

INTRODUCTION:

The City of Rogers is a participant in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Cities Program. The City is awarded funds annually to carry out eligible activities that benefit extremely-low to low and/or moderate persons, adjusted for family size.

The 2007 Program Year Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) are intended to inform Rogers' residents how the CDBG funds administered by the City were expended and to let the public know how the programs were carried out. All interested and/or concerned citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties that may have been affected by program funds, such as minorities and non-English speaking persons, seniors, persons with disabilities, residents of public and assisted housing developments, residents living in slum and blighted areas, residents in predominantly low-to-moderate-income neighborhoods are encouraged to submit their comments or questions concerning the CAPER or the CDBG Program in general. Comments, concerns, or questions may be mailed, faxed, emailed, or made by phone to the Office of the CDBG Administrator located in City Hall.

City of Rogers
CDBG Program
301 West Chestnut
Rogers, AR 72756

Donna Johnston, CDBG Administrator
Phone: 479-621-1186
Fax: 479-986-6896
Email: djohnston@rogersark.org

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Program Year 2007 was the third year of the three year (2005-2007) Consolidated Plan. To establish the goals and objectives of the three year and one year plans, input was gathered from citizens, non-profit and for-profit entities, City Departments, City Boards and Committees through public meetings. The process ensured full access and participation by the community in developing goals and objectives by reviewing public input on the eligible areas, prioritizing problems and solutions, and developing a strategic plan to promote responsible community development and build community-based partnerships.

The Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) is a report that provides information on Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) activities undertaken by the City of Rogers from January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007. Funds for these activities are provided by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Cities Program.

The City of Rogers is aware of the need of the many and various community development activities, both housing and non-housing needs, including public improvements, and acknowledges that there are not enough funds available to meet all of the City's needs. The City is also mindful of continuing to carry out the Community Development Block Grant Program for maximum benefit to extremely-low to low-income individuals and families.

Funding limitations did not allow all requests for funding to be addressed in 2007. The City hopes that all needs identified will be addressed and possibly funded in subsequent years as CDBG funds become available.

The Community Development Block Grant Program continues to partner with the City and other agencies to accomplish their short and long term goals and at the same time meet the goals set by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The goals of the City of Rogers' CDBG Program are to provide:

(a) Decent housing to include assisting homeless persons to obtain appropriate housing, assisting persons at risk of becoming homeless; retaining the attainable housing stock; and increasing the availability of permanent housing in standard condition and at an affordable cost for low-to-moderate-income families, particularly to members of disadvantaged minorities, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, family status, or disability. Decent housing also includes increasing the supply of supportive housing, which combines structural features and services needed to enable persons with special needs, including persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, to live with dignity and independence; and providing housing affordable to low-income persons accessible to job opportunities.

(b) A suitable living environment includes improving the safety and livability of neighborhoods; increasing access to quality public and private facilities and services, reducing the isolation of income groups within a community or geographical area through the spatial de-concentration of housing opportunities for persons of lower income and the revitalization of deteriorating or deteriorated neighborhoods; restoring and preserving properties of special historic, architectural, or aesthetic value; and conserving energy resources.

(c) Expanded economic opportunities includes job creation and retention; establishment, stabilization and expansion of small businesses (including micro-businesses); provision of public services concerned with employment, provision of jobs to low-income persons living in areas affected by those programs and activities, or jobs resulting from carrying out activities under programs covered by the plan; availability of mortgage financing for low-income persons at reasonable rates using non-discriminatory lending practices; access to capital and credit for development activities that promote the long-term economic and social viability of the community; and empowerment and self-sufficiency for low-income persons to reduce generational poverty in Federally assisted housing and public housing.

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

1. Assessment of the One-Year Goals and Objectives:

Communities develop their own programs and funding priorities based on local needs. HUD has established guidelines to define the types of projects/activities that may be undertaken and to ensure each project/activity meets one of the national objectives of the CDBG Program. Examples of eligible projects/ activities include:

- (a) Acquisition and disposition of real property.
- (b) Acquisition, construction, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of public facilities such as community, senior and health centers. Public facilities also include streets, sidewalks, parks, playgrounds, and infrastructure (water and sewer or flood and drainage improvements).
- (c) Provisions of public services such as child care, health care, recreation or education programs, services for senior citizens, and services for homeless persons.
- (d) Residential housing rehabilitation.

Each project/activity must carry out one of the three national objectives of the Program:

- (a) Benefit low and moderate income persons either individually, such as housing rehabilitation, or area-wide, such as improvements to streets, sidewalks, and parks. Activities that benefit special populations that are presumed to be low and moderate income such as elderly persons, abused spouses or children, homeless persons, and developmentally or physically handicap persons.
- (b) Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums and blight on an area basis, spot basis, or in an urban renewal area.
- (c) Meet urgent community development needs that pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community.

a. Describe the Accomplishments in Attaining the Goals and Objectives for the Reporting Period.

Listed below are the objectives, goals, and accomplishments for the City of Rogers 2007 Program Year:

HOUSING \$54,452.43 – 10 % of the Grant Funds Spent in 2007

Although the City saw land prices decrease in 2007, the cost of land still hindered developers being able to build affordable housing to meet the City's need. The City has taken steps to encourage affordable housing by passing regulations and zoning

ordinances which encourage affordable development by reducing setback requirements and density. The City has seen a tremendous slow down in the building of high-end market housing since the 2005-2007 Consolidated Plan was submitted. The City still has a strong economy and low unemployment rate sparking growth in the entry level wage earners and blue collar worker. This type growth is sparking an interest from developers to build affordable housing in Rogers.

Housing rehabilitation continues to be a focus for the City. The City, in the past, has faced one huge obstacle in providing housing rehabilitation. Because of the massive development occurring in Rogers along the I-540 corridor, the City has faced not being able to retain qualified builders who are willing to do rehabilitation work. Although we are seeing housing construction almost coming to a standstill, commercial and retail construction is still continuing. Partnering with other agencies has been the best way for the City to meet our housing rehabilitation goals through the Community Development Block Grant Program.

The City had three housing projects in the 2007 Program Year. Those projects are listed below:

Habitat for Humanity Project (See Habitat Housing Tab)

Objective: (a) Benefit Low and Moderate Income Persons.

Goal: (a) Decent Housing.

By partnering with Habitat for Humanity, the City has been able to assist in the purchase of land to be used for construction of a Habitat neighborhood. Construction has started on an environmentally friendly eco-subdivision on Old Wire Road. When completed, this subdivision will provide 15 new homes in the Rogers City limits for low income families. All selected families have been in the extremely-low to low-income range. The entire subdivision will be dedicated to preserving the environment and will include a wetland conservation area, community area, a park, and is within walking distance to several Rogers Public Schools. A property owner's association will be developed along with covenants for the owners. Based on an average of three people to a home, this project could provide affordable housing for 45 people.

Housing Rehabilitation (See Rehabilitation Projects Tab)

Objective: (a) Benefit Low and Moderate Income Persons.

Goal: (a) Decent Housing.

