 ACS

Housing Affordability

% Units affordable to Households earning	Renter	Owner
30% HAMFI	1,095	No Data
50% HAMFI	2,875	1,715
80% HAMFI	5,345	4,185
100% HAMFI	No Data	5,544
Total	9,315	11,444

Table 31 - Housing Affordability

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

Monthly Rent

Monthly Rent (\$)	Studio (no bedroom)	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom
Fair Market Rent	613	756	917	1,116	1,243
High HOME Rent	600	638	796	997	1,076
Low HOME Rent	570	610	732	846	945

Table 32 - Monthly Rent

Data Source: HUD FMR and HOME Rents

Is there sufficient housing for households at all income levels?

Based on the HUD CHAS data, there is not sufficient housing for all income levels due to the cost burden.

The following households have housing costs that are 30% to 50% of their AMI:

- White: 2,620 (14.1% of all households, 15.2% of all White households)
- Black/African American: 205 (1.1% of all households, 28.9% of all Black households)
- Other/Multiple Race: 115 (0.6% of all households, 42.6% of all Other/Multiple Race households)
- Hispanic households: 25 (0.1% of all households, 8.1% of all Hispanic households)

The following households have housing costs that are greater than 50% of their AMI:

- White: 1,965 (12.1% of all households, 11.4% of all White households)
- Black/African American: 89 (0.5% of all households, 12.6% of all Black households)
- Pacific Islander: 10 (0.1% of all households, 50.0% of all Pacific Islander households)
- Other/Multiple Race: 45 (0.2% of all households, 16.7% of all Other/Multiple Race households)
- Hispanic households: 120 (0.6% of all households, 38.7% of all Hispanic households)

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

Between 2017 and 2022 the median home value increased by 26.4% and the median contract rent increased by 27.6%. During that same time period, the median household income increased by 30.7% which does surpass the rate of inflation (20.4% between December 2017 and December 2022). However, stakeholders report that since 2022 housing costs have risen significantly while median income has not.

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

Zillow Research estimates that as of March 31, 2025, the median rental price for an apartment is \$900/month, identical to the estimated median rent from March 31, 2024 and slightly below the FY 2024 Fair Market Rent of \$917 for a two-bedroom apartment. Listings on websites and classifieds advertise rental rates between the low \$600s a month to a high of \$1,900 for various types of housing (multiunit, townhouse or single-family detached house) and numbers of bedrooms from studio (no bedrooms) to five or more bedrooms. Apartments.com and Zillow only have limited information about cost per bedroom, and it is difficult to obtain a realistic rental cost average from Craigslist due to its duplicate listings. The drastically differing sources of data make it difficult to determine if true rental rates are below, on par, or above fair market rents which can impact on the overall affordability of housing for the City's residents and create drastic differences in the quality and upkeep of available and desirable housing.

Discussion

While housing may appear affordable in the City of Altoona, the sources of rental rates differ drastically. Several City residents negotiate rents on a verbal contract putting them at risk of rent hikes or evictions. Others may have long-term or rent-controlled contracts which skew the average lower, while the asking price for new contracts is correspondingly higher. The most pressing housing need is for affordable, decent, safe, and sound accessible housing in the City.

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

Introduction

The housing market analysis for the City of Altoona revealed the following summary:

- There are 1,674 (13.9%) owner-occupied housing units with one or two selected conditions (lacking full plumbing, lacking a full kitchen, more than one person per bedroom, or cost burden over 30%) out of 12,057 owner-occupied housing units.
- There are 3,056 (48.0%) renter-occupied housing units with one or two selected conditions out of 6,361 renter-occupied housing units.
- There are 7,859 (65.2%) of all owner-occupied housing units built before 1950 (75 years of age or older) out of 12,057 owner-occupied housing units.
- There are 2,889 (46.1%) of all renter-occupied housing units built before 1950 out of 6,361 renter-occupied housing units.
- There are 11,235 (93.2%) of all owner-occupied housing units built before 1980 and with a risk of lead-based paint hazard.
- There are 5,488 (86.3%) of all renter-occupied housing units built before 1980 and with a risk of lead-based paint hazard.

Definitions

The following definitions are used in the table below:

- **"Standard Condition"** - The condition of a housing unit that is compliant with the local codes and ordinances and which does not need any rehabilitation work or maintenance work.
- **"Selected Housing Condition"** - Overcrowding (1.01 or more persons per room), lacking a complete kitchen, lack of plumbing facilities, and/or other utilities, and cost over-burden.
- **"Substandard condition"** - Does not meet code standards or contains one of the selected housing conditions.
- **"Suitable for Rehabilitation"** - The amount of work required to bring the unit up to minimum code standard, and the existing debt on the property, together are less than the fair market value of the property.
- **"Not Suitable for Rehabilitation"** - The amount of work required to bring the unit up to minimum code standard exceeds the fair market value of the property after rehabilitation work is complete.

Condition of Units

Condition of Units	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
With one selected Condition	1,570	13%	3,390	50%
With two selected Conditions	45	0%	80	1%
With three selected Conditions	0	0%	35	1%
With four selected Conditions	0	0%	0	0%
No selected Conditions	10,105	86%	3,320	49%
Total	11,720	99%	6,825	101%

Table 33 - Condition of Units

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

Year Unit Built

Year Unit Built	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
2000 or later	170	1%	180	3%
1980-1999	585	5%	685	10%
1950-1979	3,210	27%	2,885	42%
Before 1950	7,755	66%	3,070	45%
Total	11,720	99%	6,820	100%

Table 34 - Year Unit Built

Data Source: 2016-2020 CHAS

Risk of Lead-Based Paint Hazard

Risk of Lead-Based Paint Hazard	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total Number of Units Built Before 1980	10,965	94%	5,955	87%
Housing Units built before 1980 with children present	175	1%	70	1%

Table 35 - Risk of Lead-Based Paint

Data Source: 2016-2020 ACS (Total Units), 2016-2020 CHAS (Children Present)

Vacant Units

	Suitable for Rehabilitation	Not Suitable for Rehabilitation	Total
Vacant Units	405	2026	2,431
Abandoned Vacant Units	102	506	608
REO Properties	14	8	22
Abandoned REO Properties	0	0	0

Table 36 - Vacant Units

Data Source Comments: 2016-2020 CHAS; City of Altoona; Zillow

Need for Owner and Rental Rehabilitation

There is a need for housing rehabilitation work in the City of Altoona. After a pause during the COVID pandemic, the City has resumed its aggressive code enforcement policy efforts. In addition, as an older urban environment with 73.7% of its housing units built over 75 years ago, there is a need for rehabilitation work. These housing units regularly need their plumbing, electrical, and heating systems repaired or brought up to code standard. Low- and fixed-income families, seniors, and/or people with disabilities are the most likely to live in this substandard housing and are most in need of assistance with deferred maintenance. Additionally, the City of Altoona has four Historic Districts (Downtown Altoona, Broad Avenue, Knickerbocker and Llyswen) whose structures contribute to the historic fabric of those areas, and which require specialized rehabilitation work with compatible historic materials, methods and aesthetics. The added expense of meeting National Register historic guidelines often leads homeowners and landlords to forego rehabilitation work.

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

There are approximately 11,235 (93.2%) owner-occupied and 5,488 (86.2%) renter-occupied housing units in the City that were built prior to 1980 and are at risk of lead-based paint (LBP) presence.

Discussion

In determining decent, safe and sanitary housing, one needs to look at the environmental quality where these units are located. Air quality and contaminants in the soil affect the condition of housing. Census information only reports on the number of persons per room (overcrowding condition), the cost burden, and the lack of a complete kitchen or plumbing facilities. These are general conditions and do not necessarily reflect the true conditions of houses in the area. A better source is the local building inspector or code officer whose in-person estimates are more comprehensive and accurate than the U.S. Census data. The City of Altoona incorporates all of these data sources for determining the condition of the housing in the City.

According to Zillow, as of January 2025 the City of Altoona had 22 distressed homes either in foreclosure, pre-foreclosure, bank-owned, or being auctioned, a rate of approximately 1 in every 548 owner-occupied units. An exact comparison is difficult, but the real estate firm ATTOM recorded that 1 in every 4,545 Pennsylvania households had a foreclosure filing in January 2025 and the February 2025 nationwide rate was 1 in every 4,395 households with a foreclosure filing.

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

Introduction

The Altoona Housing Authority owns and operates three (3) public housing communities with a total of 516 housing units in the public housing communities. It also operates one (1) unsubsidized moderate-income housing development with 126 units, though some of its residents do receive Section 8 vouchers.

In addition, the Housing Authority administers 937 Housing Choice Vouchers for low- to moderate-income households for rental units in the City and surrounding region.

Totals Number of Units

Program Type									
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers					
				Total	Project-based	Tenant-based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
# of units vouchers available	0	126	513	937	0	900	37	0	0
# of accessible units	0	6	37	0	0	0	0	0	0
*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-Year, and Nursing Home Transition									

Table 37 - Total Number of Units by Program Type

Data Source: Altoona Housing Authority

Describe the supply of public housing developments:

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

The Authority administers 513 public housing apartments, 126 market-rate apartments, and 937 Section 8 vouchers. An examination of current occupancy levels and waiting list information shows a majority of families have incomes below 30% of median income. The Authority monitors income targeting on a quarterly basis for compliance. Due to the age of the public housing units, regular maintenance is required to improve dwellings.

Public Housing Condition

<i>Public Housing Development</i>	<i>Average Inspection Score</i>
11th Street Tower	94
Green Avenue Tower	94
Fairview Hills	92
Pleasant Village (moderate income housing)	Not inspected

Table 38 - Public Housing Condition

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

The City of Altoona Public Housing Authority has public housing units and publicly assisted housing units in the following public housing communities:

- **Fairview Hills** - 150 Units (9 accessible)
- **Green Avenue Tower** - 203 Units (16 accessible)
- **Eleventh Street Tower** - 160 Units (12 accessible)

The physical condition of the public housing is good, but maintenance and upgrading is needed due to the age of the units. There is a need to make more units accessible for tenants with disabilities.

In addition, the Housing Authority's FY 2024-2028 Five-Year Plan for the Capital Fund Grant Program indicated the following as needed capital improvements in the public housing developments: window replacement, door replacement, appliances, security cameras, carpet replacement, abatement (lead based paint and asbestos), hallway lighting, toilet replacement, curb replacement and curb stops, hallway flooring upgrades, boiler replacement and boiler room repairs, hot water tanks, kitchen upgrades, storm drains, medicine cabinet replacement, outside lighting, daycare lighting replacement, sidewalk repairs, blacktop repair, fire alarm upgrades, elevator upgrades, roof drain stack replacement, dumpster enclosure replacement, landscaping and retaining wall, playground upgrades, painting, tub refinishing, balcony repairs, roof replacement, relocation fees, interior lighting, bathroom sinks and plumbing, siding, soffit replacement, heating units, and range hoods.

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

The Altoona Housing Authority has composed the following Progress Report on Goals/Objectives:

- Continue to educate Section 8 Voucher landlords on regulations associated with program regulations and annual Landlord Workshop.
- Continue to educate the community on Authority programs through various agencies.
- Continue to work with the City of Altoona in promoting Fair Housing events.

- Continue to increase Section 8 Voucher landlord participation.
- Continue to improve public housing vacancy rates.
- Continue to maintain PHAS high performer ranking.
- Continue to maintain SEMAP high performer ranking.
- Rent analysis for Public Housing Developments - Rent Charged vs. Rent Collected 98%.
- Continue to update Preventative Maintenance Plan and provide training to maintenance employees.
- Continue to provide training to staff through the Pennsylvania Association of Housing & Redevelopment Agencies (PAHRA) and the Western Pennsylvania Housing Directors Association (WPHDA) in person or via the internet.
- Continuation of the Head Start Program on-site at the Public Housing Family Development. Enrollment is currently 14 children.
- Continuation of seeking input from residents on customer service.
- Continuation of Altoona Police Department coverage at all Public Housing Developments.
- Continuation of Fair Housing Programs and City recognition of April as Fair Housing month.
- Continuation of providing Reasonable Accommodation training to staff and residents and the proper procedure for reviewing said requests.
- Continue to update bulletin boards at all developments with notices and brochures.
- Continue to monitor funding allocations for the Section 8 Voucher Program to assist as many households as possible with leasing.
- Continue to renovate and upgrade Public Housing units through Capital Fund modernization.
- Continue to offer an on-site After School Program at our Public Housing Family Development.
- Continue to conduct staff meetings to update staff on current regulation.
- Continue to educate staff and provide updates to residents on the HOTMA regulations.
- Continue to encourage residents at all public housing developments the importance of active resident organizations.
- Continue to address concerns/issues from residents.
- Continue to review recently adopted Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP) and Administrative Plan for Section 8 on regulatory changes.
- Continue to educate residents on lease revisions.
- Continue to educate staff and residents on the Violence Against Women Policy.

The Altoona Housing Authority's Fair Housing Policy has the following fair housing strategies and actions to achieve their goals:

1. The Authority prohibits discrimination in housing because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status and disability. The Authority hosts educational workshops throughout the year and includes a component addressing Fair Housing regulations to landlords. Flyers are sent throughout the year to various agencies advising them of said regulations. The Authority also provides new clients with information on Fair Housing regulations at lease up. The Authority will continue to expand on these efforts in 2025. The Authority provides applicants and clients with

brochures such as *Fair Housing is Your Right*, *Fair Housing Equal Opportunity* and *Your Fair Housing Rights - Sexual Harassment*.

2. The Authority continues to promote Fair Housing Awareness Month through participating in an annual poster contest at our family public housing development. In celebration of Fair Housing Awareness Month in April 2024, the Authority invited Summit Legal Aid (formerly Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Services) to host an all-staff educational session on Fair Housing regulations.
3. The Authority participates in quarterly fair housing task force meetings. The lead participant is Summit Legal Aid. The Authority works very closely with Attorney Jaime Milligan from Summit Legal throughout the year promoting awareness and various workshops through the City of Altoona.

Discussion:

The Housing Authority is the primary provider of housing for the very low- and extremely low-income residents of the City of Altoona. To adequately meet the housing needs of the lowest income residents of the City, additional funding resources are required.

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

Introduction

Note: the 2025 Housing Inventory Count data was published in June 2025 and due to time constraints has not been included in this Plan. It is available at the Eastern Pennsylvania CoC website, <https://pennsylvaniacoc.org/>.

The following table lists the existing facilities for the homeless in the City of Altoona as of the Eastern Pennsylvania CoC FY 2024 Housing Inventory Count (HIC).

Facilities and Housing Targeted to Homeless Households

	Emergency Shelter Beds		Transitional* Housing Beds	Permanent Supportive Housing Beds	
	Year Round Beds (Current & New)	Voucher / Seasonal / Overflow Beds	Current & New	Current & New	Under Development
Households with Adult(s) and Child(ren)	25	0	138	13	0
Households with Only Adults	10	14	73	29	0
Chronically Homeless Households	0	0	0	0	0
Veterans	0	0	12	42	0
Unaccompanied Youth	9	0	0	0	0

Table 39 - Facilities and Housing Targeted to Homeless Households

Data Source Comments: Eastern PA CoC FY 2024 Housing Inventory Count (HIC)

*Note: includes Rapid Re-Housing Beds.

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

Providers of services to homeless persons refer clients to local providers of mainstream services on a regular basis. These providers of mainstream services include the Blair County Assistance Office for TANF and SNAP, UPMC Altoona and the Gloria Gates Foundation for health care services, UPMC Home Nursing Agency for mental health services and PA CareerLink for employment services. Veteran's health care and other services are available through the James E. Van Zandt Veterans Hospital.

