

# Clay County Annual Action Plan FY 2024-25

## Executive Summary

### ***AP-05 Executive Summary – 24 CFR 91.200(c), 91.220(b)***

#### **1. Introduction**

Clay County, Florida is a newly entitled community and received Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the first time on October 1, 2021. Through CDBG funds, Clay County will work to promote affordable housing initiatives and create a suitable living environment for low- to moderate-income households. This Annual Action Plan outlines the program goals and funding for various projects for fiscal year (FY) 2024-25, beginning on October 1, 2024. The allocation for FY24-25 is \$1,000,319.00. The priority needs of the County are addressed through activities developed in the Annual Action Plan that work towards accomplishing the established goals associated with the identified needs. By addressing these priority needs, the County can improve the quality of life of residents in Clay County.

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

Clay County has identified the following priority needs with associated goals to address the needs:

##### **Preservation of Housing**

Housing rehabilitation including homes owned by low- and moderate-income (LMI) residents.

Objective: Decent Housing - Provide funding for the acquisition and/or rehabilitation/preservation of housing affordable to LMI residents.

Outcome: Affordability-Housing Rehabilitated: 10 Households/Housing Units

##### **Code Enforcement**

Code enforcement in distressed neighborhoods is defined as more than 51% LMI in the County.

Objective: Suitable Living Environment -Provide funding for the payment of salaries and overhead costs directly related to the enforcement of local codes in deteriorating or deteriorated areas in Target Areas.

Outcome: Availability/Accessibility-Housing Code Enforcement/Foreclosed Property Care: 15 Households/Housing Units.

### **Neighborhood Improvements**

Infrastructure projects in distressed neighborhoods are defined as more than 51% LMI in the County.

Objective: Provide funding for public facility improvements, physical improvements, and comprehensive neighborhood planning activities in Target Areas, and HUD-designated LMI areas to improve the quality of life and health of neighborhood residents. Specific projects include street improvements, sidewalks, and neighborhood cleanups.

Outcome: Sustainability: Promoting Livable or Viable Communities-Public Facilities or Infrastructure Activities other than LMI Housing Benefit: 800 Households Assisted.

### **3. Evaluation of past performance**

Major accomplishments during FY23-24's action plan included seven sidewalk replacement projects, 17 limited home rehabilitation projects, and seven neighborhood clean-up projects in the communities of High Ridge Estates and Tanglewood. The neighborhood clean-up project in High Ridge Estates aligned with the High Ridge Initiative, a community-led effort to improve the quality of life in one of the County's LMI areas. These combined neighborhood clean-ups benefitted roughly 3,130 households in the County.

The sidewalk replacement infrastructure program benefitted over 200 homes in an LMI area and improved accessibility and walkability.

The paving of Dennison Avenue and Baylor Avenue in High Ridge Estates will benefit 538 homes and improve the accessibility for public safety response.

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

Clay County staff conducted three public meetings in various locations of the county in order to encourage citizen participation in areas of LMI residents, as well as those not wishing or able to drive to the County seat.

The County held a public comment period from June 11, 2024, through July 10, 2024, to allow an opportunity for the public to review the proposed Annual Action Plan. The Plan was made available on the County's website and social media. The Plan was also available at the five (5) Clay County Public Libraries and at the County Administration Building for those wishing to view the Plan in paper form. The public is invited to submit comments to the County's Planning & Zoning Department by email or phone. Furthermore, two (2) public hearings were held, on June 11, 2024, and on July 23, 2024, during which the public was invited to watch and/or attend and provide comment prior to the adoption of the Annual Action Plan at the July 23<sup>rd</sup> public hearing.

## **5. Summary of public comments**

After reviewing the public comments gathered during the public comment period, two major themes were indicated: the need for safe, well-lit pedestrian sidewalks and youth activities/facilities. The second most frequent themes included better road/neighborhood signage, after-school activities, park improvement, access to public safety, and transportation to public facilities and commerce centers.

**PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies – 91.200(b)**

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

The following agency is responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and for administration of each grant program and funding source.

**Table 1 – Responsible Agencies**

<b>Agency Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Department/Agency</b>
CDBG Administrator	Clay County Board of County Commissioners	Community and Social Services
CDBG Compliance	Clay County Board of County Commissioners	Grants Management

**Narrative**

The lead agencies for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) entitlement Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program are Clay County, Florida's Community and Social Services Department and Grants Management Department. The Community and Social Services Department oversees the administration and implementation of the program while Grants Management oversees the County's Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan. The Grants Management Department is also responsible for all compliance reporting and plans that are required by the program.

**Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information**

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## ***AP-10 Consultation – 91.100, 91.200(b), 91.215(l)***

### **1. Introduction**

As part of the Annual Action Plan development, local agencies, service providers, and public documents pertaining to the County are consulted to gain a better understanding of the needs, services, and resources available to Clay County residents. The process outlined in the Clay County Citizen Participation Plan will be followed during the adoption of the Annual Action Plan.

The Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) provides guidance for citizens and organizations in Clay County to voice their opinions and participate in all phases of the development of the Consolidated Plan including the Five-Year Consolidated Plan, the Annual Action Plan, the Citizen Participation Plan, the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing, the Residential Anti-Displacement Plan, the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) and any amendments to these plans. The Consolidated Plan, along with its supporting plans, provides a guiding framework for Clay County's management of programs and funds related to the CDBG program administered by HUD.

The CPP establishes the procedures for citizen participation in the development and updating of the Consolidated Plan and its supporting plans. These procedures are designed to maximize transparency and opportunities for public engagement. The CPP emphasizes public outreach to low- and moderate-income residents through non-profits, faith-based organizations, and philanthropic organizations to bolster the voices of under-represented demographics. Residents living in blighted neighborhoods and areas that qualify for CDBG funds are strongly encouraged to participate. The CPP is developed in accordance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's rule 24 CFR 91.105.