The City of Rogers partnered with Rebuilding Together of Northwest Arkansas and provided funding as well as City volunteers to rehab two homes in the Rogers City limits. Rebuilding Together of Northwest Arkansas is a non-profit organization that preserves and revitalizes homes. All homeowners are low-income and unable to financially pay for

the work. Listed below are statistics on the homeowners who received rehabilitation assistance through CDBG during the 2007 Program Year:

Owner's Income	Head of Household	Size of Household	Handicap
\$18,936.00	Hispanic	2	Yes
11,928.00	Caucasian	1	No
9,600.00	Caucasian	1	No
9,800.00	Caucasian	2	Yes
25,936.30	Caucasian	4	Yes
15,558.00	Caucasian	1	Yes
8,220.00	Caucasian	1	Yes
28,454.00	Caucasian	3	No

Two homes received major rehabilitation work in 2007. Those homes are the first homes listed in the above chart. Home No. 1 is owned by a husband and wife (ages 78 and 73) for 20 years. Although the home they purchased 20 years ago was a nice home when they bought it, the husband suffered a major heart attack and was forced to retire early. The couple has been struggling financially ever since and as a result of their financial situation, no repair or maintenance work has been done on the home. The exterior siding was in dire need of repair and sealing to keep it from deteriorating. The west side of the home had received some damaged and was repaired. There were no soffet vents on the house and the back door was rusted through at the bottom and the jamb had minor termite damage. Once the terminate damage had been assessed and sprayed, a new door was provided for this house. A leak in the main bath toilet was repaired. Smoke alarms were also installed. Windows were caulked, the garage door was replaced as it was rotting and a small retaining wall was built in the back yard to help with drainage problems from area properties. House No. 2 is owned by a 50-year old woman who suffered a back injury and left disabled. Work accomplished on this house included bracing and shoring the wood floors, re-screwing subfloor at the toilet, weather strip back door, install rigid foam insulation in areas where the home has very little insulation, install smoke detectors, rebuilt front porch (which was deteriorated and unsafe) and added railing, replaced roof, repaired soffet and fascia, rebuilt back steps and added railing, and installed insulation in attic.

The other repairs included repair of two heater units, replacement of an air conditioning unit, plumbing repairs, and repairing of floors and stairs considered to be unsafe. Funds were also used for pest services for a roach infested house and funds to pay one gas bill and one electric bill in a home where small children were located.

PUBLIC SERVICES \$14,469.30 – 3% of the Grant Fund Spent in 2007

Transportation Assistance (See Public Service Tab - Transportation)

Objective: (a) Benefit low and moderate income persons.

Goal: (b) A suitable living environment.

The objective of the City is to improve the mobility of income eligible citizens. All the participants are approved residents of the City of Rogers and although they do not all live in the low to moderate income areas, their incomes do not exceed HUD guidelines. The City is able to accomplish this goal by offsetting the cost of the City approved transportation systems, Ozark Regional Transit and Northwest Arkansas Taxi, LLC, by providing the approved riders with coupons for free rides. Identification cards were also provided that must be shown each time the rider boards the bus or enters the taxi. Ozark Regional Transit and Northwest Arkansas Taxi, LLC provide the City a breakdown on each rider to include date picked up, where taken, and when returned home. An invoice is also provided with the breakdown. These procedures safeguard against program abuse. This program has been invaluable to the City as most of the riders have no other means of transportation. Several of our riders are cancer patients who were missing treatments because of lack of transportation and/or the means to afford the cost of a taxi ride to and from the treatment facility. The City provided transportation assistance for 40 individuals during 2007.

Funding of ESL Classes (See Public Service Tab – English as Second Language)

Objective: (a) Benefit low and moderate income persons.

Goal: (b) A suitable living environment.

The City of Rogers has many immigrant needs. Our goal is to foster trust and bridge between cultures while maintaining the present quality of life. The typical new arrive is Hispanic and illiterate to the English language. Because of the language barrier, simple things like opening a bank account, obtaining housing and utilities, and enrolling in school are very difficult for those immigrating into the City. CDBG funds were used to provide funding for the Family ESL classes. This program brings parents, children, and teachers together in an afternoon or evening setting. The parents work with their children on homework assignments and are schooled in improving their use of the English language. Reading, writing, listening/speaking, conversation, and pronunciation are all taught. Four schools in the Rogers School District participated in the program. Classes are held twice a week. Each class lasted for two hours. It is projected that 75% of the participants (150 persons) in this program will come from the low-to-moderate-income Rogers residents.

PUBLIC FACILITIES - \$420,199.65 - 74 % of the Grant Funds Spent in 2007

The City had three Public Facility Projects started in 2007. One of these projects was from previous year funding. None of these projects were completed in 2007.

Drainage and Street Project in the Cole and Wallace Subdivisions (Arkansas and B Streets) (See Public Facilities Tab – Drainage Project)

Objective: (a) Benefit low and moderate income persons.

Goal: (b) A Suitable living environment.

This project was started in 2005 with the design and purchase of boxes to collect surface accumulation and transport water off the site. This area has never had any drainage structures in place and as more land developed around these neighborhoods, increased runoffs have caused extensive damage to not only the homes in the area, but the streets also. Delays on this project were caused by the City being unable to secure necessary right of ways on a timely basis. Once rights of ways were secured, weather delays were encountered. Construction of this project started in late summer of 2007 and is proceeding on schedule. At present the project is 64% complete with only 52% of the time used. It is anticipated this project will complete in spring of 2008. This area is located in an extremely-low to low-income neighborhood.

Design of Price Lane (See Public Facilities Tab – Price Lane)

Objective: (a) Benefit low and moderate income persons.

Goal: (b) A suitable living environment

The City has seen a lot of building growth in the area southeast of New Hope Road in the past several years. Much of this growth consisted of smaller homes and duplexes in the 1,400 sq. ft. to 1,700 sq. ft. size range and duplexes. Traffic is currently routed to a narrow, non-curbed two lane road. This project covers the design of a new three lane road with curb and gutter. The completion of this road will relieve traffic for the three schools located on First Street and will provide access to Hwy 71-B for the low to low-mod homes in the area. The City plans to fund the construction of this project which will begin in 2008.

Since the above drainage and street projects are on City streets, the entire population of the City of Rogers will be affected by these projects.

One other public facility project was also started in the 2007 Program Year.

Park Project (See Public Facilities Tab - Adult Wellness Center)

Objective: (a) Benefit low and moderate income persons.

Goal: (b) A suitable living environment.

The City of Rogers dedicated a new Adult Wellness Center (AWC) in September of 2006. Since the opening of the Center, over 7,000 people have joined. The Center is located on a 20 acre site off Dixieland Road. The Adult Wellness Center will provide adults (50 or over) a place to maintain physical agility and mental activity. A walking track, lap pool, warm-water therapy pool, cardiovascular workout area and kitchen are

just some of the items offered by the Center. Membership fees have been set at \$25 per year, but no one who meets the age criteria will be turned away because of inability to pay. This 20 acre site also supports a senior HUD housing project known as Dixieland Gardens, a 32-unit apartment complex for low income seniors. Two other HUD facilities are planned in future years. The City of Rogers views the outdoors as a very important aspect of whole person wellness and will enhance the existing facility with an outdoor park. This park will have walking trails, exercise stations for stretching, strengthening, and balance training, a labyrinth for mental and physical exercise, a meditation garden with a water feature, a memory garden, a pavilion, and benches. A fence will be constructed around the retention pond for safety. This project would not only create an outdoor space to be used for exercising and relaxing, but would connect the senior housing project to the Center, provide a connectivity to the proposed trail system in Rogers, and create a new park for the citizens of Rogers. The design for this project was completed in 2007 with construction starting in January 2008. CDBG funds in the amount of \$243,000 were earmarked for the design and a portion of the construction for this project. The remaining construction costs will be paid by the City of Rogers.