Additionally, the Eastern Pennsylvania CoC has undertaken the following projects in Blair County in 2024:

- Center for Community Action - PA 0372 Blair CAP Rapid Rehousing and RRH Expansion
- Center for Community Action - PA 0813 South Central PA Rapid Rehousing

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

The Center for Community Action (successor to the Blair County Community Action Program) provides budget counseling, job readiness/job search, transportation assistance related to employment, child care expenses, clothing for clients for job interviews, housing placement assistance and the purchase of basic home furnishings for clients who are moving into unfurnished transitional housing. UPMC Altoona and Home Nursing Agency provide mental health and drug and alcohol counseling, PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation provides service for persons with disabilities, the Blair County Assistance Office provides TANF and General Assistance and related services, the Altoona VA Hospital provides veteran's services, the Altoona Food Bank and St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank provides food and the Altoona Area School District provides GED and Remedial Education services.

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

Introduction

The City of Altoona has identified the priorities for services and facilities for its special needs population. This includes the elderly, frail elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with alcohol or other drug addictions, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, and public housing residents.

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

- **Elderly Persons** - Accessible housing units plus supportive services such as transportation to health services and recreation opportunities.
- **Frail Elderly** - Accessible housing units and community infrastructure plus supportive services such as transportation to health services and recreation opportunities.
- **Mentally and/or Physically Disabled** - Accessible housing/permanent supportive housing using the Housing First model to avoid transitional housing; supportive services such as PATH (Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness) and SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery) case management for those suffering from mental illness, substance abuse, or coexisting disorders; education and job training; financial counseling; and access to health care services.
- **Persons With Substance Addiction Issues** - Permanent supportive housing, using the Housing First model to avoid transitional housing; supportive services such as PATH (Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness) and SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery) case management for those suffering from mental illness, substance abuse, or coexisting disorders; education and job training; financial counseling; and access to health care services.
- **HIV/AIDS Persons** - Permanent supportive housing plus supportive services such as case management and continued access to health services and counseling.
- **Victims of Domestic Violence** - Permanent supportive housing, using the Housing First model to avoid transitional housing, plus supportive services such as case management, peer-to-peer support, legal assistance, education and job training, financial counseling, and access to victims counseling.

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

The City of Altoona will assist in coordination with the PA Department of Human Services (DHS) to ensure that persons returning from mental and physical health institutions have an individual supportive services

plan. This includes housing, training/education, employment and other support services needed for a smooth transition back into society.

Local hospitals have guidelines for staff on how to appropriately discharge patients, regarding resource connections and appropriate living situations prior to exiting the facility. The CoC works with healthcare providers to ensure individuals are being discharged into permanent housing, and the CoC staff continues to work with providers, particularly through SOAR and HMIS involvement, to strengthen this connection and offer guidance on appropriate discharge.

The area's healthcare providers are the primary force working directly with individuals to ensure they are not being discharged into homelessness. The CoC is taking specific steps toward increasing the effectiveness of discharge from medical settings to permanent housing.

There is a strong network of agencies and service providers in Altoona/Blair County that operate programs for homeless persons. These providers have relationships established with mainstream providers of health, mental health and employment services and refer homeless persons to these providers on a regular basis for needed services.

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

For FY 2025, the City will support the efforts of agencies that serve the special needs populations in Altoona. The City will also support Emergency Financial Assistance Programs to provide emergency rent assistance to low-and moderate-income renters to help prevent homelessness.

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

Not Applicable.

MA-40 Barriers to Affordable Housing - 91.210(e)**Negative Effects of Public Policies on Affordable Housing and Residential Investment**

The City of Altoona previously identified and implemented the following changes to the City's Zoning Ordinances:

- Added under Title Three, Article 1, Section 101 a new subsection to address Housing Choice and Fair Housing.
- Added a definition for "Accessibility" to the definition section of the Zoning Ordinance.

There are no known public policies in the City of Altoona that are barriers to affordable housing. The City Department of Community Development monitors the following:

- Tax policies affecting land and other properties
- Land use controls
- Zoning Ordinance
- Building Code
- Fees and charges

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

Introduction

The goal of the City of Altoona's economic development policy is to foster economic growth in the community, improve the local economy, promote job opportunities, and increase the local tax base.

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	16	2	0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Construction	1,100	1,015	5.6%	5.2%	-0.4%
Manufacturing	1,588	1,176	8.1%	6.1%	-2.0%
Wholesale Trade	543	382	2.8%	2.0%	-0.8%
Retail Trade	2,943	2,079	15.1%	10.7%	-4.4%
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	1,328	563	6.8%	2.9%	-3.9%
Information	339	528	1.7%	2.7%	1.0%
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	595	693	3.0%	3.6%	0.6%
Professional, Scientific, Management & Waste	1,460	2,375	7.5%	12.3%	4.8%
Education and Health Care Services	5,703	7,655	29.2%	39.6%	10.4%
Arts, Entertainment, Accommodations	2,082	1,728	10.6%	8.9%	-1.7%
Other Services	1,015	783	5.2%	4.0%	-1.2%
Public Administration	842	370	4.3%	1.9%	-2.4%
Total	19,554	19,349	--	--	--

Table 40 - Business Activity

Data Source: 2018-2022 ACS (Workers), 2022 Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics OnTheMap (Jobs)

Labor Force

Total Population in the Civilian Labor Force	20,812
Civilian Employed Population 16 years and over	19,554
Unemployment Rate	6.0%
Unemployment Rate for Ages 16-24	12.2%
Unemployment Rate for Ages 25-65	4.9%

Table 41 - Labor Force

Data Source: 2018-2022 ACS

Occupations by Sector	Number of People
Management, business, science, and arts	6,235
Service	4,183
Sales and office	4,498
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance	1,760
Production, transportation, and material moving	2,878

Table 42 - Occupations by Sector

Data Source: 2018-2022 ACS

Travel Time

Travel Time	Number	Percentage
< 30 Minutes	15,293	84.5%
30-59 Minutes	2,298	12.7%
60 or More Minutes	505	2.8%
Total	18,096	100%

Table 43 - Travel Time

Data Source: 2018-2022 ACS

Education:**Educational Attainment by Employment Status (Population 25 to 64 years)**

Educational Attainment	In Labor Force		Not in Labor Force
	Civilian Employed	Unemployed	
Less than high school graduate	801	159	793
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	6,690	363	3,474
Some college or Associate's degree	4,452	249	1,113
Bachelor's degree or higher	3,959	62	561

Table 44 - Educational Attainment by Employment Status

Data Source: 2018-2022 ACS

Educational Attainment by Age

	Age				
	18-24 yrs	25-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-65 yrs	65+ yrs
Less than 9th grade	8	23	22	52	62
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	124	239	346	538	136
High school graduate, GED, or alternative	937	1,143	827	3,641	1,919
Some college, no degree	541	811	397	530	470
Associate's degree	131	191	256	324	133
Bachelor's degree	134	573	523	574	330
Graduate or professional degree	0	92	73	240	209

Table 45 - Educational Attainment by Age

Data Source: 2018-2022 ACS

Educational Attainment - Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Educational Attainment	Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months
Less than high school graduate	\$19,873
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	\$32,732
Some college or Associate's degree	\$37,736
Bachelor's degree	\$51,250
Graduate or professional degree	\$61,162

Table 46 - Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Data Source: 2018-2022 ACS

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

As the principal city in the Altoona Metropolitan Statistical Area and the twelfth most populous City in Pennsylvania as of the 2020 US Census, the City of Altoona contains a large number of professional offices, educators and health care workers. The City is also positioning itself as a tourism destination.

The three (3) largest categories of jobs in the business sector are as follows:

- **Education and Health Care Services** - 7,655 jobs
- **Professional, Scientific, Management & Waste Management** - 2,375 jobs
- **Retail Trade** - 2,079 jobs
- **Total = 12,109 jobs**

These three categories comprise 62.6% of the total number of jobs in the City. They represent a shift from the former leading categories of Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities and Manufacturing, which together only comprise 1,739 jobs (9.0%) in 2022.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Labor 4th quarter report for 2023 the top ten employers in Blair County by rank are:

1. UPMC Altoona
2. Sheetz, Inc.
3. State Government
4. Federal Government
5. Altoona Area School District
6. Sheetz Distribution Services LLC
7. Wal-Mart Associates, Inc.
8. Pyramid Healthcare, Inc.
9. Giant Food Stores LLC
10. Pennsylvania State University

Describe the workforce and infrastructure needs of the business community:

According to Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of January 2025 the City of Altoona has an unemployment rate of 4.0%. The equivalent unemployment rate of Pennsylvania is 4.3%, and the national rate is 4.5%. In Altoona, there are 17,842 available jobs and 19,554 workers.

Some employers such as Norfolk Southern Railroad and Sheetz will continue to maintain a major presence and large workforce in the area for the foreseeable future, whereas other major employers such as retailers are moving out of Altoona and the region due to inflationary pressures and competition from national and online retailers. Roundtable discussions indicate there is a shortage of qualified and trained employees to fill necessary positions, especially skilled labor in construction and nursing. Stakeholder and resident surveys also indicated the need for job training and skills programs to help build technical expertise and fill the gaps in employment available. Non-profits and service agencies are working together to help provide job training opportunities.

Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation (ABCD) works as a catalyst for business expansion in Blair County, and the Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission (SAPDC) serves Blair and other Counties to encourage the creation and retention of jobs and improve overall quality of life. Representatives from these agencies indicated that a lack of access to capital and land is a barrier to attracting new businesses and jobs to the City. They indicated that the City should consider resuming programs that assisted businesses and development initiatives.

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.

There are no major changes to the local economy expected. No businesses have announced major expansions or closures, and there are no abnormal economic pressures.

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

According to the 2018-2022 ACS Estimates, there were 20,812 persons in the civilian workforce in the City of Altoona. The majority of the workforce was employed in the Educational Services and Health Care and Social Assistance Category (5,703 persons) and the Retail Trade Category (2,943 persons). This corresponds to the City's educational attainment: 16,958 persons in the labor force had a high school diploma/equivalent or higher and 4,618 persons in the labor force had a bachelor's degree or higher.

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 following organizations provide workforce training initiatives and community education in the City:

Altoona Area School District Adult Education Program

For over fifty years, the Altoona Area School District (AASD) has provided Adult Education opportunities at the AASD Adult Education program. These courses are held at the ArtsAltoona building at 2212 6th Avenue. These courses are free to all Blair County residents thanks to funding from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through its Department of Education and PA CareerLink, as well as from the Southern Alleghenies Workforce Development Region. Programs and collaborations include:

- High School Equivalency Diploma (formerly the GED Program)
- EARN - Employment Advancement and Retention Network (Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission)
- Family Literacy
- Pennsylvania Literacy Corps
- PA CareerLink
- Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
- ELECT - Education Leading to Employment and Career Training (Center for Schools and Communities)

Greater Altoona Career and Technology Center

The Greater Altoona Career and Technology Center (GACTC) was founded in 1966 and is jointly sponsored by eight area school districts including AASD. GACTC provides vocational and technical programs in the form of high school programs as well as adult education. It offers full- and part-time training in more than 25 in-demand career paths for high school and adult students, and some programs can be offered on campus and online. Examples include:

- Automotive Technology
- Computer and Networking Technology
- Cosmetology
- Culinary Arts
- Dental Assistant
- Electrical Trades
- Emergency Services
- Freight Broker Agent
- Graphic Design
- HVAC/R
- Logistics & Supply Chain Management
- Medical Assistant
- Pharmacy Technician
- Phlebotomy
- Precision Machining
- Software Certificates
- Welding Technology

Penn State Altoona Continuing Education and Training

Beyond its 5 associate degree programs, 22 bachelor's degree programs, 5 Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate programs, and the ability to complete the general requirements for over 275 bachelor's degree programs throughout the Penn State system, Penn State Altoona offers professional and workforce development training. This includes management skills, such as Strategic Planning, and Supervisory and Leadership Training. It also offers basic concepts in computers and engineering as well as many other career development programs.

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

The City of Altoona participates in the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission Regional 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 Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy addresses the objective of supporting entrepreneurial initiatives designed to attract businesses, industries, and professionals to downtown areas. One of these strategies mentions attracting young entrepreneurs engaged in the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) research and development. Potential partners for these initiatives would include entities such as the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) and Penn State University as well as private lenders and economic development organizations.

Current partners that address issues of economic development include the Blair County Alliance for Business & Economic Growth. The Blair County Alliance is the result of the affiliation of the Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation and the Blair County Chamber of Commerce. The agency is “a private non-profit 501(c)6 organization whose mission is to grow the economy, attract new investment and improve the quality of life for all Blair County residents.” The Blair County Alliance provides financial, entrepreneurship and business development, workforce development, and expansion and retention services to businesses in the region.

The City of Altoona also works closely with Penn State University and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), on workforce development and expansion, since both have locations in Altoona and are major employers in the region.

Discussion

As of the end of January 2025, the City's unemployment rate was 4.0% while the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's unemployment rate was 4.3% and the national rate was 4.5% for the same period. The need for new business growth and job opportunities and to retain existing businesses and jobs remains a prime concern in Altoona.

MA-50 Needs and Market Analysis Discussion

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

Households with multiple housing problems are located throughout the City of Altoona. Cost burden in the CHAS data is only available for low- and moderate-income families. Using other data sources, it is evident that householders throughout the City of Altoona are cost burdened. The CHAS data, however, does reveal information regarding housing problems for specific minority groups and areas of minority concentration are already defined and mapped in this report.

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

The City of Altoona defines an area of minority concentration as having more than a 50% minority population. There are no areas of minority concentration in the City of Altoona. This is largely due to the fact that only 9.1% of the City's residents are non-White or Hispanic.

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

These areas have the oldest housing stock in the City of Altoona. They are the most affordable places in the City of Altoona to purchase or rent a house, but are in need of renovation to reduce energy costs, increase livability and accessibility, and meet code standards.

Are there any community assets in these areas/neighborhoods?

Housing problems exist throughout the City of Altoona but are concentrated in central, northern and eastern parts of the City. The large majority of social services and community assets exist in these areas, such as City Hall, the main Fire and Police stations, schools, most churches, etc. The City of Altoona collaborates with service providers to continue to deliver services to low- and moderate-income households throughout the City, especially those households with housing problems.

Are there other strategic opportunities in any of these areas?

The City of Altoona offers a robust rental and homeowner housing rehabilitation program. This program offers low- and moderate-income households an opportunity to address housing problems associated with the housing unit. However, this program does not address cost burden issues.

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

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

The Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA), signed into law on December 22, 2021, is an independent agency of the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). PBDA is responsible for creating a statewide broadband plan (also available in multiple languages) and distributing federal and state monies for broadband expansion projects in unserved and underserved areas of Pennsylvania. The Authority focuses on closing Pennsylvania's digital divide so all residents can get connected to affordable and reliable high-speed broadband internet at home, at work, or on the road. PBDA administers the \$1.16 billion that was awarded through the Federal government for broadband deployment, mapping, and adoption projects.

As of the August 2023 PBDA Five-Year Plan, there were 279,085 unserved locations across Pennsylvania where broadband is not available (less than 25 megabits per second download speed and 3 Mbps upload speed), as well as 54,048 locations that are underserved (less than 100 Mbps download/20 Mbps upload speed). Access to broadband services increases opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons by connecting them with housing opportunities, educational resources, and job opportunities.

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

Having multiple service providers in an area stimulates innovation as companies compete with each other to have the optimal product for end users. The growth of these companies would also stimulate local economies as job opportunities become available to deploy and expand broadband infrastructure, and to install, improve, and/or expand broadband systems. Though residents may have difficulty affording service, there are multiple broadband providers in Altoona offering wireless, satellite, cable and DSL.