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

The list of providers involved in the review process include housing, social service agencies, and other entities, including those focusing on services to children, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDS, and their families, and homeless persons. Phone and email contacts will also be made to key non-profits and agencies that work with these specific groups to obtain a better understanding of their service or potential service to Clay County residents.

**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.**

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Mission of the Dirt Road
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services - Housing
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Housing Need Assessment
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Email correspondence and in-person meetings to discuss infrastructure, home rehab, and code enforcement needs in the High Ridge Estates community.
2	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Clay County Sheriff’s Office
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Other government - County
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homeless Strategy
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Email correspondence and in-person meetings to discuss community safety and security concerns for the homeless population in Clay County.
3	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Operation Lifeline
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services – Housing
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Affordable Housing
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Email correspondence and in-person meetings to discuss affordable housing in Clay County as well as details about the CDBG program.
4	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Mercy Support Services
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services – Housing
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Affordable Housing, homelessness needs, employment
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Email correspondence and in-person meetings to discuss affordable housing, homelessness, and employment in Clay County.

5	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Northeast Florida Regional Council
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services – Planning
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Affordable Housing, homelessness, community development
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Email correspondence and in-person meetings to discuss affordable housing in Clay County as well as details about the CDBG program.
6	<b>Agency/Group/Organization</b>	Operation Barnabas
	<b>Agency/Group/Organization Type</b>	Services - Veterans
	<b>What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?</b>	Homelessness Needs - Veterans
	<b>Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?</b>	Email Correspondence to discuss how CDBG funds can assist the local veteran population.

Northeast Florida Continuum of Care is the agency responsible on a regional level for the Continuum of Care. Clay County is one of three counties in the region. The County will continue to seek their input and coordinate CDBG and other housing-related programs (e.g. State of Florida SHIP funds) with the agency.

**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.**

Clay County is not a direct recipient of ESG funding. The Northeast Florida Continuum of Care is the lead agency for the regional (northeast Florida including Duval, Nassau and Clay Counties) Continuum of Care and distributes ESG funds.

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

Clay County Community and Social Services attends monthly general membership meetings relevant to the homeless population, specifically for Clay County.

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

All relevant local agencies were consulted in the formation of the Consolidated Plan except for Broadband Service providers as the County is currently exploring options to ensure all residents will have adequate access to a minimum broadband coverage of 25mbps download/3mbps upload capabilities. Additionally, no resilience-specific agencies were contacted as the County is awaiting the results of the Resilient Florida Grant with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection that would enable the whole County to be assessed for flooding and sea rise levels.

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

**Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts**

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care	Changing Homelessness, Inc.	This collaborative group addresses homeless issues including chronic homelessness, homelessness prevention, and discharge coordination policies on a regional basis in Duval, Nassau, and Clay Counties.
State Housing Initiative Program (SHIP)	Clay County Board of County Commissioners	Increase the availability of affordable housing in Clay County. Availability of affordable housing includes homeowner rehabilitation programs, purchase assistance programs, and partnerships with non-profit organizations assisting those with "special needs" housing.

**AP12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)**

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

**Summary of citizen participation process/efforts made to broaden citizen participation**

The CPP encourages citizens to participate in all stages of the planning process including the identification of needs, establishing community priorities, funding allocation, and the implementation and eventual evaluation of program activities. To reach out to a larger portion of the population, especially those of low- and moderate- income, the notice of all meetings/hearings related to the County’s proposed Action Plan as well as the 30-day public comment period were advertised in the local newspaper, the County’s website and social media in both English and Spanish. Three (3) public meetings were held in various locations of the county to reach a larger portion of the population in a face-to-face format. Sign language and spoken language interpreters were made available to the public for all meetings/hearings and a TDD

number was available for any person with a hearing impairment. The meetings/hearings were recorded and made available for the public to watch with closed-captioning through the County’s website for anyone not able to attend any of the in-person meetings.

**Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal-setting**

Comments received during the public meetings and by email during the public comment period highlighted new sidewalk locations for County staff to consider in the infrastructure program portion of the FY 2023-24 Annual Action Plan. These were combined with the list provided by staff and reconsidered based on cost, completion time, and projected benefit. The input from residents who are more intimately connected to areas of the county not normally traveled by staff is invaluable to the project selection process.

**Citizen Participation Outreach**

**Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach**

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of Response / Attendance	Summary of Comments Received	Summary of Comments Not Accepted and Reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	7	Sidewalks, Road improvement, Affordable housing, Lighting, Signage, Public Safety, Youth activities, After school activities, Parks, Transportation	N/A	N/A
2	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	7	Sidewalks, Lighting, Signage, Youth activities, After-school activities, Bicycle lanes, More law enforcement, Traffic lights	N/A	N/A

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of Response / Attendance	Summary of Comments Received	Summary of Comments Not Accepted and Reasons	URL (If applicable)
3	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/broad community	7	Sidewalks, lighting, youth activities, access to public safety, parks, transportation	N/A	N/A
5	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	0	N/A	N/A	
6	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/broad community	0	N/A	N/A	

## Expected Resources

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

#### **Introduction**

Clay County does not have HOME funds as of this date. CDBG funds will be leveraged through partnerships it has with other governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations. Sources of leverage primarily include Low-income Housing Tax Credits, New Markets Tax Credits, Opportunity Zone Funds, State of Florida SHIP funds (State Housing Initiatives Program), , , .

#### **Anticipated Resources**

**Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority**

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 4				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation:	Program Income:	Prior Year Resources:	Total:		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Administration Housing Public Improvements Public Services	\$1,000,319	\$0	\$2,289,001	\$3,289,320	\$3,739,320	This will be the County's fourth year of CDBG funding.

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

Much of the funding earmarked to improve the quality of life of LMI households, revitalize deteriorating infrastructure / neighborhoods and offer opportunities for safe, decent affordable housing has been provided by Federal CDBG Program Funds, Florida's State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program, and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program (regional CoC) which supports services for homeless persons. These programs provide rehabilitation of substandard units, emergency repairs, infrastructure improvements, elimination of slum and blighting influences, delivery of Countywide public and homeless services, and construction of community meeting places and centers.