ADMINISTRATION \$75,317.49 - 13 % of the Grant Funds Spent in 2007

The Community Block Grant regulation allows up to 20% of the total grant amount to be used for administration cost. Administration cost is the cost required to administer the CDBG Program including monitoring any sub-recipients. Administration funds were used to pay a portion of the CDBG Administrator’s salary, travel and training expenses, office supplies and postage. Funds were also used to reimburse the City for time spent by City employees for inspections of CDBG construction projects. Time sheets are kept on all employees whose salaries are affected by CDBG funding.

b. Provide a Breakdown of the CPD Formula Grant funds Spent on Grant Activities for Each Goal and Objective.

Listed below is the breakdown of the grant funds spent on grant activities for each National goal and City objective:

Project	Activity	National Objective	City Goal	Amount Spent
Housing	Land Acquisition	Benefit Low/Mod	Suitable Living Environment	\$ 40,000.00
Housing	Rehabilitation	Benefit Low/Mod	Decent Housing	10,649.41
Housing	Emergency Repairs	Benefit Low/Mod	Decent Housing	3,803.02
Public Service	Transportation Assistance	Benefit Low/Mod	Suitable Living Environment	2,882.50
Public Service	ESL Classes	Benefit Low/Mod	Suitable Living Environment	11,586.80

Public Facilities	Cole/Wallace	Benefit Low/Mod	Suitable Living Environment	366,227.00
Public Facilities	Price Lane – Design Only	Benefit Low/Mod	Suitable Living Environment	9,336.00
Public Facilities	Adult Wellness Center Park	Benefit Low/Mod	Suitable Living Environment	\$ 44,636.65

The City spent a total of \$489,121.38 on projects in Program Year 2007. By adding administration costs of \$75,317.49 to this amount, the City of Rogers spent \$564,438.87 in Program Year 2007.

c. If Applicable, Explain Why Progress was not Made Towards Meeting the Goals and Objectives.

The City had funded for five home rehabilitations in 2007, however, of all the rehabilitation applications submitted, only two met the qualifications. The City did nine emergency repairs in lieu of the three budgeted for 2007. The Public Service projects were completed in 2007. All of the Public Facility Projects are still on-going and will be completed in 2008. Delays for these projects were caused by right of way acquisitions, weather, and design.

2. Describe the Manner in which the Recipient would Change its Program as a Result of its Experiences:

The City made two changes from the 2006 to 2007 Program Years. Timeliness had been a weakness with the CDBG Program in previous years; however, in 2007 the City was able to meet the timeliness standards. Being timely was a result of changes made in the program to assure that all projects were monitored to assure that timeliness would be met. Changes were also made to implement an application process for funding. As a result of this process implemented in 2007, the City received more requests for funding in Program Year 2008 than they had ever received. Although this made it difficult to turn down some requests and even reduce others, it did give the City an opportunity to look for projects that would have the biggest impact on our goals.

3. Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing:

The Arkansas Fair Housing Commission oversees fair housing activity for the City of Rogers. The State of Arkansas has a fair housing law that meets substantial equivalency requirements of the Federal Government. The State law contains all protected classes found in the Federal law and meets the enforcement and penalty standards set forth in the Federal Fair Housing Act. In December 2006, J-Quad & Associates completed a new Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice for the City of Rogers. The City received this report in January 2007.

a. and b. **Provide a Summary of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice and Identify Actions Taken to Overcome Effects of Impediments identified.**

Listed below are identified impediments and actions the City will take to overcome the impediment:

Real Estate Impediments:

1. **Concentration of Affordable Housing Resulting in Income and Racial Segregation.** In the past years, the developer has built the middle to high-end housing. Land costs have escalated to a point that building affordable housing is not profitable. The City has ordinances covering affordable housing. In 2007, the City began to see the affordable housing subdivisions come through for planning review and City Council approval. The City is making every effort to work with developers to reduce setback requirements and provide incentives for the developer to build affordable housing. The City's Comprehensive Growth Plan allows for affordable housing to be built in many sections of the City. The City hopes with the slow down in the construction of middle to high-end housing, we will continue to see affordable housing built in many areas of the City reducing income and racial segregation in the City.

2. **Possible Fair Housing Violations in Real Estate Advertising.** The City has met with Board of Realtors representatives as well as the local newspapers concerning this matter. The City will continue to encourage education where fair housing advertisement is concerned. The Board of Realtors, as well as local newspapers, was provided a copy of the City's Analysis to Fair Housing as completed by J-Quad and Associates in January 2007.

Public Policy Impediments:

1. **Lack of Updated Fair Housing Ordinance and a Local Fair Housing Enforcement Program.** The City does have a Fair Housing Ordinance; however, it was written years ago and needs to be updated. A Fair Housing Board that was established in the 1990's is in inactive status. The City is looking at rewriting the fair housing ordinance to be in compliance with Federal housing guidelines. The City is in the process of working with the Rogers Board of Realtors to establish a Fair Housing Board for a point of contact in the City of Rogers. This Board will not be an enforcement board, but a place where people can call for assistance in locating the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission. This Board will work to provide education programs on Fair Housing to the community.

Banking, Finance, and Insurance Related Impediments:

1. **Low Number of Loan Applications from Minorities.** The City had a meeting with the Board of Realtors concerning expanding its homebuyer outreach and education efforts to increase the number of minorities who apply for mortgage loans. The Board of Realtors plans to meet with lending institutions to work on improving the success of loan applications submitted by minority applicants. It should be noted the City's biggest

minority group is Hispanic. Many are in the City without proper paperwork. They are working at various jobs for cash and do not pay taxes. Because of this, they don't have the proper paperwork to be able to apply for mortgage financing and for many, homeownership is not a priority. The lending institutes in our City, as well as other City employers, are doing a great job of hiring employees who can speak, read, and write the Spanish language. Having bilingual employees will help provide information and assist our Hispanic "citizens" to discover the "American Dream" of homeownership.

Socio-Economic Impediments:

There were two socio-economic impediments listed in the Fair Housing Study. One was income disparities among racial groups. Forming partnerships with major employers to create training programs targeting minority and low-income residents would be one way the City could address this impediment. The other impediment listed is language and cultural barriers. The City employs some bilingual employees who participate in meetings and outreach activities for the City. The City also employs several Hispanic employees. The City has encouraged its employees to take advantage of Spanish classes. The City, through the CDBG Program, provides free ESL (English as Second Language) classes at several of the local schools. This program is a tremendous help in addressing language and cultural barriers.

4. A Description of Other Actions in the Strategic Plan or Action Plan Taken to Address Obstacles to Meeting Underserved Needs:

The City of Rogers partnered with the Cities of Bentonville and Springdale in contracting with the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville campus to conduct a Homeless Needs Assessment for the City. This assessment will help the City to determine the best way to meet the underserved needs of the homeless. The final report was received by the City in June of 2007.

The City continually strives to keep informed of the needs of its citizens. We have developed good relationships with the non-profits and organizations who serve the homeless, the disabled, the battered, and others put in positions that will not allow them to take care of themselves or their families. We are constantly looking for ways to improve the living environment of all our citizens.

5. Leveraging Resources:

a. Identify Progress in Obtaining "Other" Public and Private Resources to Address Needs.

The City does not receive any other monies for their programs other than CDBG funds.

b. How Federal Resources from HUD Leveraged Other Public and Private Resources.