MA-65 Hazard Mitigation - 91.210(a)(5), 91.310(a)(3)**Describe the jurisdiction's increased natural hazard risks associated with climate change.**

In 2006 the Blair County Department of Emergency Service hired the engineering consulting firm URS Corporation to complete the Blair County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Since that time, it has been updated periodically by Blair Planning. In the original plan, Altoona was identified as being at great risk of flooding, flash flooding, and severe weather such as winter storms, windstorms, and tornadoes. Blair Planning is in the process of updating the BRAVE Hazard Mitigation Plan and is expected to release the new plan to its members in 2025 for their approval. Its major considerations are identifying all types of hazards, examining the built, social, and natural environments for vulnerabilities, addressing community capacity to handle hazards, and writing an action plan for hazard preparedness, management and recovery. The Blair County Emergency Management Agency is in charge of coordinating the application of governmental and volunteer emergency service organizations and facilities in the event of disaster emergency situations and for supplementing the disaster operations and recovery plans of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Altoona's valley location between the Allegheny Front and Brush Mountain makes it more prone to floods than other areas within the Commonwealth. It is an urbanized area with less vegetation and more pavement than surrounding rural areas. There are few marshlands that can absorb floodwater, and the aging sanitary and storm sewers can become overloaded with storm water causing flooding and pollution issues. The City is also downhill from multiple reservoirs to the east and west, and though their dams receive periodic inspections this is still a risk factor for catastrophic damage.

Conversely, Altoona has been increasingly subject to weather extremes, such as heatwaves and drought during the summer, extended cold during the winter, and severe storms during all times of year. Air conditioning is not universal in Altoona, placing stress on elderly and disabled residents. Due to the advanced age and insufficient insulation of many residential structures in Altoona, which often rely on expensive electric, oil, or propane heat, households face ever-increasing energy costs. Low- and moderate-income occupied residences are also more likely to be in disrepair and vulnerable to storm damage, while also being under-insured. With increasing intensity and frequency of weather events, Altoona and Blair County are at a higher risk than ever of severe loss, damage, and infrastructure failures.

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

Low-income households are more likely to live in areas with greater exposure to natural hazards and less likely to live and work in structures that are resilient to these natural hazards. Immediately following disasters, State and Federal aid is more oriented towards homeowners than to renters, and the increased demand for rental properties drives up the cost of rent. Additionally, low-income individuals are already more likely to have chronic health conditions and to be exposed to harmful pollution in both their residence and their workplaces.

Any natural or manmade disaster can have devastating impacts, and such disasters have been occurring more frequently and with greater destructive energy. The impact on vulnerable lower income populations may be even more devastating. A number of these households may not have insurance or sufficient insurance to cover an unexpected event such as a fire or flood. Renters are likely more vulnerable than homeowners as there is a great possibility a renter does not have sufficient insurance to protect themselves. Even low- and moderate-income homeowners can be affected as they may be underinsured or lack flood insurance.

The 2020 BRAVE Plan estimates that according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Hazards U.S. Multi-Hazard Software (HAZUS), the total building-related losses from a 1% annual chance flood in Blair County are estimated to equal \$312,510,000. Of these, 33.50% comprise residential occupancies. The total economic loss, including replacement value, content loss, functional loss and displacement cost, from a county-wide 1% annual-chance flood are estimated to equal \$594,010,000. As the principal municipality and seat of Blair County, Altoona would suffer a significant amount of these losses.

Between 1998 and 2007 the City of Altoona purchased 22 properties to demolish and remain as open space (deed restricted) to prevent future disasters in those areas. However, the BRAVE Plan identified 475 structures in 2020 that remain vulnerable to flooding in the City of Altoona. The City will continue to identify areas of risk to mitigate future disasters and may continue to purchase properties to maintain as deed-restricted open space as a mitigation effort.

Strategic Plan

SP-05 Overview

Strategic Plan Overview

The Five-Year Consolidated Plan is a guide for the city of Altoona to use in its housing, community development, and economic development programs. The Strategic Plan portion of the Five-Year Consolidated Plan established the City's priorities and goals for:

- Housing
- Homelessness
- Other Special Needs
- Community Development
- Economic Development
- Administration, Planning, and Management

These strategies have been developed as the result of meetings agencies/organizations, public hearings, community meetings, resident surveys, agency/organization surveys, and consultations. It is based on needs assessment and market analysis.

The overriding objective and strategy is to assist low- and moderate-income residents (income of less than 80% of the area median income). These residents are referred to as the "target income" group. HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development shows that the City has an overall low- and moderate-income percentage of its population at 49.20%. The City is cognizant of the Federal regulation that at least 70% of all its CDBG funds must principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons. The City is committed to this and has created its Strategic Plan to meet that requirement.

The principles of the FY 2025-2029 Five-Year Consolidated Plan are as follows:

- **Assist** - By developing comprehensive strategies to support and assist those residents who are low and moderate income.
- **Involve** - The community and provide opportunities for citizen input in the planning process and preparation of the plan.
- **Collaborate** - Between public, private, and non-profit agencies and organizations to ensure that activities and services will be efficient and effective.
- **Leverage** – CDBG/HOME funds and other local resources to maximize the effectiveness of programs and services.
- **Promote** - Involvement of agencies and organizations to undertake specific projects and activities to assist low- and moderate-income persons.

The priority needs of the Five-Year Consolidated Plan were determined based on the following:

- Researching existing data on needs in the City
- Consultation with City staff and officials
- Interviews and meetings with community stakeholders
- Public hearings
- Resident surveys
- Surveys of social service providers, housing organizations, and community and economic development agencies

The key factors affecting the determination of the Five-Year priorities for the Five-Year Consolidated Plan include the following:

- The types of target income households with the greatest needs
- The areas with the greatest concentration of low-income households
- Activities that will best address the needs of City residents
- The limited amount of funding available to meet the needs
- The ability to leverage additional financial resources

SP-10 Geographic Priorities - 91.215 (a)(1)**Geographic Area****Table 47 - Geographic Priority Areas**

1.	Area Name:	Citywide
	Area Type:	Local Target area
	Other Target Area Description:	-
	HUD Approval Date:	-
	% of Low/ Mod:	-
	Revital Type:	Comprehensive
	Other Revital Description:	-
	Identify the neighborhood boundaries for this target area.	This target area includes all low- and moderate-income areas throughout the City of Altoona.
	Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.	The City of Altoona is 49.20% low- and moderate-income.
	How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?	-
	Identify the needs in this target area.	-
	What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?	-
	Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?	-

General Allocation Priorities**Describe the basis for allocating investments geographically within the jurisdiction (or within the EMSA for HOPWA)**

The City of Altoona will allocate its CDBG funds to those geographic areas whose population is over 51% low- and moderate-income. At least 70% of the City's CDBG funds are budgeted for activities will principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons. The following guidelines for allocating CDBG and HOME funds will be used during the FY 2025-2029 Five-Year Consolidated Plan:

- The public services activities are for social service organizations whose clientele have a low income or in certain cases, a limited type of clientele with a presumed low- and moderate-income status.

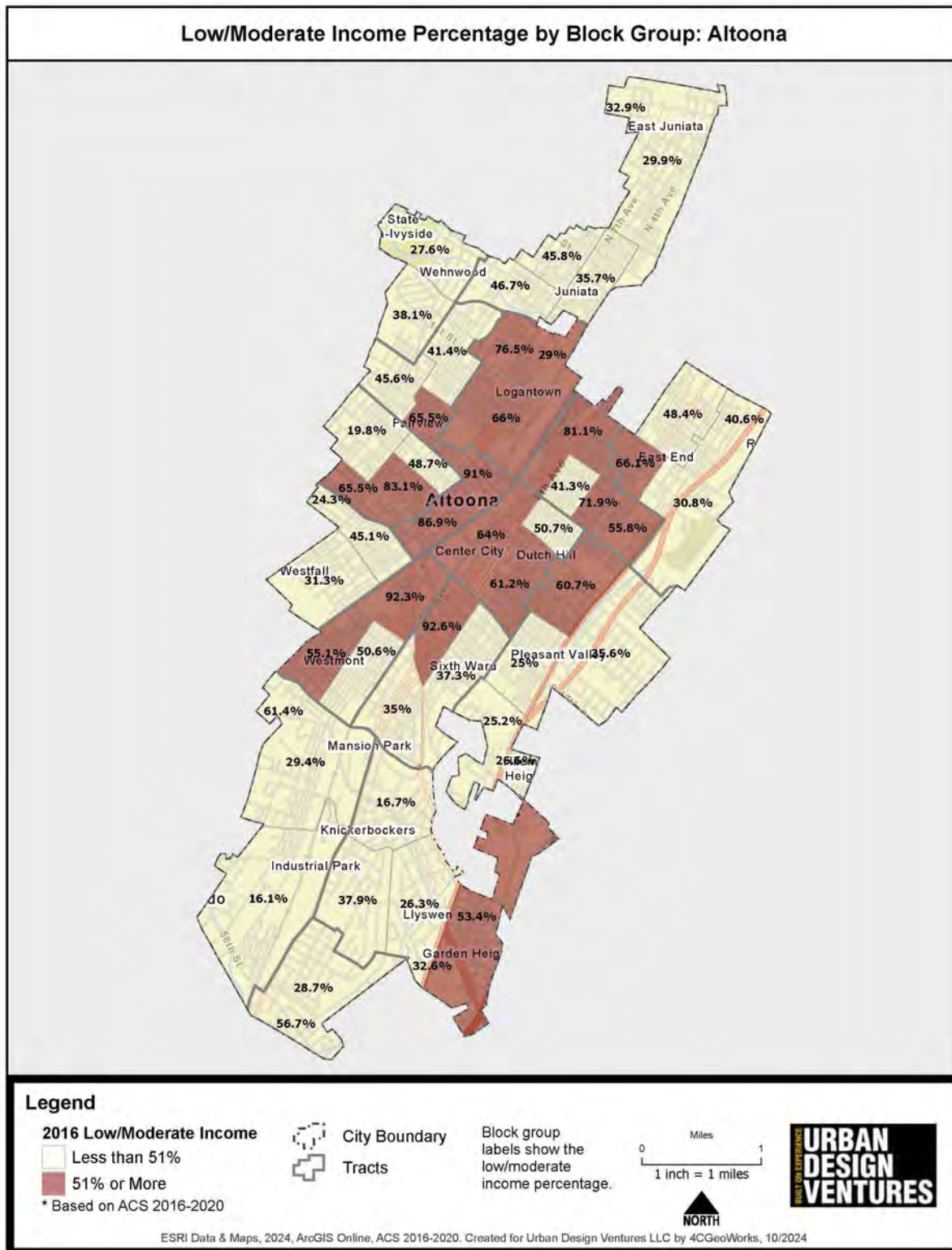
- The public facilities activities are either located in a low- and moderate-income census tract/block group or have a low- and moderate-income service area benefit or clientele over 51% low- and moderate-income.
- The acquisitions and demolition of structures are either located in a low- and moderate-income census area or these activities are eligible by preventing or eliminating slums and blight on a spot basis or area basis.
- The housing activities have income eligibility criteria; therefore, the income requirement directs funds to low- and moderate-income households throughout the City.
- Economic development projects will either be located in a low- and moderate-income census tract/block group, or a poverty tract greater than 20%, or part of a redevelopment plan, or making 51% of the jobs available to low- and moderate-income population.

The City of Altoona has an overall low-mod percentage of 49.2%. Of the City's 46 block groups, the following meet the low-mod block group definition of 51% or more low- and moderate-income persons:

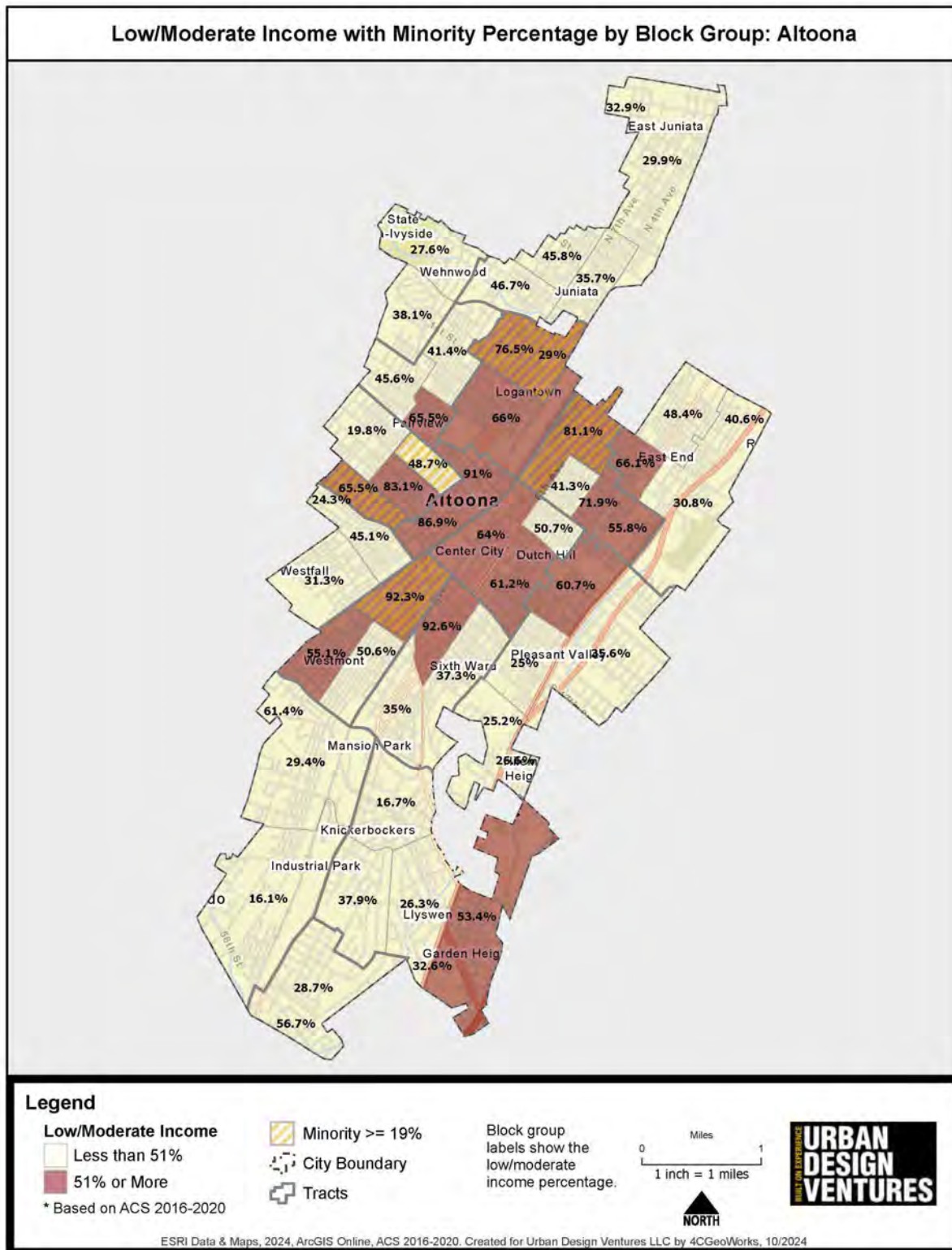
- CT 1003, BG 1: 92.3% low-mod
- CT 1003, BG 3: 55.1% low-mod
- CT 1005, BG 2: 83.1% low-mod
- CT 1005, BG 3: 65.5% low-mod
- CT 1006, BG 3: 65.5% low-mod
- CT 1007, BG 1: 66.0% low-mod
- CT 1007, BG 2: 76.5% low-mod
- CT 1012, BG 4: 53.4% low-mod
- CT 1014, BG 1: 92.6% low-mod
- CT 1015, BG 2: 60.7% low-mod
- CT 1016, BG 2: 61.2% low-mod
- CT 1016, BG 3: 64.0% low-mod
- CT 1017, BG 1: 55.8% low-mod
- CT 1017, BG 2: 81.1% low-mod
- CT 1017, BG 4: 71.9% low-mod
- CT 1018, BG 3: 66.1% low-mod
- CT 1019, BG 1: 91.0% low-mod
- CT 1019, BG 2: 86.9% low-mod

The HOME funds will be used for HOME Program administration and housing activities. These funds will be targeted to low-income households.