**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 plan includes publicly owned road repaving projects and publicly owned sidewalk replacement projects.

**Discussion**

Clay County will continue to use HUD and local funds to fund a variety of eligible projects to meet high-priority needs and goals.

## Annual Goals and Objectives

### ***AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives – 91.220(c)(3)&(e)***

#### **Goals Summary Information**

**Table 6 – Goals Summary**

<b>Sort Order</b>	<b>Goal Name</b>	<b>Start Year</b>	<b>End Year</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Goal Outcome Indicator</b>
<b>1</b>	Affordable Housing	2021	2025	Affordable Housing	County wide low- and moderate-income CTS	Housing rehabilitation: Single-Unit Residential	Proposed FY24-25 CDBG: \$350,112	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 10 Household Housing Unit
<b>2</b>	Code Enforcement	2021	2025	Non-Housing Community Development	County wide low- and moderate-income areas Code Enforcement	Code Enforcement	Prior Year CDBG: \$5,000	Housing Code Enforcement / Foreclosed Property Care: 15 Household Housing Unit
<b>3</b>	Infrastructure improvements	2021	2025	Non-Housing Community Development	County wide low- and moderate-income CTS	Public Infrastructure (Street Improvements and Sidewalks)	Proposed FY24-25 CDBG: \$961,886.01	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 3000 Persons Assisted
<b>4</b>	Neighborhood Cleanups	2023	2025	Non-Housing Community Development	County wide low- and moderate-income areas	Housing preservation	Prior Year CDBG: \$45,000	Housing Preservation Cleanup Activities: 3000 Households Assisted
<b>5</b>	Administration	2022	2025	Planning and Administration		Costs associated with program administration and projects	Prior Year CDBG: \$232,817  Proposed FY24-25 CDBG: \$40,000	N/A

## Goal Descriptions

Table 7 – Goal Description

1	<b>Goal Name</b>	Affordable Housing
	<b>Goal Description</b>	The first project is a housing rehabilitation project that will be implemented by Clay County Community and Social Services Department in eligible low- and moderate-income areas of the county. The project will focus on emergency repairs and code compliance.
2	<b>Goal Name</b>	Code Enforcement
	<b>Goal Description</b>	The project will focus on identification of properties in need of emergency repairs and code compliance.
3	<b>Goal Name</b>	Infrastructure improvements
	<b>Goal Description</b>	The County will provide for infrastructure improvements in low and moderate-income eligible communities, including street improvements and sidewalks.
4	<b>Goal Name</b>	Neighborhood Cleanups
	<b>Goal Description</b>	This project aims to preserve the quality and value of low and moderate-income communities by providing resources and labor to remove special garbage, trash, and debris.
5	<b>Goal Name</b>	Administration
	<b>Goal Description</b>	This project will focus on the costs associated with the administration of the CDBG grant and its projects.

# Projects

## ***AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)***

### **Introduction**

The FY 2024-2025 Action Plan includes six projects to be funded under the CDBG Program. The first project is a housing rehabilitation project that will be implemented by Clay County Community and Social Services Department in eligible low- and moderate-income areas of the county. The project will focus on emergency repairs and code compliance. The County will also utilize 4.0% of the CDBG funds for administrative costs needed to oversee new and underway projects and provide general management of the CDBG funds. The County will also provide for infrastructure improvements in low and moderate-income eligible communities.

### **Projects**

**Table 8 – Project Information**

<b>#</b>	<b>Project Name</b>
1	Housing Activities - Rehabilitation
2	Planning and Administration
3	Code Enforcement
4	Neighborhood Cleanups
5	Street Improvements
6	Sidewalk Replacement

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

The Consolidated Plan goals described in the Goals section represent high priority needs for Clay County, and serve as the basis for the strategic actions the County will use to meet those needs. It is our goal that meeting these needs will expand and preserve the affordable housing stock in Clay County, as well as provide public infrastructure improvements that will strengthen LMI neighborhood revitalization. The County will implement all CDBG funded projects in-house.

## AP-38 Project Summary

### Project Summary Information

Table 9 – Project Summary

1	<b>Project Name</b>	Housing Activities - Rehabilitation
	<b>Target Area</b>	County wide low- and moderate-income areas
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Affordable Housing
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Housing rehabilitation
	<b>Funding</b>	FY24-25 CDBG: \$350,012
	<b>Description</b>	Rehabilitation - National Objective: 570.208 (a) (3) Low/Mod Housing; Eligible Category: 570.202 (a) (1) Eligible rehabilitation and preservation activities; Objective Category: Low- and moderate-income benefit; Proposed Outcome: Availability/Accessibility.  Matrix Code: 14A, 14H, 14I
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/ County 2025
	<b>Estimated number/ type of families benefiting from the proposed activities</b>	10 low- and moderate-income households will benefit.
	<b>Location Description</b>	Clay County consists of unincorporated Clay County, as well as four municipalities (cities and towns). The Countywide area is comprised of low- and moderate-income areas within Clay.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	For the Home Repair program, repairs will be completed to homes of qualified applicants with dwellings in need of repairs, which may include roofing, electrical, plumbing, heating/air conditioning, accessibility modifications, health/sanitary problems including minor septic system repair, safety code violations, lead paint remediation, and/or interior/exterior damage or deterioration to the structure including flood damage, termite treatment and removal of trees. Additionally, under this strategy, failing septic systems and old wells can be replaced by paying for connection fees, abandoning private wells, and closing septic tanks, as well as other related plumbing costs may be funded under this program. Awards are available up to \$35,000.  Performance Measure: 10 households assisted
2	<b>Project Name</b>	Planning and Administration
	<b>Target Area</b>	County wide
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Administration
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Administration of CDBG related programs and projects
	<b>Funding</b>	Prior Year CDBG: \$232,817 FY24-25 CDBG: \$40,000
	<b>Description</b>	General planning and administration costs for CDBG program.
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2025