By partnering with non-profits, Habitat for Humanity and Rebuilding Together Northwest Arkansas, the City is able to meet more housing needs. The land purchases for Habitat for Humanity will provide as many as 15 new low income homes in Rogers. Through material and labor donations as part of Rebuilding Together of Northwest Arkansas, the City is able to provide some major rehabilitation work as well as emergency repairs for individuals and/or families with income limitations.

c. **How Matching Requirements were Satisfied.**

None of the City's CDBG funds were used for matching grants by other agencies. All monies were spent directly towards the activity funded.

The City of Rogers is very appreciative of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's funding it provides the City to carry out their housing, public service, and public facility programs. The City contributes to the CDBG Program by providing CDBG staff with office space, utilities, janitorial services, phones and other items necessary to carry-out the CDBG Program. The City also provides part of the CDBG Administrator's salary.

MANAGING THE PROCESS:

1. **Description of the Actions Taken During the Last Year to Ensure Compliance with Program and Comprehensive Planning Requirements:**

The City of Rogers' Planning and Transportation Department has a CDBG Administrator who is responsible for overseeing the CDBG Program and the development of the City's Annual Action Plan, CAPER, and Five-Year Consolidated Plan. The CDBG Administrator is responsible for administering the programs including their development, implementation, monitoring and reporting activities. The CDBG Administrator works with the citizens of Rogers, community and neighborhood organizations, non-profit housing agencies, as well as the private housing industry. The CDBG Administrator gathers data from citizens, meetings, and public hearings to encourage public comment and to use those views to establish priorities for housing and community development needs.

The CDBG Administrator communicates with several agencies in the development of the City's plans. Among those in 2007 were Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together of Northwest Arkansas, Boys and Girls Club of Benton County, Ozark Regional Transit System, Northwest Arkansas Taxi, LLC, Adult Development Center, Rogers Public School District, Office of Human Concern, Salvation Army, Samaritan House, and St. Francis House NWA, Inc. d/b/a Community Clinic at St. Francis House. The Administrator also visited with City Staff including the Mayor, Director of Planning and Transportation, Police Department, and Director of Parks and Recreation. Meetings were also held with the local newspapers and representatives of the Rogers Board of Realtors.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

This Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) was placed on the City's web site at www.rogersark.com under City Administration, Community Development Grant Administrator on March 10, 2008. Hard copies were also placed on at the following locations: City Hall, 301 West Chestnut; Rogers Public Library, 711 South Dixieland; The Adult Wellness Center, 2001 West Persimmon; and Rogers Activity Center, 301 West Olive.

The City of Rogers also places each of its (1 year) Annual Action Plan and (5 Year) Consolidated Plan on its web site.

A display ad was placed in the Morning News on Sunday, March 9, 2008 encouraging Rogers' citizens to review and comment on the CAPER. Comments on the CAPER were accepted for 15 days beginning March 10, 2008 and ending March 24, 2008. All comments are attached and/or incorporated in this CAPER. A copy of the newspaper ad is located at the Affidavit of Publication tab.

1. Provide a Summary of Citizen Comments.

Although the City held several public hearings during the year as well as notifying citizens of where to mail their comments, none were received during the 2007 Program Year.

2. Federal Funds Available for Furthering the Objectives of the Consolidated Plan.

The CAPER identifies Federal funds made available for furthering the objectives of the Consolidated Plan. For each formula grant program, the grantee shall identify the total amount of funds available, the total amount of funds committed during the reporting period, the total amount expended during the reporting period, and the geographic distribution and location of expenditures. Jurisdictions are encouraged to include maps in describing the geographic distribution and location of investment (including areas of minority concentration). The geographic distribution and expenditure requirement may also be satisfied by specifying census tracts where expenditures were concentrated. Tabs located at the back of the CAPER provide maps showing the geographic distribution and locations of where these funds were spent. Census tract information is also provided for some of the activities.

Project	Funds Available	Funds Expended	Carry Over Funds
Habit for Humanity	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 0.00
Rebuilding Together and Emergency Repairs	45,000.00	14,452.43	30,547.57
Transportation Assistant Program	14,145.00	2,882.50	11,262.50
ESL Classes	20,000.00	11,586.80	8,413.20
North Drainage Project	642,469.25	366,227.00	276,142.25

Price Lane Project	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 9,336.00	\$ 16,664.00
AWC Park	243,000.00	44,636.65	198,363.35
Administration	141,932.38	75,317.49	66,614.89

INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE:

1. Describe Actions Taken During the Last Year to Overcome Gaps in Institutional Structures and Enhance Coordination.

The City of Rogers carried out its 2007 Action Plan through the use of Federal funds received from HUD. The CDBG Administrator used City management and non-profit organizations to implement the City's planned use of funds. Although the City has major strengths with a good economy, low unemployment, quality health care facilities, a public education system that has received national awards for its education programs, and a variety of local non-profits and social service agencies, the City does have gaps that affect quality of life for some of the citizens. One of those gaps is affordable home ownership opportunities. The City will work closely with housing developers in the development of affordable housing.

MONITORING:

1. Describe How and the Frequency with Which Activities were Monitored.

Monitoring is an ongoing process of reviewing the City's performance of meeting goals, ensuring compliance with regulatory and statutory requirements, and enhancing management capacity through technical assistance. It is the policy of the City's CDBG Administrator to inspect all properties that receive assistance under the CDBG Program on an annual basis. The policy is to ensure that the location receiving the assistance is in compliance with all conditions regarding the receipt of Federal funds.

Public Facility – The City's infrastructure and drainage projects were monitored by the CDBG Administrator, Director of Planning and Transportation, Project Manager and the City's Street Superintendent. When City personnel are used to provide the labor and material on these projects, the Street Superintendent provides the CDBG Administrator all material invoices as well as labor expenditures by City work forces. When contract forces are used, the City advertises for bids and all work is awarded using the competitive bidding process. A bid guarantee of five percent of bid is required from each bidder. Written contracts are written for all work performed. The accepted bidder is required to furnish a performance and payment bond in the amount of 100% of the contract. All bid packets contained information on the prevailing wage rate schedule prescribed and mandated by Federal Labor Standards Provisions HUD-4010 and General Decision Number AR0300044. On site monitoring was done daily by inspectors. On site meetings were held each month with the contractor, engineer, inspectors, Director of Planning and Transportation, and the CDBG Administrator. Inspections and meetings were documented and made a part of the project file. The Adult Wellness Center Park

Project is in the process of being monitored by the CDBG Administrator, Director of Parks and Recreation, and the Adult Wellness Center Director.

Housing – All housing and housing rehabilitation projects are monitored by the CDBG Administrator, the Director of Planning and Transportation, and the City’s Building Inspection Department. Inspections are performed on any facility receiving CDBG funding until the completion of the project to ensure all code compliances are met. On site inspections are done prior to the work. During construction, there was an inspector on the site at all times. The City maintained copies of all appropriate paperwork required in land acquisitions. No displacement of individuals was associated with any land acquisition or home rehabilitation.

Public Service – Transportation assistance project is monitored by the CDBG Administrator. Each application was reviewed to ensure all recipients meet the income guidelines for assistance. Ozark Regional Transit had previously been the City’s only transportation provider; however in June of the 2007 Program Year the City approved Northwest Arkansas Taxi, LLC as an additional service provider for this program. This was done because many of our approved riders could no longer walk to a pickup point. Northwest Arkansas Taxi’s service provides door pickup. Both transportation providers furnish a breakdown on each rider with dates picked up, where taken, and when returned to pickup location or home. The breakdown is furnished each month. Ozark Regional Transportation provides an invoice on a quarterly basis while Northwest Arkansas Taxi, LLC bill monthly. Through our monitoring system, the City has procedures in place to safeguard against program abuse. The EIS Program was monitored by the CDBG Administrator, and the Mayor.

