



**CITY OF NEWBURGH**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**

**C.A.P.E.R. PROGRAM YEAR FOUR**

**CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE**

**AND**

**EVALUATION REPORT**

**FISCAL YEAR 2013  
(01/01/13 – 12/31/13)**

**Prepared by the Newburgh Department of Planning & Development  
CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE  
AND EVALUATION REPORT**

**The City of Newburgh received federal funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Funds from the federal programs are allocated to various projects and activities described herein. For additional information on projects and activities, and to apply for funding please contact**

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## **I. CAPER OVERVIEW**

This Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) is prepared to provide a comprehensive analysis of the City of Newburgh Entitlement funds received by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The CAPER is an evaluation and performance report required at the end of each fiscal year. It is prepared in compliance with the requirements of HUD for the City of Newburgh.

This document represents an analysis of the fourth year of funding under the Consolidated Five Year Action Plan. The Consolidated Plan is an important policy document, and the CAPER provides information to guide further strategic planning to aid the achievement of CDBG goals.

## **II. OVERARCHING CDBG GOALS**

The 2010-2015 Comprehensive Plan identified the overall priorities and goals of the City of Newburgh CDBG Entitlement program. Each goal and objective reflects the targeting of efforts to those households and facilities more in need, taking into consideration the importance of maintaining and improving housing opportunities in the City, expanding economic development opportunities, improving the City's low and moderate income neighborhoods most in need of revitalization, improving neighborhoods and providing support to homeless and special needs populations.

Community Development needs the City of Newburgh include four broad categories:

- Infrastructure Improvements;
- Economic Development/Job Creation;
- Public Services; and
- Rehabilitation of Private Property.

Although treated separately from housing needs in this Consolidated Plan, community development and housing are closely linked in a number of areas, including the low and moderate income Census tracts and block groups where activities are targeted to occur, and in affordable housing projects that may have public service or infrastructure components. The relationship between economic development activities and housing has become increasingly important as residents need literacy and job skills in order to obtain employment that will provide the income needed to afford housing.

Priorities for public services include basic needs such as job training and literacy to support workforce development and community strengthening and community building activities.

### **Geographic Distribution**

The comprehensive plan articulated that activities be targeted to the Lander Street area primarily and Census tracts 4 and 5, secondarily. These areas have been identified as having the greatest need; they suffer from high poverty levels, a high number of foreclosed, vacant and City-owned properties and high crime rates.

### **Five-Year Goals and Objectives**

Below articulates the specific programmatic areas targeted by the City of Newburgh. These five year goals and objectives dictate annual projects and strategic plans.

1. Provide rehabilitation assistance.
2. Provide opportunities for additional ownership and rental housing.
3. Expand the supply of affordable housing in good condition that meets the needs of the City's diverse households and family structures.
4. Upgrade the physical condition of targeted areas and City as a whole; create and retain jobs, and provide housing opportunities close to employment opportunities.
5. Maintain, repair and upgrade infrastructure to support revitalization and rehabilitation.
6. Provide limited resources to public and non-profit organizations that provide services to low income households.
7. End chronic homelessness and move families and individuals to permanent housing and eliminate homelessness due to housing market conditions by stabilizing housing tenure through financial and policy supports.
8. Expand crisis supports to meet the needs of homeless households and those potentially facing homelessness.
9. Reduce the number of families living in poverty.
10. Reduce lead based paint hazards in the City
11. Subsidize rental assistance through non-profit agencies for the HIV/AIDS population in Orange County.
12. Enhance opportunities for housing and support services for special needs populations.
13. Continue to identify and address major impediments to the creation of affordable housing at the local level.

**2013 Budget:**

Below is the spending activity for 2013 community development block grant program.