	<b>Estimated number/ type of families benefiting from the proposed activities</b>	Not applicable. Grant administration is necessary for all projects that are identified in the Action Plan.
	<b>Location Description</b>	Not applicable.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	General planning and administration costs for CDBG program.
<b>3</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Code Enforcement
	<b>Target Area</b>	County wide low- and moderate-income areas
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Code Enforcement
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Code Enforcement
	<b>Funding</b>	Prior Year CDBG: \$5,000
	<b>Description</b>	Code Enforcement Conduct code enforcement and remediation of code enforcement violations of properties in low-and moderate-income areas that contribute to conditions of slum and blight. National Objective: 570.208 (a) (1) Low/Mod; Eligible Category: 570.202 (c) Section 105(a)(3); Objective Category: Slum and Blight national objective. Proposed Outcome: Improved housing conditions.  Matrix Code: 15
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2025
	<b>Estimated number/ type of families benefiting from the proposed activities</b>	Housing units inspected – 15
	<b>Location Description</b>	Clay County consists of unincorporated Clay County, as well as four municipalities (cities and towns). The Countywide area is comprised of low- and moderate-income areas within Clay County.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Eligible code enforcement expenses that support the County's CDBG activities.  Performance Measure: 15 housing units inspected.
<b>4</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	Neighborhood Cleanups
	<b>Target Area</b>	County wide low- and moderate-income areas
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Neighborhood Cleanups
	<b>Need Supported</b>	Neighborhood Cleanups
	<b>Funding</b>	Prior Year CDBG: \$45,000
	<b>Description</b>	Provide resources and labor to remove special garbage, trash, and debris from low-and moderate-income areas that contribute to conditions of slum and blight. Proposed Outcome: Improved neighborhood conditions and preservation of low- and moderate-income housing stock.  Matrix Code: 05V
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/3025

	<b>Estimated number/ type of families benefiting from the proposed activities</b>	Approximately 3000 low- and moderate-income families.
	<b>Location Description</b>	Clay County consists of unincorporated Clay County, as well as four municipalities (cities and towns). The Countywide area is comprised of low-and moderate-income areas within Clay County.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Seven (7) area clean-ups.
5	<b>Project Name</b>	Street Improvements
	<b>Target Area</b>	County wide low- and moderate-income areas
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Infrastructure improvements
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Public Infrastructure
	<b>Funding</b>	FY24-25 CDBG: \$650,307.00
	<b>Description</b>	Street improvements National Objective: Low and moderate-income benefit as an area benefit; Eligible Category: 570.201(c), 570.207, 570.208 Objective Category: Public improvements (General). Proposed Outcome: improve streets in low- and moderate-income areas. Matrix Code: 03K
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2025
	<b>Estimated number/ type of families benefiting from the proposed activities</b>	538 low- and moderate-income families.
	<b>Location Description</b>	Clay County consists of unincorporated Clay County, as well as four municipalities (cities and towns). The Countywide area is comprised of low- and moderate-income areas within Clay County.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Perform selected infrastructure upgrades. Performance Measure: number of new streets by length.
6	<b>Project Name</b>	Sidewalk Improvement
	<b>Target Area</b>	County wide low- and moderate-income areas
	<b>Goals Supported</b>	Infrastructure improvements
	<b>Needs Addressed</b>	Public Infrastructure
	<b>Funding</b>	Prior Year CDBG: \$311,579.01
	<b>Description</b>	Sidewalk improvement in portions of low- and moderate-income areas of the County, including areas of Keystone Heights will also be considered as funding allows. Matrix Code: 03L
	<b>Target Date</b>	9/30/2025

	<b>Estimated number/ type of families benefiting from the proposed activities</b>	200 low- and moderate-income families.
	<b>Location Description</b>	Clay County consists of unincorporated Clay County, as well as four municipalities (cities and towns). The Countywide area is comprised of low- and moderate-income areas within Clay County.
	<b>Planned Activities</b>	Perform selected infrastructure upgrades. Performance Measure: number of new sidewalk segments by length.

**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**

All Activities supported by the County’s Five-Year Consolidated Plan strive to improve the quality of life for Clay County low-to-moderate income residents located within Clay County’s unincorporated areas, as well as four municipalities (Town of Orange Park, City of Green Cove Springs, Town of Penney Farms, City of Keystone Heights). It also includes the census-designated places of Asbury Lake, Bellair-Meadowbrook Terrace, Fleming Island, Lakeside, Middleburg, Oakleaf Plantation and the unincorporated areas of Bellair, Clay Hill, Doctors Inlet, Fleming Island, Hibernia, Kingsley Lake, Lake Asbury, Lake Geneva, McRae, Meadowbrook Terrace, Melrose, and Virginia Village.

The Countywide area is comprised of low-and moderate-income areas within Clay County. The County’s focus is placed on eligible programs targeting low-and moderate-income persons on a county-wide basis. During FY 2024-2025 the County will utilize CDBG funds for housing rehabilitation, code enforcement, public facilities, and infrastructure improvements in target areas that have a high concentration of low-and moderate-income persons, substandard housing, and blight. The census tracts meet an area benefit national objective.

Targeted areas consist of low-and moderate-income concentration areas with several of those areas at 62% Low/Mod and incomes at or below 80% of Area Median Income determined through HUD generated Low-and Moderate-Income Summary Data. "White alone" and "non-Hispanic" are the most affected racial/ethnic groups based on population density. According to the data the County evaluated, there is not a substantial minority concentration in one specific area of the county.

