

Program Year 2017 CAPER

Executive Summary

Cherokee County qualifies as an entitlement jurisdiction for receiving Community Development Block Grant [CDBG] funding from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD]. As an entitlement community, the County is required to submit an annual report of the County's programmatic and financial performance to the citizens of Cherokee County and to HUD at the end of each program year. This Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report [CAPER] is for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2017 and covers the County's fourth year of the 2014-2018 Consolidated Plan.

During the planning process for the Consolidated Plan, Cherokee County's CDBG Staff conducted a needs assessment and market analysis to determine the County's priority needs. Community input obtained through interviews and consultation with agencies that serve the needs of low to moderate income persons, along with public hearings, helped establish the needs and develop long term goals and strategies. Through this process, an overall focus for CDBG activities will be to meet the National Objective - Benefit to Low and Moderate Income Persons. The 2017 CDBG allocation for Cherokee County was \$1,113,082. In addition, unexpended funds from prior years in the amount of \$1,006,672 were still committed to projects that had not been completed and/or not started. Table 1 reflects the spending by organization during the 2017 program year.

Table 1
Spending by Organization

ORGANIZATION	ACTIVITY	2017 SPENDING
City of Ball Ground	Senior Center Construction Project	\$238,500.00
City of Woodstock	Goshen Lane Storm Water Improvements	\$56,564.00
City of Woodstock	ADA/Sidewalks Project	\$36,436.00
City of Woodstock	Senior Center Renovations & Expansion Project	\$249,380.35
Cherokee County Senior Services	Portico Construction Project	\$62,500.00
Goshen Valley Foundation	Group Home Repairs & Renovations for Boys in Foster Care	\$9,154.69

North Georgia Angel House	Sewer Connection and Driveway Repair & Widening to Accommodate Public Safety Vehicles	\$121,187.53
City of Holly Springs	Palm Street Improvement Project	\$222,676.37
MUST Ministries, Inc.	Staff Support-Case Managers	\$14,936.00
Next Step Ministries, Inc.	Staff Support-Therapeutic Day Program	\$18,634.21
Boys & Girls Club	Transportation Program	\$23,000.00
Cherokee Family Violence Center	Children's Program	\$32,783.00
Bethesda Community Health Clinic	Staff Support-Volunteer Coordinator	\$6,992.25
Cherokee Child Advocacy Council [Anna Crawford Children's Center]	Staff Support-Two multilingual counselors	\$19,665.00
Habitat for Humanity	Minor/Emergency Home Repair Program	\$48,666.49
TOTAL SPENDING FOR ACTIVITIES		\$1,158,075.89

The Goals and Strategies established for the five-year Strategic Plan, as amended in 2016, were used to guide the County's 2017 allocation of CDBG awards. Cherokee County received its 2017 funds in late November delaying the start of the Annual Action Plan goals. Each of the organizations that receive CDBG funds also contribute resources to the completion of the activity.

Increase the Capacity of Public Facilities and Infrastructure

- Improve residential neighborhood safety and livability by expanding/improving public facilities and infrastructure
- Increase services for low to moderate income persons by expanding/improving public facilities

2017 Annual Action Plan activities to address this goal were:

The City of Ball Ground used \$42,386 to begin Phase II of the construction of their senior center at the end of the year with an expected completion by the end of the first quarter of 2018.

Prior Year Funded Projects completed and/or underway in 2017

- The City of Woodstock completed storm water and infrastructure improvements to Goshen Lane in late 2016, but the expenditure of these funds is reflected in the 2017 CAPER. The Goshen Lane improvements benefitted 82 LMI persons in this neighborhood. In addition, the City completed sidewalk improvements to install curb cuts and ADA ramps at scattered sites to improve access for disabled persons. This activity area serves 4,155 persons. \$90,000 in prior year funds were used to fund these two projects.