Two City employees, the Treasurer and the CDBG Administrator, were the overseers of the CDBG funds. The CDBG Administrator drew down the funds. The City Treasurer approved the funds. Receipt and disbursement of CDBG funds were a part of the City’s annual audit.

No files will be archived until inspected by the Arkansas HUD Office. Any citizen complaints will be addressed by the Mayor or CDBG Administrator within 30 days of receipt of the complaint.

2. Describe the Results of the Monitoring Including Any Improvements.

Monitoring assures that Federal funds received by the City of Rogers complies with CDBG Program directives, and meets the objectives as set forth in the City’s Consolidated Plan. All agencies receiving funding entered into an agreement with the City of Rogers before funds were released. Monitoring also assured that work is done in accordance with plans and specifications and that all prevailing wage rates are met. Monitoring assures all safety requirements are met, and assures the City of no misuse or abuse of the City’s programs and funding.

3. Self-Evaluation.

a. **Describe the Effect Programs Have in Solving Neighborhood and Community Problems.**

The CDBG Program stays focused on the objectives in serving the needs of the community. The City strives to carry out all activities in a timely manner to see that goals are achieved, and expenditures do not exceed letter of credit disbursements. The City's projects include but are not limited to the improvement of older low and moderate-income neighborhoods, to provide public facilities for all citizens, and to provide needed services to our low income residents.

b. **Describe progress in Meeting Priority Needs and Specific Objectives and Help Make Community's Vision a Reality.**

The drainage and street programs impact the citizens of Rogers immensely. Because of lack of drainage in the City's older neighborhoods, many of these homes deal with standing water on their property as well as under their houses. This can cause structural damage as well as create a health hazard during mosquito breeding. The street work not only provides a smoother travel but the City is adding curb and gutter in the areas where water accumulation is such a problem. The City is also building sidewalks and providing handicap ramps at the street locations. Our street and drainage activities are behind schedule due to weather and rights of way problems. The rights of way has finally been obtained and weather permitting, this project should complete in late spring.

The Adult Wellness Center Public Facility Project is also behind schedule due to the design work not being completed on time resulting in a delay in receiving bids. By the time bids were received, colder weather was moving in causing a significant delay in the dirt work. The project has started and will complete in 2008. As stated earlier, the Center now has a membership at nearly 7,000 and is continuing to grow. Adding another park to an area where no parks exist will enhance this low-income neighborhood and provide an amenity to the existing HUD housing complex located next to the Adult Wellness Center as well as the additional housing to be built in the future.

The two Service Projects—ESL classes and Care Program (transportation assistance)—all provide assistance to the City's low income citizens. The ESL classes helped the City foster trust and create a bridge between cultures while maintaining the present quality of life with approximately 200 children and adults enrolled in the Program. The Care Program greatly improved the mobility of income eligible seniors and disabled citizens. This is a priority for the City because this is the only means of transportation for many of our riders. The City will continue to fund this Public Service Project as long as funds are available and our citizens continue to need this service.

Housing projects consisted of three activities in 2007—land acquisition, rehabilitation, and emergency repair. The City has ordinances that provide for affordable housing and have approved variances to assist in the building of affordable housing, however due to high land prices in the City of Rogers it has been difficult to get developers to build affordable housing to meet the needs of low to moderate-income residents. By partnering

with Habitat for Humanity, the City is helping to provide affordable housing in Rogers with the purchase of land with CDBG funds. Habitat has started construction on an environmentally friendly eco-subdivision in Rogers which upon completion will provide 15 homes. The subdivision will include a wetland conservation area, community area, and small park. The City partnered with Rebuilding Together of Northwest Arkansas to rehab two occupied and structurally sound homes in Rogers. It appears the rehabilitation of our older homes is still the most efficient method of preserving our affordable housing stock. This also prevents many of our at risk homeowners from becoming homeless because of living in substandard housing. Through the City's Rehab Program, we are trying to restore houses where they are now considered improved, preserved, and sound. Our goal is to promote housing that is safe, secure, healthy, and energy efficient by bringing the dwellings up to current building codes and energy conservation codes. CDBG funds are used to update the plumbing, electrical, and/or heating and air conditioning if necessary. Funds are also used to provide insulation, new doors and windows if necessary. Nine emergency repairs were also completed which provided suitable living environment for those who were in desperate need of heat and air repair as well as flooring repair. Funds are also available for wheelchair accessibility as well as repair or replacement of rotten and/or damaged siding or wood exteriors. Repairs are usually work associated with problems encountered after decay or damage or old equipment that will no longer work. Most are related to a health or safety issue. Most emergency repairs are performed on an immediate basis as the City does not find out about these problems until they are needed to be dwelt with immediately. These repairs usually consists of leaking roofs, leaking hot water heaters, inoperative heating and cooling systems, inoperable hot water heaters, electrical hazards and repairs deemed to be an emergency by the Community Development Block Administrator.

The City spent considerable review time evaluating all proposed projects to prioritize needs and make sure all objectives and goals were met. Listed below is the percentage breakdown of how CDBG monies were used in Program Year 2007:

Public Facilities	74%
Public Services	3%
Housing	10%
Administration	13%

c. Describe How You Provided Decent Housing and a Suitable Living Environment and Expanded Economic Opportunity Principally for Low and Moderate-Income Persons.

In 2007, the City did not provide economic opportunities for low and moderate-income persons with CDBG funds. As stated earlier, decent housing and a suitable living environment were accomplished by providing land to be used for new affordable housing. The City also completed housing rehabilitation that helped the City preserve her affordable housing stock and approve the appearance of the older neighborhoods in the City.

d. **Indicate any Activities Falling Behind Schedule.**

In the 2007 Program Year, there were two activities that fell behind schedule. The Adult Wellness Center Park Project's design did not get completed in time to make our original bid date. This was due to the engineer on the project leaving the company and slow progress being made during the interim until a new engineer could be assigned the project. By the time the project was ready to bid, we had moved out of good construction weather. Project has started this month, but is moving slow and will continue to move at a slow pace until we get through winter weather. Contractor has assured us the project will complete by summer. Another project we stated in 2007, but is funded with 2005 monies, is the north drainage project. This project was greatly delayed because of right of way issues. All of this has been cleared up and the project started construction in August of 2007. The project, even with some bad weather, is on schedule and will complete in late spring.

e. **Describe How Activities and Strategies made an Impact on Identified Needs.**

It appears the Housing projects have had the largest impact on identified needs. Not only does this have an impact on the home and homeowner, but it has an impact on the neighborhood also. The owner takes great pride in the accomplishments of the rehabilitation. Many feel like they are living in a "new" home. The neighbors no longer have to look at an unsightly home in their neighborhood.

g. **Identify Barriers That had a Negative Impact on Fulfilling the Strategies and Overall Vision.**

As far as barriers the City sees with fulfilling strategies and overall visions, I would say getting people to apply for the program was our biggest barrier in 2007. Although we budgeted for four homes, only two homes met the criteria for the funding. We are working hard to make people aware of the program and what the "Rebuilding Day" can do to change their lives. Another barrier would be contractors that are not willing to construct affordable housing. With the abundance of over-built homes in Rogers, the City is seeing progress made on this barrier. In 2007, there were affordable housing subdivisions built in the City and we are seeing more of those in the planning stages. The last barrier would be funding the City receives. If we were to see an increase in qualified individuals and/or families for housing rehabilitation, we would have to cut other programs in order to provide the housing funding we would need.

h. **Identify Whether Major Goals are on Target and Discuss Reasons for Those That are not on Target.**

All major goals are on target except for the ones identified above.

i. **Identify Any Adjustments or Improvements to Strategies and Activities That Might Meet Your Needs More Effectively.**

The City did not identify any improvements to its strategies during the 2007 CDBG Program Year. Any of these improvements will be addressed in the 2008 Program Year as the City just prepared its Five Year Consolidated Plan (2008-2012). The CDBG Administrator also met with City Staff and Non-Profit and For-Profit Agencies. Public Hearings were held to gather input from the City's citizens. All of this information was used to assemble goals and objectives, performance measures and outcomes for the Five Year Consolidated Plan.