**Geographic Distribution**

**Table 10 - Geographic Distribution**

<b>Target Area</b>	<b>Percentage of Funds</b>
County wide low- and moderate-income	95
County wide low- and moderate-income areas Code Enforcement	5

## **Geographic Distribution**

Target Area: Clay County Low and Moderate-Income areas

Percentage of Funds: 90.5%

### **Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically**

Funding is being targeted to areas that demonstrate a community development need and where there is a concentration of low- and moderate-income persons and minority population. The geographic allocation of the CDBG funds is also a factor of program requirements that at least 70% of CDBG funds benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

### **Discussion**

Clay County's goal is to improve the quality of life for Clay County residents and aim to have local municipalities, engaged citizens, and the County working together to better align resources, to revitalize and redevelop communities, and protect natural resources.

## Affordable Housing

### ***AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)***

#### **Introduction**

Providing access to affordable housing for all residents continues to be a high priority for Clay County. Affordable housing will be provided through the use of Federal CDBG, and State SHIP funds. Priorities include the rehabilitation of new and/or existing owner, rental, homeless and special needs housing for low-and moderate-income households.

**Table 11 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement**

<b>One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported</b>	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	10
Special-Needs	0
Total	10

**Table 12 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type**

<b>One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through</b>	
Rental Assistance	0
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	10
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	10

#### **Discussion**

The County seeks to assist low-and moderate-income households with their housing and community development needs, activities support persons with special needs such as the elderly or persons with disabilities. These activities include:

- Housing rehabilitation for income eligible homeowners, which may include accessibility retrofits for the elderly or persons with disabilities. AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

#### **Introduction**

Clay County does not have a Housing Authority division, the County does partner with Flagler County Housing Authority to manage Clay County’s Section 8 Voucher program. In FY22-23 there were 190

families that took part in the voucher program in Clay County. Currently, 68 of the 190 families moved to Flagler County under HCV portability. The rest remain from the baseline voucher program. The total baseline for both Counties is 352.

There is one waiting list maintained for both Counties and is not broken down or set aside any specific number of vouchers by County. When the waiting list is opened, it is for anyone who wishes to apply and to be housed in either jurisdiction (Flagler or Clay).

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

**Discussion**

Clay County does not have a Housing Authority division, but the County does partner with Flagler County Housing Authority to manage Clay County’s Section 8 Voucher program. The County will continue to explore and groom additional partnerships with local housing authorities that are close to the locale such as Jacksonville, Palatka, and MacClenny.

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

### **Introduction**

Clay County does not receive funding specifically to assist the homeless population. Clay County is an active member of the regional Continuum of Care (CoC), an organization that acts as the regional planning body to address homelessness in the region. This collaborative group addresses homeless issues including chronic homelessness, homelessness prevention, and discharge coordination policies on the region wide basis of Duval, Nassau and Clay Counties. Through active membership, Clay County supports the CoC's plan to achieve net zero for chronic homelessness.

**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**

Clay County will work with and support regional organizations that address the needs of the homeless population.

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

Clay County will continue to monitor the number of homeless in the county and will evaluate the need for a homeless facility or shelter in the future.

**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**

Clay County will work with and support regional organizations addressing the needs of the homeless population.

**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**

Clay County will work with and support regional organizations that addressing the needs of the homeless population.

## ***AP-75 Barriers to affordable housing – 91.220(j)***

### **Introduction:**

Clay County faces barriers to affordable housing that are common across housing markets, including limited supply of developable (e.g. zoned) land particularly for multi-family rental housing, which increases the cost of acquisition and development of the land. Also, few resources exist beyond Low Income Housing Tax Credits to provide the appropriate subsidy for development of affordable rental housing.

### **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**

Clay County has identified several governmental constraints to the development, maintenance, and improvement of housing and affordable housing, as follows: Zoning Code Amendments, Lot Consolidation, and Monitoring of Planning and Development Fees. Nongovernmental constraints were identified as follows: Land Costs, Construction Costs, and Availability of Financing. Clay County will continue to review and examine all real and perceived barriers to affordable housing and seek to remove or ameliorate them.

### **Discussion:**

Please see discussion above.

## ***AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)***

### **Introduction:**

Listed below are the actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs, foster and maintain affordable housing, reduce lead-based paint hazards, reduce the number of poverty-level families, develop institutional structure, and enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies.

### **Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs**

The obstacles that Clay County faces are barriers to affordable housing including lack of funding (federal, state, local) for affordable housing, limited land availability, high utility/maintenance costs in older housing units, cost prohibitive tree/landscaping requirements, aging mobile home parks, smaller units in demand but not cost feasible to construct, and tenant barriers including Fair Housing issues. In terms of specific gaps, the amount of need almost always outweighs the available funding. More specific deficits in the quantity and quality of affordable housing were identified during the citizen participation process. Affordable housing continues to be a concern for Clay County, primarily due to the widening gap between median income and median home values and rents, and due to limited land availability. Related to housing affordability, homelessness also continues to be an area of concern. Underserved populations in Clay County include the elderly; mentally ill, or substance abuse/addiction challenges; and persons with disabilities. The County continues to coordinate with a network of community partners and the Continuum of Care (CoC) to address these needs as funding allows.

### **Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing**

Fostering and maintaining affordable housing that may be lost from the assisted housing inventory is a high priority for the County. The County will use CDBG and other funding to:

- Provide Housing Counseling and Education to LMI households through the Clay County IFAS Extension office.
- Preservation of the existing housing stock through rehabilitation of owner housing for LMI households using CDBG funds.
- Production of new affordable housing through rehabilitation.

### **Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards**

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) is the primary agency for addressing lead-based paint (LBP) hazards in Clay County. Budgetary constraints have limited lead screening and case management activities; however, the DOH still responds to reported cases of lead poisoning as determined by local

pediatricians and health care providers.

The DOH, authorized under the Florida Lead Poisoning Prevention Screening & Education Act, Section 381.985, F.S., and Chapter 64D-3, F.A.C., conducts surveillance of Blood Lead Level (BLL) testing and poisonings in the County, promotes BLL screening for high-risk populations, and provides information to health care providers, individuals, and businesses on lead poisoning prevention. Program activities include surveillance and epidemiology, lead poisoning investigations, primary prevention, and coordinate of care if a person or family is found to have high BLL. The DOH also disseminates information to parents and caregivers, healthcare providers, and renovators and contractors about LBP hazards and screening options. This information includes brochures on keeping children safe from LBP hazards, sources of lead, remediation tactics, and adult lead poisoning prevention at home and in the workplace.