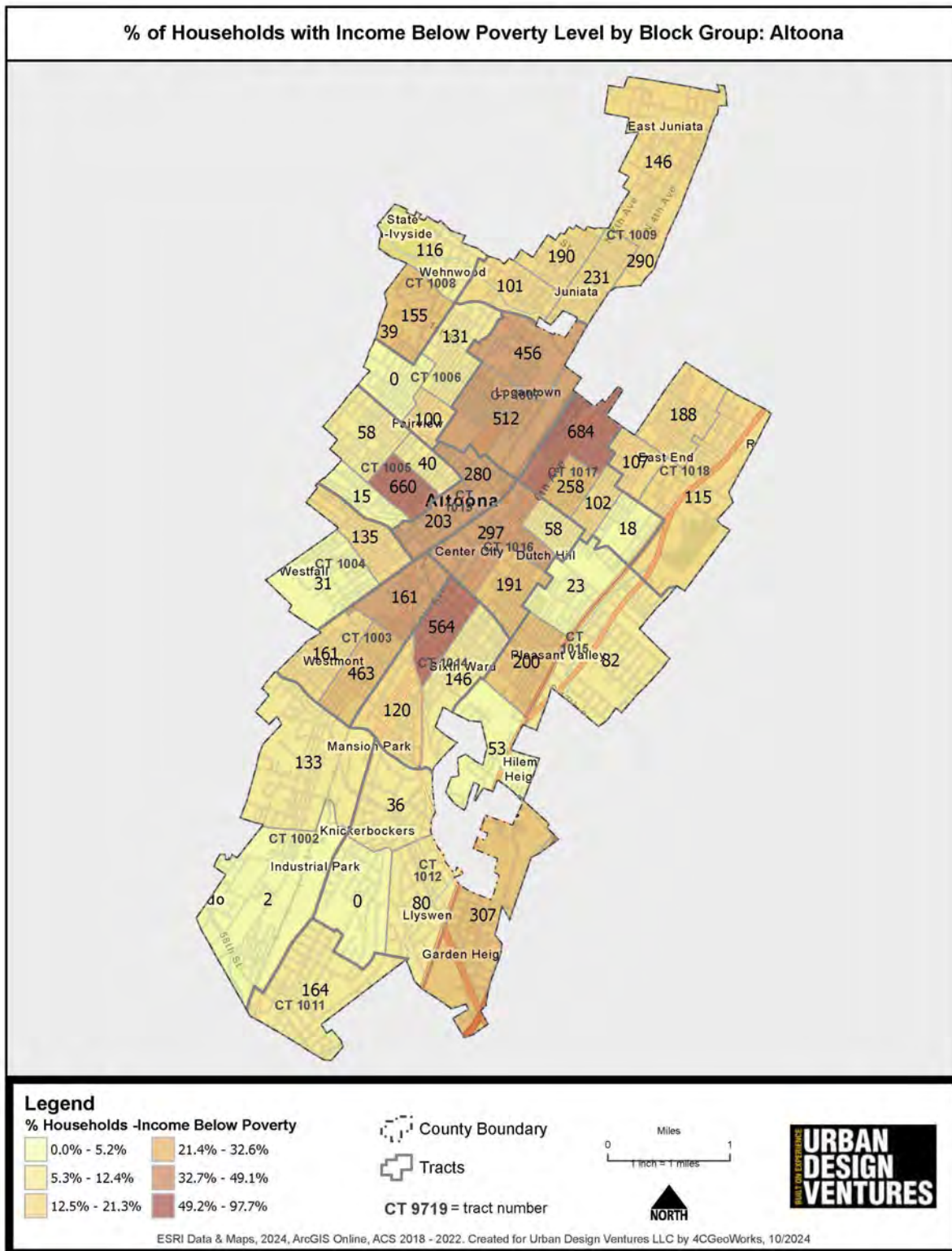
Below are maps illustrating the Percent of Low-Moderate Income Households by Block Group, Percent of Low-Moderate Income and Minority Households by Block Group, and Households Below the Poverty Level by Block Group.



Low/Moderate Income Percentage by Block Group



Low/Moderate Income with Minority Percentage by Block Group



Households with Income Below Poverty Level by Block Group

SP-25 Priority Needs - 91.215(a)(2)**Priority Needs****Table 48 - Priority Needs Summary**

1.	Priority Need Name	Housing Priority
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents
	Geographic Areas Affected	Citywide
	Associated Goals	HS-1 Homeownership HS-2 Housing Development HS-3 Housing Rehabilitation HS-4 Rent and Utility Assistance
	Description	There is a need to increase the amount of affordable, decent, safe, and sanitary housing for homebuyers, owner occupants, and renters.
	Basis for Relative Priority	23.5% of all households are cost burdened by 30% or more, which rises to 54.5% when only considering renter households. Altoona's housing stock has a median build date of 1943 which is relatively old. This housing stock was not constructed with accessibility features and may need to be retrofitted.
2.	Priority Need Name	Homeless Strategy
	Priority Level	Low

	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Rural Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth
	Geographic Areas Affected	Citywide
	Associated Goals	HO-1 Housing HO-2 Operation and Support HO-3 Prevention and Re-Housing
	Description	There is a need to develop and preserve housing opportunities for homeless persons and persons or families at-risk of becoming homeless.
	Basis for Relative Priority	This priority was determined through consultations with social service agencies, residents, and City staff.
3.	Priority Need Name	Other Special Needs Strategy
	Priority Level	Low

	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Elderly Frail Elderly 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 Victims of Domestic Violence
	Geographic Areas Affected	Citywide
	Associated Goals	SN-1 Housing SN-2 Social Services
	Description	There is a need to increase housing opportunities, services, and facilities for persons with special needs.
	Basis for Relative Priority	This priority was determined through consultations with social service agencies, residents, and City staff.
4.	Priority Need Name	Community Development Strategy
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Citywide
	Associated Goals	CD-1 Community Facilities CD-2 Infrastructure CD-3 Public Services CD-4 Clearance/Demolition CD-5 Accessibility Improvements CD-6 Transportation
	Description	There is a need to improve community facilities, infrastructure, public services, and the quality of life for residents living in the City of Altoona.

	Basis for Relative Priority	This priority was determined through consultations with social service agencies, residents, and City staff.
5.	Priority Need Name	Economic Development Strategy
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Non-housing Community Development Other
	Geographic Areas Affected	Citywide
	Associated Goals	ED-1 Employment ED-2 Development ED-3 Redevelopment ED-4 Financial Assistance ED-5 Access to Transportation
	Description	There is a need to increase employment, workforce development, self-sufficiency, educational training, and empowerment for residents of the City of Altoona.
	Basis for Relative Priority	This priority was determined through consultations with social service agencies, residents, and City staff.
6	Priority Need Name	Administration, Planning, and Management Strategy
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Middle Non-housing Community Development Other
	Geographic Areas Affected	Citywide
	Associated Goals	AM-1 Overall Coordination AM-2 Fair Housing
	Description	There is a need for planning, administration, management, and oversight of Federal, State, and local funded programs.
	Basis for Relative Priority	This priority was determined through consultations with City staff.

Narrative (Optional)

The priority ranking of needs for housing, homelessness, other special needs, community development, economic development, and anti-poverty are as follows:

- **High Priority** - Activities are assigned a high priority if the City expects to fund them during the Five-Year Consolidated Plan period.
- **Low Priority** - Activities are assigned a low priority if the activity may not be funded by the City during the Five-Year Consolidated Plan period. The City may support applications for other funding if those activities are consistent with the needs identified in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan.

SP-30 Influence of Market Conditions - 91.215 (b)**Influence of Market Conditions**

Affordable Housing Type	Market Characteristics that will influence the use of funds available for housing type
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	The City has very limited HOME funds. Financial assistance is limited to rental rehabilitation.
TBRA for Non-Homeless Special Needs	With the limited amount of HOME funds and the need to increase rental housing rehabilitation, the City is not able to fund TBRA.
New Unit Production	There are numerous vacant sites in residential areas that the city can utilize for new construction. New construction will permit the design of housing for special needs population.
Rehabilitation	There is a high demand for rehabilitation funds for rental rehabilitation and single-family housing. Over 86% of occupied rental housing units were built prior to 1980.
Acquisition, including preservation	<p>The cost to acquire property is expensive, especially when relocation benefits are required.</p> <p>The City of Altoona has four (4) national historic districts. The Downtown Altoona Historic District consists of 240 contributing buildings located in the central business district and the surrounding residential area. The Broad Avenue Historic District includes 140 contributing buildings in a residential area. The Knickerbocker Historic District includes 153 contributing rowhouse residences built as worker's housing. Finally, the Llysven Historic District includes 166 contributing buildings, primarily single-family dwellings. These districts have increased construction costs but are eligible for incentives such as Historic Tax Credits.</p>

Table 49 - Influence of Market Conditions

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

The City of Altoona is receiving \$1,536,368.00 in CDBG funds and \$266,494.73 in HOME funds for the FY 2025 program year. Additionally, the City expects to receive \$80,000.00 in CDBG Program Income. The program year is from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Due to uncertain Federal funding, the City is planning for a 5% reduction in funding in each subsequent year of the FY 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan period. The following are the anticipated CDBG and HOME resources:

- **FY 2025** = \$1,536,368.00 CDBG + \$80,000.00 CDBG Program Income + \$266,494.73 HOME
- **FY 2026** = \$1,459,550.00 CDBG + \$80,000.00 CDBG Program Income + \$253,169.99 HOME
- **FY 2027** = \$1,382,731.00 CDBG + \$80,000.00 CDBG Program Income + \$239,845.26 HOME
- **FY 2028** = \$1,305,913.00 CDBG + \$80,000.00 CDBG Program Income + \$226,520.52 HOME
- **FY 2029** = \$1,229,094.00 CDBG + \$80,000.00 CDBG Program Income + \$213,195.78 HOME
- **Total** = **\$6,913,656.00 CDBG + \$400,000.00 CDBG Program Income + \$1,199,226.28 HOME**

The accomplishments of these projects/activities will be reported in the FY 2025 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Reports (CAPER) and subsequent CAPERs.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of Con Plan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	\$1,536,368.00	\$80,000.00	-0-	\$1,616,368.00	\$5,697,288.00	Five years of funding at a 5% reduction each year.
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	\$266,494.73	-0-	-0-	\$266,494.73	\$932,731.55	Five years of funding at a 5% reduction each year.

Table 50 - Anticipated Resources

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

The City of Altoona will continue to work with the Altoona Housing Authority on projects to upgrade the Housing Authority's housing stock. The Altoona Housing Authority also uses their Capital Funds in these projects.

State Programs

The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) provides loans and grants under the PennHOMES Program for development of rental housing, issues state Mixed Use Development Tax Credits and taxable or tax-exempt bonds to finance affordable housing and administers the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. These are funded through the National Housing Trust Fund, the Realty Transfer Tax Fund, the Marcellus Shale Fund, and the Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund (PHARE).

The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) administers several programs related to affordable housing. The Housing and Community Development (HCD) Program provides loans and grants for acquisition and development of housing for low- and moderate-income persons.

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources funds have been and will continue to be used to leverage CDBG funds for streetscape and tree planting projects.

Private Resources

Private investment in the form of cash, private mortgage and other financing may be available for housing. These resources can take many forms and may even be raised through obtaining either Low-Income Housing Tax Credits or Historic Tax Credits. It is beyond the scope of this Consolidated Plan to qualify any and all private real estate investment activity.

Local Resources

Operation Our Town, a local philanthropic organization, often contributes funds to the Altoona law enforcement community. City capital planning and general funds are used to leverage Federal funds for various public works projects, including street paving, streetscaping, code/zoning enforcement, planning and policing. While it does not currently have a line item in the City budget, the Shade Tree Commission plants and maintains trees that complement CDBG funded streetscaping projects.

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

The City provides an ongoing 50% matching funds through its HOME program for private landlords to upgrade or rehabilitate housing units that are rented to low-income families and individuals.

Discussion

The City of Altoona will continue to use a variety of funds to address and accomplish the goals established in this Consolidated Plan.

DRAFT

SP-40 Institutional Delivery Structure - 91.215(k)

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

Responsible Entity	Responsible Entity Type	Role	Geographic Area Served
City of Altoona	Government	Planning	Jurisdiction
Altoona Housing Authority	PHA	Public Housing	Jurisdiction
Center for Community Action	Continuum of care	Homelessness	Region

Table 51 - Institutional Delivery Structure

Assess of Strengths and Gaps in the Institutional Delivery System

Community development, housing, and human service needs are provided by a wide variety of agencies and organizations. The City takes the lead in administering the program through its Department of Community Development. The City surveys the human service agencies and public and private housing providers and other nonprofit organizations to determine the unmet needs of clients eligible for CDBG, HOME and the State's Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) ESG program. Project applications for unmet needs are invited from these agencies. These agencies are encouraged to identify service gaps and recommend methods for filling those gaps. The consolidated plan is implemented through the human service agencies in Blair County, the Altoona Housing Authority, the Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation, the Altoona Redevelopment Authority, the Altoona Department of Public Works, and Improved Dwellings for Altoona (CHDO). This is a large portion of the regional cooperation efforts.

Other participating agencies include Altoona Housing Authority, Altoona School District, AMTRAN, Blair County Alliance, Blair County Drug and Alcohol Program, Blair Senior Services, Catholic Charities, Center for Community Action (managing the Blair County Community Action Program), Center for Independent Living of South Central PA, Family Services, Inc., Improved Dwellings of Altoona, Midtown Oaks Health & Rehab Center, NAACP, The Nehemiah Project, Twenty-Eighth Street Church of the Brethren, UPMC-Altoona, and UPMC Behavioral Health.

Additionally, there are other federal, state, county, and regional governmental efforts to meet these needs independent of Altoona's program. The City of Altoona contracts with the agencies most experienced and capable of meeting the identified needs in the delivery system. Efforts are made to eliminate duplication and contradiction of efforts and to coordinate and/or enhance these services and projects to maximize the impact on the community.

The Altoona City Council appoints the members to the Altoona Housing Authority Board. The Housing Authority Board provides an annual report to City Council on its activities including its capital

improvements and proposed development initiatives. There is an informative and cooperative relationship between the City of Altoona, its departments, and the Altoona public housing authority.

The major strength in the delivery system rests in the fact that the human service agencies, housing agencies, and the City of Altoona operate in a small geographic, demographic, and socioeconomic environment. As a direct result of this, routine communication and coordination are relatively easy.

The Department of Community Development is aware of a few minor gaps in delivery of services in Altoona. These gaps are not related to institutional capabilities, but rather in insufficient funding of the services. The staff and agencies are aware of these areas and are working with providers and agencies to develop appropriate solutions.

Availability of services targeted to homeless persons and persons with HIV and mainstream services

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

Table 52 - Homeless Prevention Services Summary

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

Special supportive housing needs have been identified by local focus groups and resident surveys. These include mental health treatment centers and transitional/supportive housing for people with mental health needs and substance use disorders.

The City does not intend to use HOME Funds or any other tenant-based rental assistance to assist the above-mentioned sub-populations.

To summarize, services for homeless populations and special need non-homeless population categories overlap. By meeting/networking locally and participating in the regional Continuum of Care network (for planning, administration, and monitoring), the Blair County human service agencies work together in both a locally- and regionally coordinated manner. These organizations and agencies make referrals to help both the homeless and special needs populations and anticipate and plan for the needs of these groups.

The homeless issue recognizes no municipal boundaries, and the role of the City of Altoona is limited to enhancing the existing services provided for the homeless by existing County-wide human service agencies. Both CDBG and ESG funds are used to address homelessness issues.