LEAD-BASED PAINT

1. Describe Actions Taken During the Last Year to Evaluate and Reduce Lead-Based Paint Hazards.

According to the U. S. Census, there are 6,113 housing units built prior to 1978. It is estimated that approximately 30% of that total number could contain some levels of lead-based paint and are occupied by low-income individuals and families. Each home built before 1978 that will be part of the City's rehabilitation program, will be tested for lead-based paint by an Arkansas State Certified and Licenses Lead-Based Paint Inspector/Risk Assessor. All materials identified as containing high levels of lead-based paint will be removed and replaced if possible or feasible, or it may be covered. All deteriorated lead-based paint indentified in the risk assessment will be addressed during the rehabilitation of the dwelling. All construction material being removed from the home containing lead-based paint belongs to the contractor performing the work, and he/she is required to remove the material from the property. Each applicant applying for the Housing Services Program is given a copy of EPA's booklet, "Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home" and "Lead Paint Can Poison: Protect Your Family When You Paint or Remodel". The dwelling is required to be tested by an Arkansas Certified and Licensed Lead-Based Paint Inspector if the work includes any demolition or major carpentry work and if the work involves painted surfaces. The results of the lead-based paint inspection will show where lead-based paint was detected and the concentration levels. The City must have possession of the lead-based paint inspection before work will proceed on the dwelling. Emergency work may be accomplished without having a lead-based paint inspection if the work will not affect the lead-based paint regulation such as roofing, exterior plumbing, some electrical and/or heating work. Materials containing high levels of lead-based paint may be removed and replaced if possible or feasible or it may be covered. At the completion of a housing rehabilitation project, a lead-based paint clearance inspection will be performed by an Arkansas Certified and Licensed Lead-Based Paint Clearance Inspector.

In the City's annual monitoring visit in 2007, it was discovered the City's lead-based paint program was very weak—almost non-existent. The City was advised that no additional funding would be used for housing rehabilitation until the City complied with Lead-Based Paint Regulations and implemented a lead-Based Paint Policy. The City developed a Lead-Based Paint Policy which was submitted to HUD. Two of the City's Building Inspectors also completed lead-based paint certification in the summer of 2007. Rebuilding Together of Northwest Arkansas, as well as Office of Human Concern who

will be providing some housing rehabilitation for the City in 2008, have been advised of HUD's policies on lead-based paint and they understand that no funds will be received by their agencies without these requirements being met. The CDBG Administrator as well as the certified building inspectors will work with these agencies to assure that lead-based paint rules and regulations are clearly identified and followed.

HOUSING:

Housing Needs.

1. Describe Actions Taken During the Last Year to Foster and Maintain Affordable Housing.

The City purchased land in 2007 which will be used for the construction of single-family, owner-occupied housing. When this project is completed, there will be 15 new homes built in this Habitat for Humanity Subdivision called Habitat Trails. The City also completed the rehabilitation of two homes in Rogers and provided emergency repairs to nine homeowners in the City.

Specific Housing Objectives.

1. Evaluate Progress in Meeting Specific Objectives of Providing Housing, Including the Number of Extremely Low-Income, Low-Income, and Moderate-Income Renter and Owner Households Comparing Actual Accomplishments with Proposed Goals During the Reporting Period.

The CDBG Program's definition of affordable housing includes housing already owned and occupied by an individual or family whose total income, adjusted for family size, is 80% or less of the area median income. All of the homeowners assisted in 2007 had incomes below 80% of the area median, adjusted for family size. All but one household fell into the extremely low income group. One household fell into the 50% very low income group.

The City is aware of the need for more affordable housing and will continue to search for affordable lots to acquire and donate to Habitat for Humanity for construction of affordable homes. The City will also continue to work with developers interested in developing affordable housing areas. Rehabilitation of existing homes will continue with the partnership between Rebuilding Together of Northwest Arkansas and the City's newest partnership with Office of Human Concern. The rehabilitation projects will bring these homes up to energy conservation standards, current plumbing, electrical, and HVAC codes. The City will continue to support the non-profit agencies that provide programs to enhance the construction of new affordable housing as well as providing labor and material for existing homes. The City has ordinances and zoning codes that allow for affordable housing. The City's Comprehensive Growth Plan also has several areas designated for affordable housing that have not been developed.

The charts listed below are based on the 2000 census as not all the information shown was calculated for the 2006 special census.

Extremely Low	Low	Low-Moderate
2,027 (5%)	2,098 (5%)	1,858 (4%)

Owner-Occupied	Renter-Occupied	Vacant Housing Units
8,855	5,150	831

% of Income Costs for Owner Occupancy		% of Income Costs for Rental Occupancy	
Less than 15%	40.5	Less than 15%	22.9
15% to 19%	19.5	15% to 19%	20.4
20% to 24%	14.7	20% to 24%	12.1
25% to 29%	7.9	25% to 29%	9.5
30% to 34%	5.5	30% to 34%	7.2
35% and Over	11.5	35% and Over	22.5

The City was not able to complete all the housing activities defined in the 2007 Program Year. The 2007 Action Plan proposed the rehabilitation of four houses; however, due to many of the applications not meeting the funding criteria, only two houses were selected for rehabilitation in 2007. The City did provide more emergency repairs than defined in the 2007 Action Plan. The City recognizes that a gap does exist in affordable homeownership opportunities, and is taking every opportunity to work with developers to build affordable housing within the City of Rogers. Local realtors are providing homeownership seminars to educate the community about availability of funds for securing home loans.

2. **Evaluate Progress in Providing Affordable Housing that Meets the Section 215 Definition of Affordable Housing for Rental and Owner Household Comparing Actual Accomplishments with Proposed Goals During the Reporting Period.**

The City does not use CDBG funds on rental properties. As stated earlier, the City did not meet its housing goals to complete four rehabilitations due to not receiving enough qualified applications in the application period. The only rehabilitation housing project the City did in 2007 was through Rebuilding Together of Northwest Arkansas.

3. **Describe Efforts to Address “Worst-Case” Housing Needs and Housing Needs of Persons with Disabilities.**

Construction of affordable single family dwellings would be the worst case need in Rogers. The City’s CDBG Program does not provide funding for the construction of affordable housing. The City’s funds are used for land acquisition and infrastructure for new homes; however, the City’s priority is keeping the affordable housing stock in good

condition. The City does address the needs of disabled homeowners and has in past years used funding for structural barriers and handicapped showers/ramps for the disabled.