- The City of Holly Springs project to address storm water management, add sidewalks, curbs, and gutters to Palm Street began in late 2015, and it was expected to be completed during 2016. Delays by the utility companies relocating utility services extended the completion date of the project. For the program year 2017, prior year funds of \$222,676.37 were used to fund the project to completion in the spring. The Palm Street project area serves 2,660 persons.
- Cherokee County Senior Center used \$62,500 in prior year funds to add a portico for the purpose of protecting the home delivered meals volunteers from inclement weather while they are loading their vehicles. The portico construction was completed in September 2017. Remaining funds will be used to expand storage for donated items free to seniors in need.
- The City of Woodstock used prior year funds of \$249,380.35 to begin expansion and renovation of the senior center in Woodstock. The population of seniors had outgrown the facility's capacity to provide adequate services to its seniors. A multi-purpose room was added and the kitchen was renovated to increase the footprint of the facility by more than 20%.
- North Georgia Angel House began improvements to their facility in October of 2017 to widen and repave the driveway to improve access for public safety vehicles. In addition, the project involved grading to improve storm water runoff using \$121,187.53 in prior year funds. Hookup to the sewer system in a nearby subdivision will improve safety and sustainability of the group home for girls in foster care. Completion is expected in the first quarter of 2018.
- The City of Ball Ground used prior year funds to begin construction of a new senior center located on the site of a former fire station. Previously, Ball Ground seniors were limited to meeting at a nearby church only once a week. The new facility will improve and increase services to the seniors in Ball Ground and allow access to services five days a week at their own facility. \$196,114 in prior year funds were used to fund the construction of the new and (approximate) 2,000 sq. ft. center.
- Goshen Valley Foundation used \$9,154.69 in prior year funds for Phase II of the Renovation and Expansion of the Covenant House, a group home for boys in foster care at Goshen Valley Boys Ranch. The activity increased access to safe and sustainable living for three additional boys in foster care. The original Covenant House project started in 2016, and the second phase was completed in the Spring of 2017.

Increase the Capacity of Public Service and Economic Opportunities

- Provide critical services for low income persons, homeless persons and other persons with special needs to assist them toward increased stability.

2017 Annual Action Plan activities to address this goal were:

- MUST Ministries, Inc. case managers provide services to persons housed in transitional housing units for veterans and homeless/near homeless persons. CDBG funds (\$14,936) were allocated to provide staff support for two case managers who served 69 individuals.
- Next Step Ministries, Inc., a new subrecipient, used \$18,634.21 of its 2017 allocation to support a lead teacher staff position for the agency's Therapeutic Day Program for developmentally disabled persons who have aged out of the school system. The services enable parents to work while disabled clients,

who require around-the-clock care, are taught basic skills such as eating. Twenty-three (23) developmentally disabled adults were assisted.

- Transportation continues to be a priority need in Cherokee County. While the County does have public transportation, service hours and routes are very limited. CDBG funds were allocated to the Boys and Girls Club (\$23,000) to support its transportation program for after-school and summer programs. Transportation services were provided to 379 LMI persons in 2017.
- Funding was provided to two additional non-profits to support staff positions. Cherokee Family Violence Center (\$32,783) operates transitional housing for victims of domestic abuse. Children who experience domestic abuse often become abusers or victims of abuse themselves. The agency offers a children's program to specifically deal with the issues children face in hope that the chain of abuse is broken. CDBG funds are used to support two Child Advocate positions at The Cherokee Child Advocacy Council [Anna Crawford Children's Center]. The Council serves child victims of abuse through counseling, court support, and counseling of the non-abusive guardian. Many of these victims are not English proficient and are served by two trilingual staff persons. Funding of \$19,665 helped support the staff who served 285 children in 2017.

Prior Year Funded Projects completed and/or underway in 2017

- Bethesda Community Health Clinic provides low cost health care to the uninsured or under-insured LMI persons and relies on volunteers to increase the delivery of services. A volunteer coordinator schedules the volunteers as well as the recruitment of additional medical volunteers for the clinic. Prior year CDBG funds (\$6,992.25) were used to offer a stipend for the position.

Preserve and Expand Affordable Housing

The County continued its partnership with Habitat for Humanity to administer the minor/emergency home repair program to preserve and expand affordable housing. The partnership is intended to address several housing concerns for LMI residents and an emphasis on veterans, seniors, and disabled persons:

- Improve sustainability of homeownership through a rehabilitation program
- Expand the supply of affordable housing
- Reduce lead-based paint hazard
- Encourage fair housing opportunities

Prior Year Funded Projects completed and/or underway in 2017

- Minor/Emergency repairs include such items as roof repairs, HVAC systems, and plumbing issues. In 2017, three (3) households received new HVAC systems; four (4) households received new roofs; one (1) household received plumbing repairs; and two (2) households received other repairs.

Cherokee County expended \$1,325,396 in 2017 to address the goals of the 2014-2018 Consolidated Plan. With the continued CDBG allocations, Cherokee County is able to provide services, facilities and housing to address the needs of its low to moderate income residents.