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

There is a strong network of agencies and service providers in Altoona and Blair County that operate programs for homeless persons. These providers have established relationships with mainstream providers of health, mental health, and employment services and refer homeless persons to these providers on a regular basis as needed basis for services.

Strengths include excellent providers of mental health and drug and alcohol services including the UPMC Home Nursing Agency, Blair Health Choices, and UPMC-Altoona Hospital. Utility assistance is another area of strength with services provided by the Center for Community Action and Catholic Social Services. Counseling and advocacy for homeless persons is a strength with programs provided by Blair Senior Services, UPMC Home Nursing Agency, Family Services of Blair County and the Center for Community Action.

Areas of weaknesses would include Legal Assistance, in which services are limited because of reductions in funding; public transportation where bus routes and times of operation are limited, especially on weekends; and in the lack of shelter beds that are increasingly insufficient for demand especially for homeless families with children.

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 Department of Community Development is aware of minor gaps in delivery of services in Altoona. These gaps are not related to institutional capabilities, but rather in insufficient funding of the services. The staff and agencies are aware of these areas and are working with providers and agencies to develop appropriate solutions.

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SP-45 Goals Summary - 91.215(a)(4)**Goals Summary Information**

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1.	HS-1 Housing Construction	2025	2029	Affordable Housing	Citywide	Housing Priority	CDBG: \$0 HOME: \$0	Rental units constructed: 0 Housing Units Homeowner housing added: 0 Housing Units
2.	HS-2 Housing Development	2025	2029	Affordable Housing	Citywide	Housing Priority	CDBG: \$0 HOME: \$0	Rental units constructed: 0 Housing Units Homeowner housing added: 0 Housing Units Direct financial assistance to homebuyers: 0 Homebuyers assisted
3.	HS-3 Housing Rehabilitation	2025	2029	Affordable Housing	Citywide	Housing Priority	CDBG: \$2,520,000 HOME: \$1,079,305.79	Rental units rehabilitated: 70 Housing Units Homeowner housing rehabilitated: 140 Housing Units
4.	HS-4 Rent and Utility Assistance	2025	2029	Affordable Housing	Citywide	Housing Priority	CDBG: \$112,500	Tenant-based rental assistance/Rapid rehousing: 600 Households assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
5.	HO-1 Housing	2025	2029	Homeless	Citywide	Homeless Priority	CDBG: \$0	Housing for Homeless added: 0 Household Housing Units Overnight/Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing Beds added: 0 Beds
6.	HO-2 Operation and Support	2025	2029	Homeless	Citywide	Homeless Priority	CDBG: \$224,600	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 12,000 Persons Assisted
7.	HO-3 Prevention and Re-Housing	2025	2029	Homeless	Citywide	Homeless Priority	CDBG: \$22,500	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 0 Households Assisted Homelessness Prevention: 0 Persons Assisted Tenant-based Rental Assistance/Rapid Rehousing: 125 Households Assisted
	SN-1 Housing	2025	2029	Non-Homeless Special Needs	Citywide	Other Special Needs Priority	CDBG: \$0	HIV/AIDS Housing Operations: 0 Household Housing Units Housing for People with HIV/AIDS added: 0 Household Housing Units

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
9.	SN-2 Social Services	2025	2029	Non-Homeless Special Needs	Citywide	Other Special Needs Priority	CDBG: \$0	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 0 Persons Assisted Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 0 Persons Assisted
10.	CD-1 Community Facilities	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide	Community Development Priority	CDBG: \$45,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 30,000 Persons Assisted
11.	CD-2 Infrastructure	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide	Community Development Priority	CDBG: \$2,770,007	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities Other Than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 5,675 Persons Assisted
12.	CD-3 Public Services	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide	Community Development Priority	CDBG: \$149,827	Public Service Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 12,500 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
13.	CD-4 Clearance / Demolition	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide	Community Development Priority	CDBG: \$0	Buildings demolished: 0 Buildings
14.	CD-5 Accessibility Improvements	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide	Community Development Priority	CDBG: \$0	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities Other Than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 0 Persons Assisted
15.	CD-6 Transportation	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide	Community Development Priority	CDBG: \$0	Public Service Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 0 Persons Assisted
16.	ED-1 Employment	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide	Economic Development Priority	CDBG: \$0	Jobs created/retained: 0 Jobs
17.	ED-2 Development	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide	Economic Development Priority	CDBG: \$0	Businesses assisted: 0 Businesses Assisted
18.	ED-3 Redevelopment	2025	2029	Administration, Planning, and Management	Citywide	Economic Development Priority	CDBG: \$0	Façade treatment/business-building rehabilitation: 0 Business Brownfield acres remediated: 0 Acres

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
19.	ED-4 Financial Assistance	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide	Economic Development Priority	CDBG: \$0	Businesses assisted: 0 Businesses Assisted Jobs created/retained: 0 Businesses Assisted
20.	ED-5 Access to Transportation	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide	Economic Development Priority	CDBG: \$0	Businesses assisted: 0 Businesses Assisted Jobs created/retained: 0 Jobs
21.	AM-1 Overall Coordination	2025	2029	Administration, Planning, and Management	Citywide	Administration, Planning, and Management Priority	CDBG: \$1,294,182 HOME: \$119,920	Other: 10 Other
22.	AM-2 Fair Housing	2025	2029	Administration, Planning, and Management	Citywide	Administration, Planning, and Management Priority	CDBG: \$135,000	Public Service Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 43,821 Households Assisted

Table 53 - Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1.	Goal Name	HS-1 Homeownership
	Goal Description	Assist low- and moderate-income homebuyers to purchase homes through down payment / closing cost assistance and associated housing counseling and training.
2.	Goal Name	HS-2 Housing Development
	Goal Description	Increase the number of affordable, decent, safe, and sanitary housing units in the community for homebuyers and renters, through adaptive reuse of existing buildings and new construction.
3.	Goal Name	HS-3 Housing Rehabilitation
	Goal Description	Conserve and rehabilitate existing affordable housing units occupied by owners and renters in the community by addressing code violations, emergency repairs and handicap accessibility.
4.	Goal Name	HS-4 Rent and Utility Assistance
	Goal Description	Provide rental assistance for low- and moderate-income renters through utility payments, security deposits, and rental payments including Tenant Based Rental Assistance for low-income households who may be faced with the threat of eviction and who are at-risk of becoming homeless.
5.	Goal Name	HO-1 Housing
	Goal Description	Support the Continuum of Care and non-profit housing agencies' efforts to provide emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, and other permanent housing opportunities.
6.	Goal Name	HO-2 Operation and Support
	Goal Description	Assist providers who operate housing or provide support services for the homeless and persons or families at-risk of becoming homeless to achieve self-sufficiency.
7.	Goal Name	HO-3 Prevention and Re-Housing
	Goal Description	Continue to support the prevention of homelessness through anti-eviction activities and programs for re-housing.
8.	Goal Name	SN-1 Housing

	Goal Description	Increase the supply of affordable, accessible, decent, safe, and sanitary housing for the elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDS, victims of domestic violence, persons with alcohol/drug dependency, and persons with other special needs through rehabilitation of existing buildings, construction of new housing, and providing rental assistance (including rent payments, security deposits, utility deposits and payments, and case management to achieve self-sufficiency) for low- and moderate-income residents.
9.	Goal Name	SN-2 Social Services
	Goal Description	Support social service programs and facilities for the elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDS, victims of domestic violence, persons with alcohol/drug dependency, and persons with other special needs.
10.	Goal Name	CD-1 Community Facilities
	Goal Description	Improve parks, recreational facilities, trails, public buildings, community and neighborhood facilities throughout the City.
11.	Goal Name	CD-2 Infrastructure
	Goal Description	Improve the public infrastructure through rehabilitation, reconstruction, and new construction, of streets, sidewalks, bridges, curbs, walkways, water, storm water, sanitary sewer, handicap accessibility improvements/removal of architectural barriers, etc.
12.	Goal Name	CD-3 Public Services
	Goal Description	Improve and enhance public services, programs for youth, the elderly, and disabled, and general social/welfare public service programs for low- and moderate-income persons.
13.	Goal Name	CD-4 Clearance/Demolition
	Goal Description	Remove and eliminate slum and blighting conditions through demolition of vacant, abandoned, and dilapidated structures.
14.	Goal Name	CD-5 Accessibility Improvements
	Goal Description	Improve the physical, visual, and handicapped accessibility of community facilities and infrastructure.
15.	Goal Name	CD-6 Transportation

	Goal Description	Support the expansion of transportation options for low- and moderate-income residents, the disabled and elderly to access services, shopping and employment.
16.	Goal Name	ED-1 Employment
	Goal Description	Support and encourage job creation, job retention, and job training opportunities.
17.	Goal Name	ED-2 Development
	Goal Description	Support entrepreneurial ventures, business and commercial growth through expansion and new development.
18.	Goal Name	ED-3 Redevelopment
	Goal Description	Plan and promote the development, redevelopment, and revitalization of vacant commercial and industrial sites.
19.	Goal Name	ED-4 Financial Assistance
	Goal Description	Support and encourage new economic development through local, state, and Federal tax incentives and programs such as Tax Incremental Financing (TIF), Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA), Enterprise Zones/Entitlement Communities, Section 108 Loan Guarantees, Economic Development Initiative (EDI) funds, Opportunity Zones, Congressionally Directed Spending, etc.
20.	Goal Name	ED-5 Access to Transportation
	Goal Description	Support the expansion of public transportation and access to bus and automobile service to assist residents to get to work or training opportunities.
21.	Goal Name	AM-1 Overall Coordination
	Goal Description	Provide program management and oversight for the successful administration of Federal, State, and locally funded programs, including planning services for special studies, annual action plans, five-year consolidated plans, substantial amendments, consolidated annual performance and evaluation reports (CAPER), environmental reviews and clearances, fair housing, and compliance with all Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.
22.	Goal Name	AM-2 Fair Housing
	Goal Description	Promote fair housing choice through education, training, and outreach and legal assistance for income-eligible households.

Table 54 – Goal Descriptions

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)

It is estimated that the City of Altoona will provide the following affordable housing throughout the next five years:

- Homeowner housing constructed: 0 Housing Units
- Renter housing constructed: 0 Housing Units
- Homeowner housing rehabilitated: 140 Housing Units
- Renter housing rehabilitated: 120 Housing Units

SP-50 Public Housing Accessibility and Involvement - 91.215(c)**Need to Increase the Number of Accessible Units (if Required by a Section 504 Voluntary Compliance Agreement)**

There is a need for accessible housing for the elderly applicants on the Section 8 waiting list. As of October 2024, the Altoona Housing Authority reported that it has a total of 363 public housing units set aside for mixed (elderly/disabled) populations at the 11th Street and Green Avenue Towers, and that there are 42 households on the waiting list for those facilities. Between the two towers there are a total of 28 units designated as “accessible”. The Housing Authority continues to make reasonable accommodations to its public housing units to satisfy the Section 504 requirements for persons with physical disabilities such as mobility, visual, and hearing impairments.

The Altoona Housing Authority meets Section 504 compliance.

Activities to Increase Resident Involvements

The Housing Authority offers several programs to increase resident involvement such as resident groups, community workshops, and educational and training opportunities.

Residents are asked to completed resident satisfaction surveys to help the Housing Authority identify needs in the public housing communities, the PHA offers several workshops to educate residents on Fair Housing laws, and the PHA continues to operate activities such as the Police Stop and Talk Program, after school and day care activities, and offers amenities such as parks and public spaces to hold community events.

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

No

Plan to remove the ‘troubled’ designation

The Altoona Housing Authority is designated as a "high performer." Not Applicable.

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

Barriers to Affordable Housing

The City of Altoona previously identified and implemented the following changes to the City's Zoning Ordinances:

- Added under Title Three, Article 1, Section 101 a new subsection to address Housing Choice and Fair Housing.
- Added a definition for "Accessibility" to the definition section of the Zoning Ordinance.

There are no known public policies in the City of Altoona that are barriers to affordable housing. The City Department of Community Development monitors the following:

- Tax policies affecting land and other properties
- Land use controls
- Zoning Ordinance
- Building Code
- Fees and charges

Strategy to Remove or Ameliorate the Barriers to Affordable Housing

The City intends to continue to promote Fair Housing by working with Summit Legal Aid and Mid-Penn Legal Services. It also has continued to support and encourage construction proposals for for-rent and for-sale properties, as well as financing housing rehabilitation efforts and funding homebuyer training & education. To expand the amount of accessible housing available to elderly and disabled residents, the City is promoting rehabilitation and reasonable accommodations & modifications. Finally, it is expanding its code enforcement efforts to ensure that the existing housing stock remains in safe, sound, and decent condition.

SP-60 Homelessness Strategy - 91.215(d)**Reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs**

The CoC annually funds a Supportive Services Only Program that is operated in Altoona/Blair County by the Center for Community Action. Services are provided to both sheltered and unsheltered persons. All persons served are assessed to determine their individual needs.

Addressing the emergency and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The family shelter in Altoona is operated by Family Services, Incorporated (FSI). The organization provided 4,188 nights of shelter to homeless individuals in FY 2022 but still had to turn away over 3,000 persons due to lack of space at the shelter. FSI opened a new Emergency Family Shelter in February 2023 which has added to the available beds, but the organization reports that demand still outstrips capacity.

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

The Eastern Pennsylvania CoC has undertaken the following projects in Blair County in 2024:

- Center for Community Action - PA 0372 Blair CAP Rapid Rehousing and RRH Expansion
- Center for Community Action - PA 0813 South Central PA Rapid Rehousing

The PA 0372 Rapid Rehousing program serves the general public. The PA 0813 Rapid Rehousing program is targeted to 18-25 year-olds who have a mental or physical disability but are able to live independently. These two programs offer a variety of supportive services to clients to assist them in the transition to permanent housing. These services include life skills, employment services, clothing, furniture, general case management, housing search, budget counseling etc.

Help low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families who are likely to become homeless after being discharged from a publicly funded institution or system of care, or who are receiving assistance from public and private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education or youth needs

There are no specific programs designed to address individuals and families who are being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care. Both the City of Altoona and Blair County have obtained Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG) funding in the past to address the needs of these individuals and families, but neither is a current recipient. Likewise, Blair County Community Action (now under the auspices of the Center for Community Action), has used ESG funds in the past to provide Homeless Prevention Services to families to prevent them from becoming homeless.

SP-65 Lead based paint Hazards - 91.215(i)**Actions to address LBP hazards and increase access to housing without LBP hazards**

The City plans to continue two facets of the lead paint program. The first is to provide educational materials explaining the dangers of lead exposure, particularly in children. The second is to ensure the City makes proper referrals for health screening and care when lead is discovered in a unit which is being rehabilitated with HUD funds.

The City will also continue to implement lead-based paint best practices in its housing programs.

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

There are approximately 10,965 (94%) owner-occupied and 5,955 (87%) renter-occupied housing units in the City that were built prior to 1980 and are at risk of lead-based paint (LBP) presence. Additionally, it is estimated that 175 owner-occupied units and 70 renter-occupied units with lead-based paint are home to children under the age of 6. It is anticipated that the age of the housing stock alone indicates a lead hazard in Altoona.

Independent consultations with the Altoona office of the Pennsylvania Department of Health confirm that cases of lead poisoning are found each year in the City of Altoona. The new Federal regulations that took effect in September of 2000 establish environmental procedures that must be used when rehabilitating a building. The City of Altoona Department of Community Development has integrated lead-based paint notification, inspection, testing, or interim control procedures into all of its housing programs.

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

The City's housing rehabilitation program has integrated lead paint remediation into every application funded where lead paint has been found. There are no plans to alter this approach to lead remediation. The approach includes notification, inspection, testing, and remediation procedures concerning lead paint in accordance with federal regulation. The typical cost of this program is \$8,000 per unit or more.