Public Housing Strategy

1. Describe Actions Taken During the Last Year to Improve Public Housing and Resident Initiatives.

The City of Rogers did not participate in any kind of public housing with their 2007 CDBG funds.

Barriers to Affordable Housing

1. Describe Actions Taken During the Last Year to Eliminate Barriers to Affordable Housing.

For several years, the new construction approach has been hindered by the existence of a strong high-end market and lack of affordable builders in the residential market. Land prices at one time escalated to a point that the cost of land precluded being able to build affordable housing to meet the low end housing. In early 2006, it became obvious that Northwest Arkansas, including the City of Rogers, had over-built, and as a result of massive housing construction, the City has plenty of vacant new housing. The majority of those do not fall into the affordable housing category and the City was still left with facing the barrier of affordable housing. The City has implemented zoning ordinances which allow affordable housing to be built in several undeveloped areas in the City. Setback variances were granted to help the builder develop smaller parcels of land for building homes in the \$90,000 to \$110,000 price range.

HOME/American Dream Down Payment Initiative (ADDI)

The City of Rogers does not receive funds from Arkansas Development Finance Authority (ADFA) HOME Investment Partnership Program; therefore, items 1, 2, and 3 listed in the Entitlement Grantee CAPER Review Checklist will not apply to this category.

4. Assessments.

a. & b. Detail Results of On-Site Inspections of Housing and Rental Housing.

The City does on-site inspections on any of their housing programs including emergency repairs. Inspections are done to make sure all rehab work and emergency repairs are completed and meet the satisfaction of the City and the owner. Since rental housing is not part of the City's CDBG funding, no inspections are conducted on rental housing.

c. Describe Outreach to Minority and Women Owned Business.

The City of Rogers encourages participation of small, minority, and women-owned business enterprises in the procurement of goods, services, and construction, either as a general contractor or subcontractor.

HOMELESS

Homeless Needs

1. Identify Actions Taken to Address Needs of Homeless Persons.

The City of Rogers continues to their commitment to decent and affordable housing to address the homelessness situation and those at risk of becoming homeless. The City partnered with other cities in Northwest Arkansas in the development of a Homeless Needs Assessment. That Assessment was completed by the University of Arkansas in early summer 2007. The City also became of member in 2006 of a coalition of Northwest Arkansas Cities and agencies. This coalition's charge is to work towards the President's ten year goal of eliminating homelessness in America.

2. Identify Actions to Help Homeless Persons Make the Transition to Permanent Housing and Independent Living.

There are several organizations that exist in Northwest Arkansas that serve families or persons who are homeless or at a risk of becoming homeless. No funding was requested by these organizations in 2007. Although no actions were taken in 2007 to meet these transition needs, the completion of the Homeless Needs Assessment for the City has enabled the City to be better prepared to assist the homeless to make the transition to permanent housing and independent living.

3. Identify New Federal Resources Obtained from Homeless SuperNOFA.

The City did not receive any funds from the Homeless SuperNOFA.

Specific Homeless Prevention Elements.

1. Identify Actions Taken to Prevent Homelessness.

The Cities of Springdale, Bentonville, and Rogers contracted with the University of Arkansas's Fayetteville Campus to conduct a Homeless Needs Assessment to identify the size of the homeless population and determine what their needs are. The University provided the City of Rogers a report on the homeless in summer of 2007. The results of this assessment were considered in the preparation of the City's Five Year (2008-2012) Consolidated Plan and the City's 2008 Annual Action Plan.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Assessment of Relationship of CDBG Funds to Goals and Objectives.

a., b., and c. **Assess Use of CDBG Funds in Relation to the Priorities, Needs, Goals, and Specific Objectives in the Consolidated Plan, Particularly the Highest Priority Activities, Evaluation Progress Made Toward Meeting Goals for Providing Affordable Housing Using CDBG Funds, Including the Number and Types of Household Served, and Indicate the Extent to Which CDBG Funds were Used for Activities that Benefited Extremely Low-Income, Low-Income, and Moderate-Income Persons.**

Public Facilities Objectives - 74% of Funds

1. Objective 1, Drainage and Infrastructure. Many areas of the City can not adequately collect surface accumulation and transport this accumulation away from our citizen's homes. No drainage structures in some areas of the City have ever been built resulting in "pooling" of water on private properties and City roadways. This area is located in a extremely low income census tract in the City. It is anticipated over people will be affected by this drainage project. The City used 64% of the total grant monies expended in 2007 on this objective.

2. Objective 2, Adult Wellness Center Park. The City of Rogers dedicated a new Adult Wellness Center (AWC) in September of 2006. In the first two months of the dedication, over 3,000 individuals joined this Center. As of the end of 2007, the Center had a membership of over 7,000. This Center provides adults (50 or over) a place to maintain physical agility and mental activity in the hopes that if an individual starts a fitness regime early, their physical and mental well being will be much better than waiting until they have reached the age of 62 and are considered "elderly". Many of the members had expressed an interest in having an outside area to continue their fitness routine. After much discussions with City Staff, it was decided that an outdoor park would meet this need and allow the Center to continue growing in numbers without doing any major construction to the existing building. This park will create an outdoor space to be used for exercising and relaxing. It will also connect the existing HUD Senior Housing Complex to the Center and provide a connectivity to the proposed trail system in Rogers. The park will have walking trails, exercise stations for stretching, strengthening, and balance training, a labyrinth for mental and physical exercise, a meditation garden with a water feature, a memory garden, a pavilion and benches. At the time the project was in the design stage, it was felt over 4,000 people would use this outdoor park. Today, we are looking at probably 8,000 people using this facility by the end of 2008. This park will be located in one of the low income census tracts located in the City. The City used 8% of the grant monies expended in 2007 on this objective.

3. Objective 3, Price Lane. This street is located in the southeast area of Rogers and is located in a low to low/mod section of town. Currently traffic in the area is routed to a narrow, non-curbed two lane road. With the construction of many new smaller homes and the location of three schools in the area, the City is proposing to build a new three lane road with curb and gutter. The completion of this road will relieve traffic for the three schools located on First Street and will provide access to Hwy 71-B for the low to low-mod homes in the area. Originally, the City had planned to use CDBG funding for

both design and construction, however, in 2007, a decision was made to just pay for the design out of CDBG funds. Construction will be accomplished using City work forces and funding. This allowed the City to fund some projects in 2008 that could not have been funded without the City's financial help on this project. This project is located in one of the low income census tracts in the City. Once the project is completed, it is anticipated over 1,000 people a day will use this new street. The City used 2 % of the grant monies expended in 2007 on this objective.

Housing Objectives - 10% of Funds

1. Objective 1, Land Acquisition. The City has been purchasing land for Habitat homes since 2005. This land will be used for the construction of the homes in Habitat Trails, a Habitat Subdivision for low income families. This is the only means the City has of providing new affordable housing with their CDBG funds. As many as 45 persons will be in a new Habitat home once this project is completed. The City used 7% of the total grant monies expended in 2007 on this objective.

2. Objective 2, Housing Rehabilitation and Emergency Repairs. The City partnered with Rebuilding Together of Northwest Arkansas to rehab two houses in the City of Rogers. A total of 9 emergency repairs were also done in 2007. All of the individuals involved in the rehab work or emergency repairs were low-income. A total of 15 individuals were helped by this program. The City used 3% of the total grant monies expended in 2007 on this objective.