	Budget	Spent	Balance
Administration	\$ 149,000	\$ 121,541.09	\$ 27,458.91
In Rem Stabilization Program (2 DPW personnel)	\$ 70,000	\$ 49,913.24	\$ 20,086.76
Scattered Sidewalk/ Street Improvement Project/ Street Trees	\$ 109,561	\$ 66,949.49	\$ 42,611.51
Park Improvement (skate Park)	\$ 75,000	\$ -	\$ 75,000.00
Strategic Code Enforcement personnel & materials)	\$ 75,000	\$ 27,523.96	\$ 47,476.04
Housing Rehabilitation	\$ 228,516	\$ 64,607.00	\$ 163,909.00
Community Services/ Senior & Veterans	\$ 20,000		\$ 20,000.00
Workforce Development	\$ 60,000	\$ 17,551.44	\$ 42,448.56
Community Policing/ Neighborhood Development	\$ 30,712	\$ 21,129.00	\$ 9,583.00
Downing Park Greenhouse & Aerator	\$ 200,000	\$ 19,057.39	\$ 180,942.61
Business Development/ Façade Improvement	\$ 200,000	\$ 122,054.00	\$ 77,946.00
Youth Services	\$ 93,000	\$ 22,180.00	\$ 70,820.00
Homeownership Education	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$ 1,315,789</b>	<b>\$ 532,506.61</b>	<b>\$ 783,282.39</b>

Year	Project	Beginning Balance	Spent	Year End Balance
2010	Demolition	\$54,039.84	\$47,689.84	\$6,350.00
2010	Preservation/ Façade	\$29,262.54	\$25,000.00	
2010	Community Policing	\$3,952.96	\$740.00	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$87,255.34</b>	<b>\$73,429.84</b>	<b>\$6,350.00</b>
2011	In-Rem Stabilization	\$50,476.27	\$2,704.80	\$47,771.47
2011	Demolition	\$129,020.38	\$132,650.85	-\$3,630.47
2011	Housing Rehabilitation	\$78,858.28	\$19,860.97	\$58,997.31
2011	Scattered Sidewalk	\$173,658.45	\$168,865.73	\$4,792.72
2011	Youth Violence reduction	\$15,127.66	\$7,783.96	\$7,343.70
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$447,141.04</b>	<b>\$331,866.31</b>	<b>\$115,274.73</b>
2012	Administration	\$11,863.74	\$2,110.94	\$9,752.80
2012	Workforce Development	\$46,041.39	\$46,033.39	\$8.00
2012	Demolition	\$192,675.98	\$154,486.75	\$38,189.23
2012	Scattered Sidewalk	\$150,000.00	\$77,739.27	\$72,260.73
2012	Youth Violence Reduction	\$29,350.00	\$5,499.71	\$23,850.29
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$429,931.11</b>	<b>\$285,870.06</b>	<b>\$144,061.05</b>

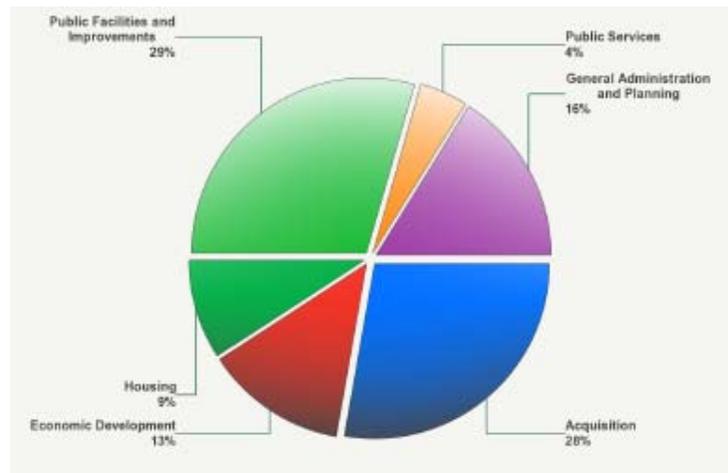
### III. PROGRAM REVIEW

The program descriptions below are a review of the activities conducted throughout 2013. These projects consist of activities funded in previous years, but completed in 2013. For example, the sidewalk project was funded in 2011, 2012 and 2013. All or a portion of the funding was utilized for the Chambers St. Sidewalk Project. The budget spend down is on page 5.