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

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

According to the 2018-2022 American Community Survey Data, approximately 13.7% of the City of Altoona's families live in poverty while only 8.0% of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's families live in poverty. Female-headed households with children under the age of 6 are particularly affected by poverty at 66.9%. The City's goal is to reduce the extent of poverty by 5%, based on actions the City can control and through working with other agencies/organizations.

The City's anti-poverty strategy is based on attracting a range of businesses and supporting workforce development including job-training services for low income residents. In addition, the City's strategy is to provide supportive services for target income residents.

Planned economic development programs include:

- **ED-1 Employment** – Support and encourage job creation, job retention, and job training opportunities.
- **ED-2 Development** – Support entrepreneurial ventures, business and commercial growth through expansion and new development.
- **ED-3 Redevelopment** – Plan and promote the development, redevelopment, and revitalization of vacant commercial and industrial sites.
- **ED-4 Financial Assistance** – Support and encourage new economic development through local, state, and Federal tax incentives and programs such as Tax Incremental Financing (TIF), Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA), Enterprise Zones/Entitlement Communities, Section 108 Loan Guarantees, Economic Development Initiative (EDI) funds, Opportunity Zones, Congressionally Directed Spending, etc.
- **ED-5 Access to Transportation** – Support the expansion of public transportation and access to bus and automobile service to assist residents to get to work or training opportunities.

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

Increasing the supply of and providing access to affordable housing is integrally tied to the City's anti-poverty strategy. The most successful way to implement this is through job training and creation activities while providing affordable housing.

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 Planning and Community Department staff engages in monthly meetings to review the status of the program as a whole as well as each individual project. Staff also checks the expenditure rates at these monthly meetings. If any problems are identified a plan of action is formulated to correct any matters requiring action.

The City staff prepares purchase orders prior to the payment of any invoice. Each invoice is reviewed by at least three people in the Department of Community Development before it is paid, and if an inconsistency is detected, payment is withheld until it is rectified. All invoices submitted must be accompanied by backup documentation, so staff are able to ascertain whether the funds requested are for legitimate purposes. CDBG subrecipients are also required to submit quarterly reports.

In addition to the above review, staff conducts annual risk assessment evaluations on all CDBG and HOME projects and activities. Desk-top reviews or on-site monitoring visits are determined based on the risk assessment. These reviews are conducted once a year unless issues arise during the program year requiring more intensive supervision. These subrecipients are informed in writing before the visit takes place informing them of the areas that will be under review. The areas monitored are project eligibility, project progress, project documentation such as low/moderate income compliance of clients and job creation, regulatory compliance such as procurement procedures, and Davis-Bacon Wage compliance where appropriate. Financial management, audit submissions, Section 504 compliance, ADA compliance, and Fair Housing Regulations are also reviewed.

The City of Altoona also undergoes an annual audit to ensure compliance with Federal and State regulations, local practices, as well as established accounting practices. Issues discovered in the audit are presented to the Department of Community Development, which then responds with appropriate steps to address the finding.

On-site inspections shall be conducted by City staff in concert with its Rental Registration Program to ensure compliance with income and rent requirements as well as local property standards during a project's period of affordability. Rental unit inspections are conducted every three (3) years with an average inspection time of 20-30 minutes per unit, and the property owner, tenant, or designated representative must be present. Inspections are conducted using the adopted International Property Maintenance Code, which has been designed to identify life-safety and routine maintenance concerns on existing structures. Life-safety violations must be corrected within 10 days; all violations are given 45 days for correction. The City has adopted the following inspection schedule:

- 1-4 units: every 3 years, all units in structure
- 5-25 units: every 2 years, 2/3 of units in structure
- 26 or more units: annually, 1/3 of units in structure

Where projects may utilize other State or Federal funding sources requiring inspections, the City may accept such reports to ensure compliance with applicable standards. Regardless of the source of funding, all inspections shall uphold local code requirements as a minimum.

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Expected Resources

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

Introduction

The City of Altoona is receiving \$1,536,368.00 in CDBG funds and \$266,494.73 in HOME funds for the FY 2025 program year. Additionally, the City expects to receive \$80,000.00 in CDBG Program Income. The program year is from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Due to uncertain Federal funding, the City is planning for a 5% reduction in funding in each subsequent year of the FY 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan period. The following are the anticipated CDBG and HOME resources:

- **FY 2025** = \$1,536,368.00 CDBG + \$80,000.00 CDBG Program Income + \$266,494.73 HOME
- **FY 2026** = \$1,459,550.00 CDBG + \$80,000.00 CDBG Program Income + \$253,169.99 HOME
- **FY 2027** = \$1,382,731.00 CDBG + \$80,000.00 CDBG Program Income + \$239,845.26 HOME
- **FY 2028** = \$1,305,913.00 CDBG + \$80,000.00 CDBG Program Income + \$226,520.52 HOME
- **FY 2029** = \$1,229,094.00 CDBG + \$80,000.00 CDBG Program Income + \$213,195.78 HOME
- **Total** = **\$6,913,656.00 CDBG + \$400,000.00 CDBG Program Income + \$1,199,226.28 HOME**

The accomplishments of these projects/activities will be reported in the FY 2025 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Reports (CAPER) and subsequent CAPERs.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of Con Plan \$	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	\$1,536,368.00	\$80,000.00	-0-	\$1,616,368.00	\$5,376,388.00	Five years of funding at a 5% reduction each year.
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	\$266,494.73	-0-	-0-	\$266,494.73	\$932,731.55	Five years of funding at a 5% reduction each year.

Table 55 - Expected Resources - Priority Table

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

The City of Altoona will continue to work with the Altoona Housing Authority on projects to upgrade the Housing Authority's housing stock. The Altoona Housing Authority also uses their Capital Funds in these projects.

State Programs

The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) provides loans and grants under the PennHOMES Program for development of rental housing, issues state Mixed Use Development Tax Credits and taxable or tax-exempt bonds to finance affordable housing and administers the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. These are funded through the National Housing Trust Fund, the Realty Transfer Tax Fund, the Marcellus Shale Fund, and the Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund (PHARE). Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources funds have been and will continue to be used to leverage CDBG funds for streetscape and tree planting projects.

Private Resources

Private investment in the form of cash, private mortgage and other financing may be available for housing. These resources can take many forms and may even be raised through obtaining either Low-Income Housing Tax Credits or Historic Tax Credits. It is beyond the scope of this Consolidated Plan to qualify any and all private real estate investment activity.

Local Resources

Operation Our Town, a local philanthropic organization, often contributes funds to the Altoona Law Enforcement Community to assist in dealing with illegal drug trade and other violent and nonviolent crime. City capital planning and general funds are used to leverage Federal funds for various public works projects, including street paving, streetscaping, code/zoning enforcement, planning and policing. While it does not currently have a line item in the City budget, the Shade Tree Commission plants and maintains trees that compliment CDBG funded streetscaping projects.

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

The City provides an ongoing 50% matching funds through its HOME program for private landlords to upgrade or rehabilitate housing units that are rented to low-income families and individuals.

Discussion

The City of Altoona will continue to use a variety of funds to address and accomplish the goals established in this Consolidated Plan.

DRAFT

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1.	HS-3 Housing Rehabilitation	2025	2029	Affordable Housing	Citywide	Housing Priority	CDBG: \$560,000 HOME: \$239,845.73	Rental Units Rehabilitated: 14 Household Housing Units Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 28 Household Housing Units
2.	HS-4 Rent and Utility Assistance	2025	2029	Affordable Housing	Citywide	Housing Priority	CDBG: \$25,000	Tenant-based Rental Assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 120 Households Assisted
3.	HO-2 Operation and Support	2025	2029	Homeless	Citywide	Homeless Priority	CDBG: \$49,920	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter: 12,000 Persons Assisted
4.	HO-3 Prevention and Re-Housing	2025	2029	Homeless	Citywide	Homeless Priority	CDBG: \$5,000	Tenant-based Rental Assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 25 Households Assisted
5.	CD-1 Community Facilities	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide	Community Development Priority	CDBG: \$10,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities Other Than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 6,000 Persons Assisted
6.	CD-2 Infrastructure	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide	Community Development Priority	CDBG: \$615,557	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities Other Than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1,135 Persons Assisted

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
7.	CD-3 Public Services	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide	Community Development Priority	CDBG: \$33,295	Public Service Activities Other Than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2,500 Persons Assisted
8.	AM-1 Overall Coordination	2025	2029	Admin	Citywide	Administration, Planning, and Management Priority	CDBG: \$287,596 HOME: \$26,649	Other: 1 Other
9.	AM-2 Fair Housing	2025	2029	Admin	Citywide	Administration, Planning, and Management Priority	CDBG: \$30,000	Public Service Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 43,821 Households Assisted

Table 56 - Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1.	Goal Name	HS-3 Housing Rehabilitation
	Goal Description	Conserve and rehabilitate existing affordable housing units occupied by owners and renters in the community by addressing code violations, emergency repairs and handicap accessibility.
2.	Goal Name	HS-4 Rent and Utility Assistance
	Goal Description	Provide rental assistance for low- and moderate-income renters through utility payments, security deposits, and rental payments including Tenant Based Rental Assistance for low-income households who may be faced with the threat of eviction and who are at-risk of becoming homeless.

3.	Goal Name	HO-2 Operation and Support
	Goal Description	Assist providers who operate housing or provide support services for the homeless and persons or families at-risk of becoming homeless to achieve self-sufficiency.
4.	Goal Name	HO-3 Prevention and Re-Housing
	Goal Description	Continue to support the prevention of homelessness through anti-eviction activities and programs for re-housing.
5.	Goal Name	CD-1 Community Facilities
	Goal Description	Improve parks, recreational facilities, trails, public buildings, community and neighborhood facilities throughout the City.
6.	Goal Name	CD-2 Infrastructure
	Goal Description	Improve the public infrastructure through rehabilitation, reconstruction, and new construction, of streets, sidewalks, bridges, curbs, walkways, water, storm water, sanitary sewer, handicap accessibility improvements/removal of architectural barriers, etc.
7.	Goal Name	CD-3 Public Services
	Goal Description	Improve and enhance public services, programs for youth, the elderly, and disabled, and general social/welfare public service programs for low- and moderate-income persons.
8.	Goal Name	AM-1 Overall Coordination
	Goal Description	Provide program management and oversight for the successful administration of Federal, State, and locally funded programs, including planning services for special studies, annual action plans, five-year consolidated plans, substantial amendments, consolidated annual performance and evaluation reports (CAPER), environmental reviews and clearances, fair housing, and compliance with all Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.
9.	Goal Name	AM-2 Fair Housing
	Goal Description	Promote fair housing choice through education, training, and outreach and legal assistance for income-eligible households.

Table 57 – Goal Descriptions

Projects

AP-35 Projects - 91.220(d)

Introduction

The City of Altoona proposes to undertake the following activities with FY 2025 CDBG and HOME funds:

Projects

#	Project Name
1.	CDBG Project Administration
2.	Fair Housing
3.	Single Family Rehabilitation Loan Program
4.	Single Family Owner-Occupied Emergency Repair Program
5.	Emergency Roof Repair Program
6.	Street Reconstruction
7.	8th Street Sidewalk Project
8.	Operation Safe Space
9.	The Salvation Army - Assistance with Rent, Utility, and Heating Fuel Payments
10.	Overflow Church - Jefferson Park Meal Program Initiative
11.	Overflow Church - Warming Center
12.	Railroaders Memorial Museum - Restoration of Pennsylvania Railroad ALTO Tower
13.	HOME Project Administration
14.	Rental Rehabilitation Program
15.	IDA-CDC Kitchen Replacement at the Fairview Building

Table 58 - Project Information

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

The allocations and priorities were established by an online survey, stakeholder meetings, follow-up surveys from service providers, and public meetings. Obstacles to addressing underserved needs include finding more federal funding resources to accomplish activities and having local resources to pair with them to make successful projects.

AP-38 Project Summary**Project Summary Information**

1.	Project Name	CDBG HCD Program Administration
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	AM-1 Overall Coordination
	Needs Addressed	Administration, Planning, and Management Strategy
	Funding	CDBG: \$287,596.00
	Description	Operational budget for the Department of Community Development for general management, monitoring, coordination, oversight and evaluation of projects within the Community Development Block Grant Program and monitoring of activities necessary for effective planning implementation. Provide sound and professional planning, administration, oversight and management of Federal, State, and local funded programs and activities.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 43,821 persons will benefit from this activity.
	Location Description	This activity is located at 1301 12th Street, Altoona, PA 16601.
	Planned Activities	The HUD Matrix Code is 21A General Program Administration.
2.	Project Name	Fair Housing
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	AM-2 Fair Housing
	Needs Addressed	Housing Strategy Administration, Planning, and Management Strategy
	Funding	CDBG: \$30,000.00
	Description	Fair housing activities including eliminating housing discrimination through the promotion of fair housing using educational programs, monitoring, research and community investment.
	Target Date	6/30/2026

	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 43,821 persons will benefit from this activity.
	Location Description	This activity is located at 1301 12th Street, Altoona, PA 16601.
	Planned Activities	The National Objective is Low/mod Limited Clientele (LMC) benefit, 570.208(a)(2). The HUD Matrix Code is: 21D Fair Housing Activities (subject to Admin cap).
3.	Project Name	Single Family Rehabilitation Loan Program
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	HS-3 Housing Rehabilitation
	Needs Addressed	Housing Priority
	Funding	CDBG: \$400,000
	Description	Continued funding of the City-wide homeowner rehabilitation program. Provide zero percent interest housing rehabilitation loans to income eligible residents.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that ten (10) households will benefit from this activity.
	Location Description	Citywide. This activity is managed at 1301 12th Street, Altoona, PA 16601.
	Planned Activities	The National objective is Low/Mod Housing (LMH) benefit. The HUD Matrix Code is 14A Rehabilitation; Single-Unit Residential, 570.202(a)(1).
4.	Project Name	Single Family Owner-Occupied Emergency Repair Program
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	HS-3 Housing Rehabilitation
	Needs Addressed	Housing Priority
	Funding	CDBG: \$50,000

	Description	Provide no-interest, deferred forgivable loan funds amortized over four years to low-moderate income homeowners up to \$5,000 to correct exterior code violations, excluding mowing, and up to \$20,000 for emergency repairs to heating, plumbing, and electrical system failures or other repairs as determined necessary by City inspectors to pose an immediate threat to health and safety and do not trigger lead paint remediation beyond de minimis treatment. New construction, routine maintenance and full rehabilitation projects are ineligible and will be referred to the single-family direct loan program. Structure demolition (garages, additions, etc.) will be referred to the City demolition program.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that ten (10) households will benefit from this activity.
	Location Description	Citywide. This activity is managed at 1301 12th Street, Altoona, PA 16601.
	Planned Activities	The National objective is Low/Mod Housing (LMH) benefit. The HUD Matrix Code is 14A Rehabilitation; Single-Unit Residential, 570.202(a)(1).
5.	Project Name	Emergency Roof Replacement Program
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	HS-3 Housing Rehabilitation
	Needs Addressed	Housing Priority
	Funding	CDBG: \$110,000
	Description	Continued funding of the City-wide Emergency Roof Replacement Program. Provide zero percent interest housing rehabilitation loans to income eligible residents that convert to a grant after 4 years.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that eight (8) households will benefit from this activity.
	Location Description	Citywide. This activity is managed at 1301 12th Street, Altoona, PA 16601.