To address LBP hazards, the DOH in Clay County performs BLL testing and coordinates follow-up care if elevated BLL is detected. For children identified with elevated BLL, a lead assessment of the home is recommended. A specialist performs inspections and risk assessments at no charge for families with children having elevated BLL, family day care homes, and day care centers. The DOH in Clay County also works to identify LBP hazards in the environment in conjunction with housing demolition, rehabilitation, and redevelopment activities in older neighborhoods. The primary source of lead exposure among children is LBP in older, deteriorating buildings.

### **Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families**

Clay County's strategy to reduce the number of poverty-level families is multi-faceted and relies on the cooperation of numerous partners throughout the County and the greater Jacksonville region. These partners include County departments, economic development partners such as the Economic Development Corporation and the regional JAXUSA, public service providers, the Continuum of Care, housing authorities, public and private organizations (e.g. non-profits and community development corporations), and other stakeholders in community development activities. These stakeholders will work in concert to address a variety of interrelated social issues, including disparities in education and training, unemployment, limited access to healthcare, family instability, criminal background, inadequate housing, deteriorating neighborhoods, and transportation disadvantage.

The County's goals are to address the categories of affordable housing, homelessness, non-homeless special needs, and non-housing community development are all anti-poverty strategies. Clay County will connect poverty-level individuals and families with publicly available services, including healthcare resources, emergency financial assistance, housing assistance, justice coordination, senior/elderly services, and social security and disability benefits. These programs support social and economic stability for residents, particularly those with special needs. Economic Development Partners offer employment and job skills/workforce training programs for LMI individuals. Such partners include Clay CareerSource. Challenge Enterprises, and BASCA, among others can also connect poverty-level persons and persons with disabilities with employment opportunities. Beyond any Countywide program or initiative, Clay County

also supports HUD's Office of Economic Resilience strategies for enhancing equity and inclusion. Within Clay County, there is a disproportionate percentage of poverty-level individuals among minority racial and ethnic groups (2013-2017 ACS). Therefore, anti-poverty strategies must also address equity, inclusion, and fair housing. HUD's equity and inclusion strategies include building inclusive government structures; identifying regional barriers to opportunity; prioritizing investments to equalize opportunity; and improving the location of transportation assets to improve access to employment.

### **Actions planned to develop institutional structure**

Clay County is the lead agency in administering the CDBG grant funds. Clay County's Planning office has a strong support system internally and externally. The Public Works and Engineering Departments work with various neighborhood/resident committees to obtain requests for projects such as sidewalks, parks improvements, areas in need of improved drainage, road improvements, and other community development needs. Clay County works closely with local nonprofit organizations to implement various public services activities.

In terms of specific gaps, the amount of need almost always outweighs the available funding. More specific deficits in the quantity and quality of affordable housing were identified during the citizen participation process. Affordable housing continues to be a concern for Clay County, primarily due to the widening gap between median income and median home values and rents, and due to limited land availability. Related to housing affordability, homelessness also continues to be an area of concern. Underserved populations in Clay County include the elderly, persons with mental illness, or substance abuse/addiction challenges, and persons with disabilities. The County continues to coordinate with a network of community partners and the CoC to address these needs as funding allows.

Clay County will continue to network with participating cities and towns, elected officials, citizens, non-profit and for-profit stakeholders, and the CoC to identify community needs, make these needs widely known to stakeholders, and identify projects or programs and funding opportunities to address these needs. In order to improve the preservation and production of affordable housing within Clay County, the County plans to emphasize a transit-oriented/activity center development framework that will foster affordable housing proximate to transportation and employment opportunities. The County will also utilize leveraging and matching of federal funding, particularly with state and local funding sources such as SHIP that are specifically designated for housing and/or economic development activities. The preservation and production of affordable housing, as well as housing/rental assistance, is overseen by the Clay County Planning Department's Community Development Division and implemented through a network of non-profit and for-profit housing developers and organizations.

In order to improve the funding of public services, particularly for homeless and special needs populations, the County will support the CoC member organizations in the development of projects or programs that address priority needs, and encourage applicant subrecipients to leverage and match federal funding with state and local funding sources to address priority needs. Such investment will be focused in areas of

concentrated poverty, such as the Target Areas identified previously. The provision of public services will be overseen by the Community Development Division.

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

Key agencies that are additional resources that may be available are described below. The County's Community and Social Services Department works with private sector partners to coordinate actions and address the public's requests for assistance.

#### *Public Sector*

The Community and Social Services Department which includes Veterans Services, Case Management, and Volunteer Coordination will assist as needed in getting those in need the assistance and/or resources they require. Clay County Department of Health offers a variety of services and programs to residents such as childcare licensing, childhood lead poisoning, family planning, WIC and women's health, among others. Flagler County Housing Authorities administers Clay County's Section 8 Voucher Program.

#### *Private Sector*

The private sector is an important collaborator bringing additional resources and expertise that can be used to supplement existing services or fill gaps in the system. Lenders, affordable housing developers, business and economic development organizations, and private service providers offer a variety of assistance to residents such as health care, small business assistance, residential mortgage programs, commercial lending and assisted housing, among others.

### **Discussion:**

The County is committed to continuing its participation and coordination with federal, state, municipal and local agencies, as well as with the private and non-profit sector, to serve the needs of target income individuals and families in the County. In particular, the County will continue to work in close coordination with County departments regarding infrastructure improvements and the provision of services.