Public Service Objectives - 3 % of Funds

1. Objective 1, Transportation Assistance. The City provided free rides in 2007 for 36 low income elderly and disabled citizens. The City added Northwest Arkansas Taxi, LLC as an approved transportation provider for the City of Rogers to better accommodate our riders who could no longer walk to a transportation pickup point. The City used 1% of the total grant monies expended in 2007 on this objective.

2. Objective 2, ESL Classes. Because of the increasing Hispanic population in Rogers, CDBG funds have been used to provide ESL classes in four of the Rogers Public Schools. These classes are held after school and in the evenings. Approximately 150 parents and children were enrolled in the ESL Program in 2007. Over 75% of the total enrolled met the low-income requirements. The City used 2% of the total grant monies expended in 2007 on this objective.

The 2007 housing goals were to assist Habitat for Humanity by purchasing land to be used for building Habitat homes and to partner with Rebuilding Together of Northwest Arkansas to provide home rehabilitation within the City. The City met that goal with the land purchase at Habitat Trails, the two home rehabilitation projects, and the nine emergency home repairs.

All monies used in 2007 were used on extremely low to very low-income families.

2. **Changes in Program Objectives.**

a. **Identify the Nature of and the Reasons for Any Changes in Program Objectives and how the Jurisdiction would Change its Program as a Result of its Experiences.**

There were no changes in program objectives for the 2007 Program Year.

3. **Assessment of Efforts in Carrying Out Planned Actions.**

a. **Indicate how Grantee Pursued All Resources Indicated in the Consolidated Plan.**

The City's 2007 Action Plan called for a partnership with Habitat for Humanity and Rebuilding Together of Northwest Arkansas to meet housing needs. Those partnerships were accomplished in 2007 and will continue in 2008.

b. **Indicate how Grantee Provided Certifications of Consistency in a Fair and Impartial Manner.**

All agencies, who applied for CDBG funding, were evaluated by the CDBG Administrator and the City of Rogers' Planning and Transportation Director. Each request was evaluated on amount requested and the number of people directly benefited by the funding. All home rehabilitations were evaluated by the CDBG Administrator and Board of Directors of Rebuilding Together of Northwest Arkansas. The main concerns of each evaluation was the needs of each home to be safe, warm, and dry and whether or not children were living in the house. Homes were also evaluated on mortgage payments being current and made on a timely basis.

c. **Indicate how Grantee did not Hinder Consolidated Plan Implementation by Action or Willful Inaction.**

The City followed its Consolidated Plan to the best of its abilities and within the funding allocation.

4. **Funds not Used for National Objectives.**

a. & b. **Indicate how Use of CDBG Funds did not Meet National Objectives and Indicate how they did not Comply with Overall Benefit Certification.**

All 2007 Program Year activities met at least one of the national objectives. All CDBG funds expensed in 2007 complied with the overall benefit.

5. **Anti-Displacement and Relocation – for Activities that Involve Acquisition.**

a., b., & c. **Describe Steps Actually Taken to Minimize the Amount of Displacement Resulting from the CDBG-Assisted Activities, Describe Steps Taken to Identify Households, Businesses, Farms or Nonprofit Organizations who Occupied**

Properties Subject to the Uniform Relocation Act or Section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as Amended, and whether or not they were Displaced, and the Nature of their Needs and Preferences, and Describe Steps Taken to Ensure the Timely Issuance of Information Notices to Displaced Households, Businesses, Farms, or Nonprofit Organizations.

Only one acquisition occurred in 2007. No displacement occurred as the City does not allow acquisition that would cause displacement or relocation. The only acquisition in Program year 2007 was land. Households, business, farms, or non-profit organizations that occupied properties subject to the Uniform Relocation Act or Section 104(d), as amended, were not displaced. Because no displacements are done, no timely notices will need to be sent.

6. Low/Mod Job Activities.

a., b., & c. **Describe Actions Taken by Grantee and Businesses to Ensure First Consideration was or will be Given to Low/Mod Persons, List by Job Title of all the Permanent Jobs Created/Retained and those that were Made Available to Low/Mod Persons, and if any of Jobs Claimed as being Available to Low/Mod Persons Require Special Skill, Work Experience, or Education, Provide a Description of Steps being Taken or that will be Taken to Provide Such Skills, Experience, or Education.**

No 2007 Program Year monies were used for low/mod job activities.

7. Low/Mod Limited Clientele Activities.

a. **Describe how the Nature, Location, or Other Information Demonstrates the Activities Benefit a Limited Clientele at Least 51% of whom are Low-and-Moderate Income.**

To qualify for the City's Housing Program, all applicants must own and occupy a single family dwelling within the City limits and be extremely-low/moderate income based on HUD income guidelines, adjusted for family size. Occupant's incomes are verified.

All applicants who receive assistance through the City's Public Service Programs meet HUD's income guidelines. The City fosters good working relationships with our non-profit agencies that provide services to the low income individuals and families in our City.

The Adult Wellness Center requires a membership, however, no one is turned away who can not afford to join.

8. Program Income Received.

The City of Rogers does not receive program income.

9. **Prior Period Adjustments.**

None were made.

10. **Loans and Other Receivables.**

The City does not make loans or receive any income.

11. **Lump Sum Agreements.**

The City of Rogers did not have any lump sum agreements. The CDBG funds awarded to the City is drawn down monthly as needed.

12. **Housing Rehabilitation.**

a. & b. **Identify the Type of Program and Number of Projects/Units Completed for Each program and Provide the Total CDBG Funds Involved in the Program.**

The City of Rogers did all their housing rehabilitation through Rebuilding Together of Northwest Arkansas. Two homes were rehabbed and nine emergency repairs were completed in 2007 at a total cost of \$14,452.43.

c. **Detail Other Public and Private Funds Involved in the Project.**

Rebuilding Together of Northwest Arkansas provided materials and labor for the two housing rehabilitation projects. All the materials and labor were in-kind donations.

13. **Neighborhood Revitalization Strategies.**

There were no benchmarks or progress for the 2007 CDBG Program Year.

Antipoverty Strategy.

1. **Describe Actions Taken During the Last Year to Reduce the Number of Persons Living Below the Poverty Level.**

The City recognizes that in order to reduce the number of household earning income below the poverty level, we not only need educated and trained people, but we must have the positions available in our work force. Millions of dollars were spent on the City's infrastructure in 2006 and 2007 to attract development. In 2006, the City opened the Pinnacle Promenade, an open air shopping center with 134 stores and restaurants when fully completed. Approximately 75 stores were opened in 2006. Many more were added in 2007 and it is projected the Promenade will be completely filled by spring of 2008. Many new jobs were created by the development during the construction phases and hiring of employees as retail and restaurants opened. Rogers has a stable government and

an excellent health care system. With the \$145,000,000 construction of the New St. Mary's Hospital/Mercy Medical Center along I-540, the City is seeing many new medical offices and medical centers being built in this area. The new hospital will open in March of 2008 under the name of Mercy Hospital. The City works with local businesses to stimulate business and economic development in impoverished areas of the City. One new industry opened in fall of 2007 in a low income area of the City. The industry plans to have 150 employees hired in early 2008.

NON-HOMELESS SPECIAL NEEDS

Non-Homeless Special Needs.

1. Identify Actions Taken to Address Special Needs of Persons that are not Homeless but Require Supportive Housing.

There was no direct action taken during 2007 to address special needs of persons that require supportive housing. There are several organizations existing that serve families or individuals with special needs who require supportive housing. These organizations provide a range of services.