	Planned Activities	The National objective is Low/Mod Housing (LMH) benefit. The HUD Matrix Code is 14A Rehabilitation; Single-Unit Residential, 570.202(a)(1).
6.	Project Name	Street Reconstruction
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	CD-2 Infrastructure
	Needs Addressed	Community Development Priority
	Funding	CDBG: \$200,000
	Description	Funding will support street reconstruction in low- to moderate-income areas to be determined in the City of Altoona.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Benefit to be determined by project location.
	Location Description	Low-mod areas. Location(s) to be determined.
	Planned Activities	The National objective is Low/Mod Area (LMA) benefit. The HUD Matrix Code is 03K Street Improvements, 570.201(c).
7.	Project Name	8th Street Sidewalk Project
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	CD-2 Infrastructure
	Needs Addressed	Community Development Priority
	Funding	CDBG: \$415,557
	Description	This project is for the construction/replacement of sidewalk, curb (as necessary), ADA accessible ramps, and street trees on 8th Street between 6 th Ave and Crawford Ave. This project would improve accessibility and increase the safety of the area by replacing the uneven sidewalks and providing ADA accessible ramps.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 1,135 persons will benefit from this activity.

	Location Description	8th Street between 3rd Avenue and Crawford Avenue in the City of Altoona; Census Tract 1016, Block Group 1.
	Planned Activities	The National objective is Low/Mod Area (LMA) benefit. The HUD Matrix Code is 03L Sidewalks, 570.201(c).
8.	Project Name	Operation Safe Space
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	HO-3 Prevention and Re-Housing
	Needs Addressed	Homeless Priority
	Funding	CDBG: \$5,000
	Description	Operation Safe Space is a program that will temporarily relocate persons requiring immediate need due to condemnation, structural failure, or otherwise unsafe conditions of a property. The program will be administered by the Codes and Inspections Department, the Altoona Fire Department, and the Altoona Police Department. The funds requested will fully support the program and no additional funding source is being utilized.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 25 households will benefit from this activity.
	Location Description	Citywide. This activity is managed at 1301 12th Street, Altoona, PA 16601.
	Planned Activities	The National objective is Low/Mod Limited Clientele (LMC) benefit. The HUD Matrix Code is 08 Relocation, 570.201(i).
9.	Project Name	Salvation Army - Rental, Utility, and Heating Fuel Assistance
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	HS-4 Rent and Utility Assistance
	Needs Addressed	Housing Priority
	Funding	CDBG: \$25,000

	Description	<p>As a social services organization, The Salvation Army provides low-income individuals and families with basic needs assistance with things like food, housing, utility, and clothing. Over 19% of the residents of Altoona are living in poverty and inflation continues to cause hardships for many individuals and families. This is creating an increase in the number of families that are seeking assistance from The Salvation Army in order to maintain their housing.</p> <p>Funds would be used to provide qualifying households with emergency, rental, utility, and heating fuel assistance to ensure housing is secure and safe. Applications for financial aid are processed through an intake system to verify income eligibility to ensure that over 51% of applicants meet the HUD low-income guidelines. Our plan is to specifically assist 120 households with up to \$750 each in assistance to keep essential household utilities and rent secure.</p>
	Target Date	6/30/2025
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 120 households will benefit from this activity.
	Location Description	Citywide. This activity is managed at 1813 6th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602.
	Planned Activities	<p>The National objective is Low/Mod Limited Clientele (LMC) benefit.</p> <p>The HUD Matrix Code is 05Q Subsistence Payments, 570.207(b)(4).</p>
10.	Project Name	Overflow Church - Jefferson Park Meal Program Initiative
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	CD-3 Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Community Development Priority
	Funding	CDBG: \$33,295
	Description	Through the Jefferson Park initiative, Overflow Church focuses on building relationships with our community. Being able to provide community meals allows us to connect to our neighborhood and build a stronger community. Eating together provides a space for people to communicate and share life together.

	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 2,500 persons will benefit from this activity.
	Location Description	Census Tract 1017, Block Groups 1, 2, 3 and 4; Census Tract 1018, Block Group 3. Administered at 127 5th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602.
	Planned Activities	The National objective is Low/Mod Area (LMA) benefit. The HUD Matrix Code is 05W Food Banks, 570.201(e).
11.	Project Name	Overflow Church Warming Center - Overnight Shelter
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	HO-2 Operation and Support
	Needs Addressed	Homeless Priority
	Funding	CDBG: \$49,920
	Description	The Warming Center serves as a winter overnight shelter for individuals aged 18 and older experiencing homelessness due to factors such as domestic violence, mental health challenges, housing shortage, and financial hardship. Last winter, the Center provided shelter to 91 individuals and successfully assisted 75 in securing alternative housing in collaboration with local agencies. However, relying solely on volunteers posed operational challenges, including limited service continuity. This funding request seeks to introduce a hybrid staffing model, combining paid staff with volunteers, to ensure safe and consistent operations. Funds will cover staffing costs and general operating expenses to maintain and enhance the Center's services throughout the winter season.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 12,000 persons will benefit from this activity.
	Location Description	127 5th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602.
	Planned Activities	The National objective is Low/Mod Limited Clientele (LMC) benefit. The HUD Matrix Code is 03T Homeless/AIDS Patients Programs, 570.201(e).

12.	Project Name	Railroaders Memorial Museum - ALTO Tower
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	CD-1 Community Facilities
	Needs Addressed	Community Development Priority
	Funding	CDBG: \$10,000.00
	Description	Built in the 1880s by the Pennsylvania Railroad, ALTO Tower is the last remaining interlocking tower in Blair County and one of only a handful left from the PRR era. Over the 100 plus years of constant operation, the tower has physically grown worn and tired. Since its closure in 2012, the tower has remained dormant and vacant. In 2022, Norfolk Southern Corporation transferred ownership to the Railroaders Memorial Museum. The Museum seeks funding to completely restore the exterior of the tower and return it to its 1940's appearance, representing the golden era of railroading in Altoona. This restoration will attract visitors to the museum and enable the partnership with Penn State Altoona's Rail Transportation Engineering program to expand its logistics, maintenance of way, and track lab courses. The state of Alto Tower is urgent as there are elements such as the front bay window showing extensive rot and structural weakness, and community members are concerned that the tower will need to be demolished.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 6,000 persons will benefit from this activity.
	Location Description	This activity is located at 1701 10th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601 and managed at the Railroaders Memorial Museum, 1200 9th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602.
13.	Planned Activities	The National objective is Slum/Blight Spot Basis benefit (SBS). The HUD Matrix Code is 16B Non-Residential Historic Preservation, 570.202(d).
	Project Name	HOME HCD Program Administration
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	AM-1 Overall Coordination

	Needs Addressed	Administration, Planning, and Management Strategy
	Funding	HOME: \$26,649.00
	Description	Administration allocation from HOME grant of 10% to provide for staffing to oversee HOME funded projects.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 43,821 persons will benefit from this activity.
	Location Description	This activity is located at 1301 12th Street, Altoona, PA 16601.
	Planned Activities	The HUD Matrix Code is 21A General Program Administration.
14.	Project Name	HOME Rental Rehabilitation
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	HS-3 Housing Rehabilitation
	Needs Addressed	Housing Strategy
	Funding	HOME: \$131,777.73
	Description	Rental Rehabilitation Loan Program - Continuation of deferred loan program for the rehabilitation of low-income rental units.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that ten (10) household housing units will be rehabilitated under this activity.
	Location Description	Citywide.
	Planned Activities	The National Objective is Low/Mod Housing (LMH) benefit, 570.208(a)(3). The Matrix Code is 14B, Rehabilitation; Multi-Unit Residential.
15.	Project Name	IDA-CDC Kitchen Replacement at the Fairview Building
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	HS-3 Housing Rehabilitation
	Needs Addressed	Housing Strategy
	Funding	HOME: \$108,068.00

	Description	We are requesting funds from the 2025 HOME funds allocation to replace 14 kitchens on the top floor of the Fairview Building in addition to repainting soffit and fascia on the exterior of the building which will include the dormers and upper window panels.
	Target Date	6/30/2026
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	It is estimated that 14 household housing units will benefit from this activity.
	Location Description	331 22nd Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601
	Planned Activities	The National Objective is Low/Mod Housing (LMH) benefit, 570.208(a)(3). The Matrix Code is 14B, Rehabilitation; Multi-Unit Residential, 570.202(a)(1).

Table 59 – Project Summary

AP-50 Geographic Distribution - 91.220(f)**Description of the geographic areas of the entitlement (including areas of low-income and minority concentration) where assistance will be directed**

The following information provides a profile of the population, age, and racial/ethnic composition of the City of Altoona. This information was obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau at <https://data.census.gov>. The 2018-2022 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates were used to analyze the social, economic, housing, and general demographic characteristics of the City of Altoona. These 5-year estimates are the most recent data available for the City. The 2020 U.S. Census data is included where applicable, and the 2016-2020 HUD CHAS data is used to compare block group information.

Population:

- Between 2017 and 2022, the population decreased by 2.1% from 44,749 to 43,821 persons.

Age:

- The median age in Altoona is 39.8 years old.
- Youth age 20 and under account for 25.4% of the population.
- Seniors age 65 or over comprise 17.3% of the population.

Race and Ethnicity:

- 89.8% of Altoona residents are White;
- 3.3% are Black or African American;
- 0.1% are American Indian and Alaska Native;
- 0.2% are Asian;
- 0.0% are Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander;
- 0.6% are Some Other Race; and
- 5.7% are Two or More Races.
- 1.8% of Altoona residents are Hispanic or Latino of any race.

Income Profile:

- The Area Median Income for a family of four (4) in the Altoona, Pennsylvania Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is \$86,900 for 2024.
- At the time of the 2018-2022 American Community Survey, median household income in the City of Altoona was \$50,435. This was significantly lower than Blair County (\$59,386) and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (\$73,170).
- 37.1% of City households have earnings received from Social Security income.
- 5.8% of households have earnings received from public assistance.
- 24.7% of households have retirement income.

Poverty:

- 13.7% of all families were living in poverty as of the 2018-2022 ACS.
- 33.3% of female-headed households with no spouse present were living in poverty. This rose to 45.7% when there were youth under 18 years of age present, and to 66.9% living in poverty when there were children under 5 years of age present.
- 29.2% of all youth under 18 years of age were living in poverty.
- 19.3% of all persons in Altoona were living in poverty.

Low/Mod Income Profile:

The low- and moderate-income profile for City of Altoona is a measurement of the area's needs. According to HUD's FY 2024 calculations, the City of Altoona has an overall low- and moderate-income percentage of 49.19%.

Economic Profile:

As of the 2018-2022 American Community Survey:

- 31.9% of the employed civilian population had occupations classified as management, business, science, and arts; 23.0% had occupations classified as sales and office; and 21.4% had occupations classified in the service sector.
- 29.2% of the employed civilian population worked in the educational services, health care and social assistance industry; 15.1% worked in the retail trade industry; and 10.6% worked in the arts, entertainment, recreation, and accommodation and food services industry.
- 83.5% of the employed civilian population were classed as private wage and salary workers and 13.1% were classed as government workers.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unadjusted unemployment rate for Altoona was 3.7% compared to a rate of 4.3% in Blair County, 4.2% for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and a national unemployment rate of 4.5% in February 2025.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
Citywide	100%

Table 60 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The City is not only attempting to meet the needs of the community but also further fair housing and increase affordable housing supply. It is essential to engage in not only community building activities and fund needed improvements in low- and moderate-income areas but also to provide opportunities for residents to live in non-impacted areas.

Discussion

Not Applicable.

DRAFT

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing - 91.220(g)

Introduction

The City of Altoona will utilize its CDBG and HOME funds to rehabilitate affordable housing units. The one-year goals for affordable housing in the City of Altoona for FY 2025 are the following:

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	172
Special-Needs	0
Total	172

Table 61 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	120
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	52
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	172

Table 62 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

The City of Altoona will undertake the following activities to address affordable housing:

- **CD-25-03 Single Family Homeowner Rehabilitation Loan** - Continued funding of the City-wide homeowner rehabilitation program. Provide zero percent interest housing rehabilitation loans to income eligible residents.
- **CD-25-04 Single Family Owner-Occupied Emergency Repairs** - Provide no-interest, deferred forgivable loan funds amortized over four years to low-moderate income homeowners up to \$5,000 for to correct exterior code violations, excluding mowing, and up to \$20,000 for emergency repairs to heating, plumbing, and electrical system failures or other repairs as determined necessary by City inspectors to pose an immediate threat to health and safety and do not trigger lead paint remediation beyond de minimis treatment. New construction, routine maintenance and full rehabilitation projects are ineligible and will be referred to the single-family direct loan program. Structure demolition (garages, additions, etc.) will be referred to the City demolition program.
- **CD-25-05 Emergency Roof Replacement Program** - Continued funding of the City-wide

Emergency Roof Replacement Program. Provide zero percent interest housing rehabilitation loans to income eligible residents that convert to a grant after 4 years.

- **CD-25-09 Salvation Army - Rental, Utility, and Heating Fuel Assistance** - Funds would be used to provide qualifying households with emergency, rental, utility, and heating fuel assistance to ensure housing is secure and safe. Applications for financial aid are processed through an intake system to verify income eligibility to ensure that over 51% of applicants meet the HUD low-income guidelines. Our plan is to specifically assist 120 households with up to \$750 each in assistance to keep essential household utilities and rent secure.
- **HOME-25-14 HOME Rental Rehabilitation Program** - Rental Rehabilitation Loan Program - Continuation of deferred loan program for the rehabilitation of low-income rental units.
- **HOME-25-15 IDA-CDC Kitchen Replacement at the Fairview Building** - Replace 14 kitchens on the top floor of the Fairview Building in addition to repainting soffit and fascia on the exterior of the building which will include the dormers and upper window panels.

AP-60 Public Housing - 91.220(h)

Introduction

The Altoona Housing Authority is the public housing agency that serves the City of Altoona. The mission of the Housing Authority of the City of Altoona is to provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing to the residents receiving assistance through the Public Housing and Section 8 Housing Choice Programs in an efficient and professional manner.

The Authority administers 513 public housing apartments, 126 market-rate unsubsidized apartments, and 937 Section 8 vouchers. An examination of current occupancy levels and waiting list information shows that a majority of families have incomes below 30% of median income. The Authority monitors income targeting on a quarterly basis for compliance.

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

During FY 2025, the Altoona Housing Authority will complete site work including concrete and curb repairs and security camera installation, building repairs such as exterior window and door replacement, and interior work of replacing appliances, carpets and toilets.

The Housing Authority will also continue to work with the City on Code Enforcement, Fair Housing workshops and the expansion of homeownership programs. The Housing Authority is disposing of its last Home Choice property in FY 2024 and the proceeds will be used to help expand the homeownership program.

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

The Altoona Housing Authority offers several programs for residents to be involved in and promote self-sufficiency and homeownership.

The Altoona Housing Authority is improving public safety and crime prevention at its public housing communities through community policing programs such as a Stop and Talk Program. Police also patrol on foot and bicycle to create a more notable presence of law enforcement. The Housing Authority also offers after school and day care programs, food banks, and summer programming for youth. The Residents organization meetings are held monthly to encourage residents to meet and talk about community activities and improvements in their communities.

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

Not Applicable. The Altoona Housing Authority is designated as a "high performer."

Discussion

Not Applicable.

DRAFT

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

Introduction

The PA 509 Eastern Pennsylvania Continuum of Care (CoC) is comprised of 33 counties in northeast and central Pennsylvania, organized by geography into five Regional Homeless Advisory Boards (RHABs). The City of Altoona is a member of the South Central RHAB which serves nine (9) counties: Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, and Somerset.

Describe the jurisdictions one-year goals and actions for reducing and ending homelessness including: Reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs

The CoC annually funds a Supportive Services Only Program that is operated in Altoona/Blair County by the Center for Community Action. Services are provided to both sheltered and unsheltered persons. All persons served are assessed to determine their individual needs.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The family shelter in Altoona is operated by Family Services, Incorporated (FSI). The organization provided 4,188 nights of shelter to homeless individuals in FY 2022 but still had to turn away over 3,000 persons due to lack of space at the shelter. FSI opened a new Emergency Family Shelter in February 2023 which is expected to help with capacity issues but not solve them.