The allocation of priorities for housing activities (i.e. rehabilitation), code enforcement, and infrastructure improvements were determined through several processes including but not limited to: public hearings, outreach and listening sessions, and a citizen survey to gauge the activities and projects the public deemed important. The proposed housing activities (i.e. rehabilitation), code enforcement, and infrastructure improvements that will take place in low- and moderate-income areas of Clay County are critical to sustaining the quality of life of residents and businesses in the area. This decision allows improvements to be directed to a concentrated area utilizing the limited CDBG resources available. The limiting factor in addressing underserved needs in Clay County is the lack of sufficient CDBG funding allocations as well as

other resources to address all the needs.

## Program Specific Requirements

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

#### **Introduction:**

The County, under section AP-20 "Annual Goals and Objectives", has identified its targeted activities planned with respect to all CDBG funds expected to be available during the program year (including program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year). At this time, the County does not receive HOME/American Dream Down Payment Initiative (ADDI) or Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds.

#### **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 and 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	\$0
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
<b>Total Program Income:</b>	<b>\$0</b>

#### **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. Clay County will use the last three years of the Consolidated Plan to determine the minimum overall benefit.	70%

## Attachments

### 1. Citizen Participation Comments

#### Minutes from CDBG FY24-25 Public Comment Meeting #2

The Clay County Board of County Commissioner's Grants and Community and Social Services Divisions held an open forum for public comment on the proposed plan for the FY24-25 Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan at the Keystone Heights Historic Pavilion, 565 Lawrence Blvd., Keystone Heights, Florida, on Monday, June 17, 2024 at 6 p.m.

There were seven (7) attendees.

Megan Covey, Grants Director, opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and presented an overview of the Community Development Block Grant and the proposed 2024-25 budget of \$1,000,319 broken into two proposed spending categories: Public Infrastructure and Housing Rehab.

Gabrielle Gunn, Community and Social Services Director, reviewed the agenda and facilitated the meeting's discussion.

Question: *What qualities make up a vibrant neighborhood or community?*

Public Comments:

- Trees & fences
- Good infrastructure
- Community events
- Availability to community goods and services (food, public facilities, trash collection)
- Affordable, good quality housing
- Schools and libraries
- Recreation and recreational facilities
- Community relationships with city government

Question: *What kind of neighborhood infrastructure needs to be implemented to create a safer living environment?*

Public Comments:

- Sidewalks
- Road improvement
- Lighting and signage
- Water, sewer and fire hydrants
- Safe, affordable housing (hurricane ready)
- Access to public safety, i.e. emergency services
- Underground utilities
- Youth activities
- After-school activities
- Parks (pickleball, basketball, etc.)
- Access to regularly scheduled transportation to the Regional Sports Complex and local parks
- Shuttle service to groceries, public facilities, etc. for citizens without transportation
- Proactively reviewing and assessing impact of upcoming changes to school start times
- Upgraded ADA standards

Question: *What types of specific projects would you like to see within the proposed funding categories?*

#### Public Infrastructure

Public Comments:

- ADA compliance in public restrooms
- Renewable energy for county owned facilities
- Roads
- Expand utilities to allow for fire hydrants
- Access to internet for LMI areas in Keystone
- Interlocal agreements for broader access to continuing education options

#### Housing Rehab

Public Comments:

- ADA compliance
- Housing counseling
- Access to housing-related programs

The attendees were asked to anonymously rank the two proposed funding categories. Unanimously public infrastructure was ranked highest.

Megan Covey reviewed the dates and locations for the remaining public comment meetings (see below) and closed the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

The public comment period is open from June 11 through June 10, 2024. Copies of the draft 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan are available online at [claycountygov.com](http://claycountygov.com) on the Economic and Development page or at the following locations through July 10, 2024:

- Fleming Island Library – 1895 Town Center Blvd. Fleming Island, FL
- Green Cove Springs Library – 403 Ferris St., Green Cove Springs, FL
- Keystone Heights Library – 175 Oriole Ave., Keystone Heights, FL
- Middleburg-Clay Hill Library – 2245 Aster Ave., Middleburg, FL
- Orange Park Library – 2054 Plainfield Ave., Orange Park, FL

Comments can be submitted online or in person by attending one of the remaining meetings:

- Tuesday, June 18, Middleburg-Clay Hill Library, 2245 Aster Ave., Middleburg, FL at 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, June 27, Orange Park Library, 2054 Plainfield Ave., Orange Park, FL at 6:00 p.m.

## Minutes from CDBG FY24-25 Public Comment Meeting #2

The Clay County Board of County Commissioner's Grants and Community and Social Services Divisions held an open forum for public comment on the proposed plan for the FY24-25 Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan at the Middleburg-Clay Hill Library, 2245 Aster Ave., Middleburg, FL, on Tuesday, June 18, at 6:00 p.m.

There were seven (7) attendees.

Megan Covey, Grants Director, opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and presented an overview of the Community Development Block Grant and the proposed 2024-25 budget of \$1,000,319 broken into two proposed spending categories: Public Infrastructure and Housing Rehab.

Gabrielle Gunn, Community and Social Services Director, reviewed the agenda and facilitated the meeting's discussion.

Question: *What qualities make up a vibrant neighborhood or community?*

Public Comments:

- Resident investment in the community
- Low vacancy rates
- Parks and/or places for recreation
- Libraries
- Sidewalks
- Quality schools
- Community center
- Restaurants
- Paved roads
- Fewer car washes and storage facilities
- Less new development

Question: *What kind of neighborhood infrastructure needs to be implemented to create a safer living environment?*

Public Comments:

- Sidewalks on CR218
- Street lights on CR218
- Bike lane and/or trails
- Safer pedestrian travel
- Law enforcement presence
- Medical facilities

Question: *What types of specific projects would you like to see within the proposed funding categories?*

Public Infrastructure Category

Public Comments:

- Redevelopment of the Middleburg Crossing business site

- Improvements to the entrance of Middleburg Crossing business site (Parson Street at the Taco Bell)
- Sidewalks and street lights in Black Creek Park N neighborhood
- Traffic light at Old Jennings Rd. and Longbay Rd.
- Street lights on CR218 from Blanding Blvd. to US301
- Sidewalks on CR218 from Blanding Blvd. to US301
- Reinstate the ad valorem tax for developers requiring them to build sidewalks and turn lanes
- Complete the sidewalks on CR218 (Omega Park to the Dollar General Store)
- Programs at Omega Park (pickleball, basketball, etc.)
- YMCA or like facility with yoga, AA, meditation, etc.
- Incorporation of Middleburg and Clay Hill
- Signage and enforcement of speed limit within the Black Creek Park N neighborhood

#### Housing Rehab

##### Public Comments:

- There were no comments related to this category.