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

The Eastern Pennsylvania CoC has undertaken the following projects in Blair County in 2024:

- Center for Community Action - PA 0372 Blair CAP Rapid Rehousing and RRH Expansion
- Center for Community Action - PA 0813 South Central PA Rapid Rehousing

The PA 0372 Rapid Rehousing program serves the general public. The PA 0813 Rapid Rehousing program is targeted to 18-25 year-olds who have a mental or physical disability but are able to live independently. These two programs offer a variety of supportive services to clients to assist them in the transition to permanent housing. These services include life skills, employment services, clothing, furniture, general case management, housing search, budget counseling etc.

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

There are no specific programs designed to address individuals and families who are being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care. Both the City of Altoona and Blair County have obtained Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG) funding in the past to address the needs of these individuals and families, but neither is a current recipient. Likewise, Blair County Community Action (now under the auspices of the Center for Community Action), has used ESG funds in the past to provide Homeless Prevention Services to families to prevent them from becoming homeless.

Discussion

Not Applicable.

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

Introduction:

The City of Altoona previously identified and implemented the following changes to the City's Zoning Ordinances:

- Added under Title Three, Article 1, Section 101 a new subsection addressing Housing Choice and Fair Housing.
- Add a definition for "Accessibility" to the definition section of the Zoning Ordinance.

There are no known public policies in the City of Altoona that are barriers to affordable housing. The City Department of Community Development monitors the following:

- Tax policies affecting land and other properties
- Land use controls
- Zoning Ordinance
- Building Code
- Fees and charges

Actions it planned to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment

The City intends to continue to promote Fair Housing by working with Summit Legal Aid and Mid-Penn Legal Services. It also has continued to support and encourage construction proposals for for-rent and for-sale properties, as well as financing housing rehabilitation efforts and funding homebuyer training & education. To expand the amount of accessible housing available to elderly and disabled residents, the City is promoting rehabilitation and reasonable accommodations & modifications. Finally, it is expanding its code enforcement efforts to ensure that the existing housing stock remains in safe, sound, and decent condition.

Discussion:

Not Applicable.

AP-85 Other Actions - 91.220(k)

Introduction:

The City of Altoona has developed the following actions which address obstacles to meeting underserved needs, fosters affordable housing, reduces lead-based hazards, reduces the number of poverty families, develops institutional structures, and enhances coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The primary action taken in addressing obstacles to meeting underserved needs is identifying additional financial resources and leveraging funds with available state and local fund resources. An additional strategy for meeting unmet needs is to coordinate with other local service providing organizations so to minimize duplication of service and maximize collaborative efforts to meet identified needs. These are the primary strategies utilized in meeting unmet needs.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

With the limited CDBG and HOME funding available, the City intends to continue to increase its supply of affordable housing by rehabilitating homes for eligible homeowners and constructing new homes through Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs). Given the resources available, this will reduce but not eliminate barriers to affordable housing. City support for code enforcement and policing services also helps preserve housing units, keeping them in the market and reducing prices.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The City will continue to reduce the number of housing units containing lead-based paint hazards through housing rehabilitation activities using CDBG and HOME funds.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

Virtually all of the City's housing activities, programs, and projects are intended to benefit low-to-moderate income persons and to reduce the number of poverty-level families. One of the City's primary anti-poverty components of the CDBG program is to provide safe and sanitary housing for the low- and moderate-income individuals residing in the City. Providing safe and affordable housing opportunities for the low-to-moderate income population is a major deterrent to poverty. Because nearly two-thirds of City residents own their home, a high percentage in comparison with State and National figures, maintaining low-to-moderate-income residents in their own home is a primary component of the City's antipoverty program. The City addresses this through its ongoing single-family housing rehabilitation program, rental assistance program, and rental rehabilitation assistance program.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

The Department of Community Development is aware of a few minor gaps in delivery of services in Altoona related to insufficient funding. The staff and agencies involved are working with providers and agencies to develop appropriate solutions and develop alternate funding sources.

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

The City of Altoona created the Altoona Housing Authority (AHA), a body independent of City government whose members are appointed for staggered terms of office by the Mayor with a concurring vote from Altoona City Council. This organizational relationship is determined by Pennsylvania law.

The administrative activities of the agency are determined in accordance with Pennsylvania law and agency policy, including hiring, contracting and procurement. The relationship between the Altoona Housing Authority and the City of Altoona can be delineated by contracts for specific projects. The City and the Housing Authority cooperate in providing police protection for the housing projects and provide funding assistance for specific housing projects. The City also reviews and concurs on capital improvements conducted by the AHA and provides annual inspections on rental units under the City's rental inspection program. The construction of new developments or the demolition or disposition of existing developments is within the exclusive purview of the Housing Authority, although the authority consults routinely with the City of Altoona on these matters.

Discussion:

Not Applicable.

Program Specific Requirements

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

Introduction:

The City of Altoona receives an annual allocation of CDBG and HOME funds. Since the City receives these Federal allocations, the questions below have been completed as they are applicable. The City of Altoona anticipates that it will receive up to \$80,000 in program income from the repayment of Housing Rehabilitation Loans. These funds have been included in the FY 2025 Program Year Budget. There are no existing Program Income Funds that have been received and which have not been programmed.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(1)

Projects planned with all CDBG funds expected to be available during the year are identified in the Projects Table. The following identifies program income that is available for use that is included in projects to be carried out.

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	\$80,000
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan.	\$0
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	\$0
4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan	\$0
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	\$0
Total Program Income:	\$80,000

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	\$0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	72.73%

HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)
Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(2)

1. A description of other forms of investment being used beyond those identified in Section 92.205 is as follows:

The City of Altoona does not intend to use any other forms of investment other than those described in 24 CFR 92.205(b). Not Applicable.

2. A description of the guidelines that will be used for resale or recapture of HOME funds when used for homebuyer activities as required in 92.254, is as follows:

1. The housing must be single-family housing.
2. The housing must be modest housing as follows:
 - a. In the case of acquisition of newly constructed housing or standard housing, the housing has a purchase price for the type of single-family housing that does not exceed 95 percent of the median purchase price for the area.
 - b. In the case of acquisition with rehabilitation, the housing has an estimated value after rehabilitation that does not exceed 95 percent of the median purchase price for the area.
3. The housing must be acquired by a homebuyer whose family qualifies as a low-income family as determined by the HOME Investment Partnership Program and the housing must be the principal residence of the family throughout the period described in paragraph 4.
4. *Periods of affordability.* The HOME-assisted housing must meet the affordability requirements for not less than the applicable period specified in the following table, beginning after project completion. The per unit amount of HOME funds and the affordability period that they trigger are described more fully in paragraph 5 (recapture) of this section.

Affordability requirements will be incorporated into lease-purchase agreements, lien agreements, and through deed restriction.

Homeownership assistance HOME amount per-unit	Minimum period of affordability in years
Under \$25,000	5
\$25,000 to \$50,000	10
Over \$50,000	15

5. *Recapture.* The participating jurisdiction (PJ) recoups all or a portion of the HOME assistance to the homebuyers, if the housing does not continue to be the principal residence of the family for the duration of the period of affordability. The period of affordability is based upon the total amount of HOME funds subject to recapture. If the homebuyer or the homeowner breaches the terms and conditions for any reason, e.g. no longer occupies the property as his/her/their/ principal residence, the full amount of the subsidy is immediately due and payable.
- a. *Reduction during affordability period.* The PJ will reduce the HOME investment amount to be recaptured on a pro-rata basis for the time the homeowner has owned and occupied the housing measured against the required affordability period at the following rate. Five (5) year period-1/60th per month, ten (10) year- 1/120th per month, fifteen (15) year-1/180th per month.
- b. *Shared net proceeds.* If the net proceeds are not sufficient to recapture the reduced amount of HOME investment as provided for in paragraph 5 (a) plus enable the homeowner to recover a “Fair Return on Investment”, the amount of the homeowner’s down payment and any capital improvement investment made by the owner since purchase. The PJ may share the net proceeds. The net proceeds are the sales price minus loan repayment (other than HOME funds) and closing costs. The net proceeds will be divided proportionally as set forth in the following mathematical formulas:

<u>HOME Investment</u> HOME Investment + Homeowner Investment	x Net Proceeds =	HOME amount to be recaptured
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<u>Homeowner Investment</u> HOME Investment + Homeowner Investment	x Net Proceeds =	amount to homeowner
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- c. *Amount subject to recapture.* The HOME investment that is subject to recapture is based on the amount of HOME assistance that enabled the homebuyer to buy the dwelling unit. This includes any HOME assistance that reduced the purchase price from fair market value to an affordable price but excludes the amount between the cost of producing the unit and the market value of the property (i.e. the development subsidy). If the HOME assistance is only used for the development subsidy and therefore not subject to recapture, a resale option must be developed and used.

Resale Provisions. The resale policy is enforced through the use of a Restrictive Covenant signed by the homebuyer at closing. The Restrictive Covenant will specify:

1. the length of the affordability period (based on the dollar amount of HOME funds invested in the unit; either 5, 10, or 15 years);
2. that the home remains the Buyer's principal residence throughout the affordability period; and
3. the conditions and obligations of the Owner should the Owner wish to sell before the end of the affordability period, including:
 - a. The Owner must contact the City of Altoona Department of Community Development or its representative in writing if intending to sell the home prior to the end of the affordability period;
 - b. The subsequent purchaser must be low-income as defined by HOME and occupy the home as his/her new purchaser's primary residence for the remaining years of the affordability period. (However, if the new purchaser receives direct assistance through a HOME-funded program, the affordability period will be re-set according to the amount of assistance provided); and
 - c. The sales price must be affordable to the subsequent purchaser; affordable is defined as limiting the Principal, Interest, Taxes and Insurance (PITI) amount to no more than 30% of the new purchaser's monthly income.

Fair Return on Investment. The City of Altoona will administer its resale provisions by ensuring that the Owner receives a fair return on his/her investment and that the home will continue to be affordable to a specific range of incomes. Fair Return on Investment means the total homeowner investment which includes the total cash contribution plus the approved capital improvements credits as described below:

1. The amount of down payment;
2. The cost of any capital improvements, documented with receipts provided by the homeowner, including but not limited to:
 - a. Any additions to the home such as a bedroom, bathroom, or garage;
 - b. Replacement of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems;
 - c. Accessibility improvements such as bathroom modifications for disabled or elderly, installation of wheel chair ramps and grab bars, and any and all of which must have been paid for directly by the Owner and which were not installed through a federal, state, or locally-funded grant program; and
 - d. Outdoor improvements such as a new driveway, walkway, retaining wall, or fence.

NOTE: All capital improvements will be visually inspected to verify their existence.
3. The percentage of change as calculated by the Housing Price Index (HPI) Calculator of the Federal Housing Finance Agency. The HPI Calculator is currently located at www.fhfa.gov and projects what a given house purchased at a point in time would be worth today if it appreciated at the average appreciation rate of all homes in the area. The calculation shall be performed for the Altoona, PA Metropolitan Statistical Area.

3. A description of the guidelines for resale or recapture that ensures the affordability of units acquired with HOME funds? See 24 CFR 92.254(a)(4) are as follows:

Affordability to a Range of Buyers. The City will ensure continued affordability to a range of buyers, particularly those whose total household incomes range from 65 percent to no greater than 80 percent MFI.

Sales prices shall not be set such that the amount of Principal, Interest, Taxes and Insurance does not exceed 30 percent of the new Buyer's annual income. The affordable sales price shall not exceed the applicable Market Limit as established and provided by HUD for the Altoona area.

Lease-purchase. The lease-purchase agreement must be ratified within nine (9) months of the date of completion of construction or rehabilitation. The homebuyer must qualify as a low-income family at the time the lease-purchase agreement is signed. The homebuyer must provide completion certification of housing counseling training. The housing must be purchased by the homebuyer within thirty-six (36) months of signing. If the housing is not transferred to a homebuyer within this time frame the unit must be rented to an income eligible tenant in accordance with HOME affordability requirements for rental housing.

Contract to purchase. The sales contract must be ratified within nine (9) months of the date of completion of construction or rehabilitation. The homebuyer must qualify as a low-income family at the time the contract is signed. The homebuyer must provide completion certification of housing counseling training. If the housing is not transferred to a homebuyer within this time frame the unit must be rented to an income eligible tenant in accordance with HOME affordability requirements for rental housing.

Homeownership is defined as ownership in fee simple title or a 99-year leasehold interest in a one-to-four-unit dwelling. The ownership interest may be subject only to the restrictions on mortgages, deeds of trust, or other liens or instruments securing debt on the property as approved by the PJ.

4. Plans for using HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is rehabilitated with HOME funds along with a description of the refinancing guidelines required that will be used under 24 CFR 92.206(b), are as follows:

HOME funds may be used to refinance existing debt of multi-family properties that were developed by locally based housing organizations and in which HOME funds are also being used for eligible rehabilitation costs, consistent with 24 CFR 92.206(b)(2), subject to meeting the following conditions:

1. Refinancing is necessary to permit or continue affordability under 24 CFR 92.252.
2. The amount of HOME funds provided for refinancing costs cannot exceed 51% of the combined total cost for eligible rehabilitation costs and refinancing costs. The funds to be used for

rehabilitation and refinancing may include sources other than HOME funds, but a minimum level of \$2,000 per unit of HOME funds must be used for eligible rehabilitation costs.

3. Before providing HOME funds, the City shall review the management practices of the owner to ensure that disinvestment in the property has not occurred, that the long-term needs of the project can be met, and that the refinancing will help to ensure the affordability of the units to very low and low-income households over the period of affordability.
4. In its written approval of the HOME funds, the City shall specify that the new investment is being made to maintain current affordable units.
5. Refinancing will be limited to projects that have previously received an investment of public funds.
6. Refinancing of multi-family properties shall be eligible anywhere in the City of Altoona.
7. The minimum period of affordability for refinancing of multi-family properties shall be 15 years.
8. The HOME funds cannot be used to refinance multi-family loans made or insured by any other federal program, including CDBG funds.

5. If applicable to a planned HOME TBRA activity, a description of the preference for persons with special needs or disabilities. (See 24 CFR 92.209(c)(2)(i) and CFR 91.220(I)(2)(vii)).

Not applicable.

6. If applicable to a planned HOME TBRA activity, a description of how the preference for a specific category of individuals with disabilities (e.g. persons with HIV/AIDS or chronic mental illness) will narrow the gap in benefits and the preference is needed to narrow the gap in benefits and services received by such persons. (See 24 CFR 92.209(c)(2)(ii) and 91.220(I)(2)(vii)).

Not applicable.

7. If applicable, a description of any preference or limitation for rental housing projects. (See 24 CFR 92.253(d)(3) and CFR 91.220(I)(2)(vii)). Note: Preferences cannot be administered in a manner that limits the opportunities of persons on any basis prohibited by the laws listed under 24 CFR 5.105(a).

Not applicable.

Discussion

HOME Match Requirements:

The City is not required to provide a match for FY 2025's HOME funds as the City satisfied the distressed criteria for participating jurisdictions in accordance with HOME Program regulations. Not Currently Applicable.

HOME Program Income:

The City does not anticipate receiving HOME Program Income. Not Applicable.

CHDO Organizations:

The City of Altoona has one CHDO, Improved Dwellings of Altoona.

CDBG Program Income:

The City of Altoona anticipates approximately \$80,000 in Program Income.

CDBG Percentages:

- Administrative Percentage: 20%
- Public Service Percentage: 15%
- Low and Moderate-Income Percentage: 100%
- No Slum and Blight Activities.

HOME Percentages:

- Administrative Percentage: 10%
- CHDO Set-Aside: 15%