The attendees were asked to anonymously rank the two proposed funding categories. Unanimously public infrastructure was ranked highest.

Megan Covey reviewed the date and location for the remaining public comment meeting (see below) and closed the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

The public comment period is open from June 11 through June 10, 2024. Copies of the draft 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan are available online at [claycountygov.com](http://claycountygov.com) on the Economic and Development page or at the following locations through July 10, 2024:

- Fleming Island Library – 1895 Town Center Blvd. Fleming Island, FL
- Green Cove Springs Library – 403 Ferris St., Green Cove Springs, FL
- Keystone Heights Library – 175 Oriole Ave., Keystone Heights, FL
- Middleburg-Clay Hill Library – 2245 Aster Ave., Middleburg, FL
- Orange Park Library – 2054 Plainfield Ave., Orange Park, FL

Comments can be submitted online or in person by attending the remaining meeting:

- Thursday, June 27, Orange Park Library, 2054 Plainfield Ave., Orange Park, FL at 6:00 p.m.

### Minutes from CDBG FY24-25 Public Comment Meeting #3

The Clay County Board of County Commissioner's Grants and Community and Social Services Divisions held an open forum for public comment on the proposed plan for the FY24-25 Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan at the Orange Park Public Library, 2054 Plainfield Avenue, Orange Park, FL, on Thursday, June 27, 2024.

There were four (4) attendees.

Megan Covey, Grants Director, opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and presented an overview of the Community Development Block Grant and the proposed 2024-25 budget of \$1,000,319 broken into two proposed spending categories: Public Infrastructure and Housing Rehab.

Gabrielle Gunn, Community and Social Services Director, reviewed the agenda and facilitated the meeting's discussion.

Question: *What qualities make up a vibrant neighborhood or community?*

Public Comments:

- Sidewalks
- Safety on sidewalks
- Parks and playgrounds
- Good management of parks and playgrounds
- Neighborhood/community center
- Emergency services

Question: *What kind of neighborhood infrastructure needs to be implemented to create a safer living environment?*

Public Comments:

- Lighting
- Safety signage
- Neighborhood Watch programs
- Communication within the neighborhood/community

Question: *What types of specific projects would you like to see within the proposed funding categories?*

Public Infrastructure Category

Public Comments:

- Lighting on CR209
- Sidewalks on CR209
- Sidewalks connecting between developments on CR209
- Marketing plan for seniors to learn about CDBG
- Funding for parks projects
- Summer reading programs
- Code compliance/enforcement (junk removal and untagged vehicle removal)
- Communication about senior centers
- Transportation and meal programs
- Fully funded Meals on Wheels program

#### Housing Rehab

##### Public Comments:

- There were no comments related to this category.

The attendees were asked to anonymously rank the two proposed funding categories. Unanimously public infrastructure was ranked highest.

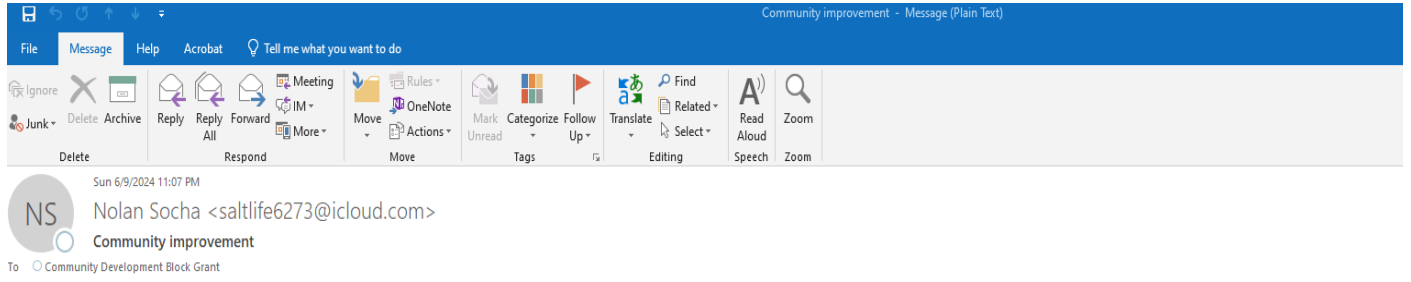
Megan Covey reviewed the date and location for the remaining public comment meeting (see below) and closed the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

The public comment period is open from June 11 through July 10, 2024. Copies of the draft 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan are available online at [claycountygov.com](http://claycountygov.com) on the Economic and Development page or at the following locations through July 10, 2024:

- Fleming Island Library – 1895 Town Center Blvd. Fleming Island, FL
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- Keystone Heights Library – 175 Oriole Ave., Keystone Heights, FL
- Middleburg-Clay Hill Library – 2245 Aster Ave., Middleburg, FL
- Orange Park Library – 2054 Plainfield Ave., Orange Park, FL

Comments can be submitted online through the close of business on July 10, 2024.

Copy of email received during public comment period



CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

You want to improve. Clay County then start ticketing people for speeding and aggressive driving. Put speed bumps in neighborhoods to make them slow down to keep children safe and build parks in every neighborhood so kids have something to do. Sent from my iPhone

[Link to minutes from CDBG FY24-25 First Public Hearing](#)

[Link to minutes from CDBG FY 24-25 Second Public Hearing](#)

## 2. Adopting Resolution