Secondly, local hiring has been a primary focus for the CDBG program in 2013. The following are the new hires which were City residents. All new employees hired under the CDBG program in 2013 that were in City of Newburgh residents. Additionally, Workforce Development Institute, an outside vendor focused on local hiring, hired as City resident as their new program coordinator

1. Planning & Development 2
2. Building Department – 1
3. Department of Public Works - 9
4. Recreation Department/ Summer Youth Program -4
5. Workforce Development – WDI - 1

The chart below indicates the expenditure amount and percentages based on activity.



#### Expenditures<sup>2</sup>

Type of Activity	Expenditure	Percentage
Acquisition	\$324,836.59	27.85%
Economic Development	\$152,508.62	13.07%
Housing	\$107,409.09	9.21%
Public Facilities and Improvements	\$340,845.57	29.22%
Public Services	\$52,179.25	4.47%
General Administration and Planning	\$188,702.16	16.18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,166,481.28</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

#### Timeliness

Timeliness Ratio - unexpended funds as percent of 2013 allocation 1.32

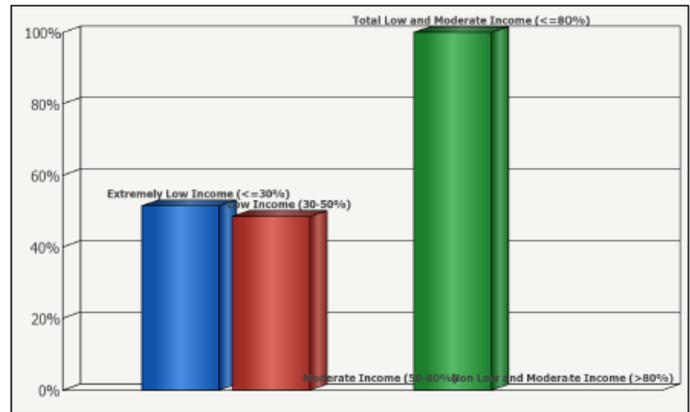
Below is the beneficiary data for the 2013 CDBG program. This breaks beneficiaries down by race and ethnicity as well as income level.

**CDBG Beneficiaries by Racial/Ethnic Category<sup>4</sup>**

Race	Total	Hispanic
Unspecified ¿ DO NOT USE	0.00%	0.00%
White	2.71%	7.69%
Black/African American	96.61%	92.31%
Asian	0.00%	0.00%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.00%	0.00%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.00%	0.00%
American Indian/Alaskan Native & White	0.00%	0.00%
Asian & White	0.00%	0.00%
Black/African American & White	0.68%	0.00%
Amer. Indian/Alaskan Native & Black/African Amer.	0.00%	0.00%
Other multi-racial	0.00%	0.00%
Asian/Pacific Islander (valid until 03-31-04)	0.00%	0.00%
Hispanic (valid until 03-31-04)	0.00%	0.00%

**Income of CDBG Beneficiaries**

Income Level	Percentage
Extremely Low Income (<=30%)	51.49%
Low Income (30-50%)	48.51%
Moderate Income (50-80%)	0.00%
Total Low and Moderate Income (<=80%)	100.00%
Non Low and Moderate Income (>80%)	0.00%



**Chambers St. Sidewalk**

The City of Newburgh allocated funding for the construction of sidewalks in the targeted area of Census Tract 4, specifically Johnston, Chambers and Lander streets. Chambers St. was selected as the pilot project as there were several housing rehabilitation projects and private and not for profit investment occurring on the first block between Broadway and First St. Due to budgetary restrictions, modifications in the scope of work paused the project and construction began in 2013. Below is an illustration of the original scope of work, and construction photos.



### **Sidewalk Replacement Program**

The 2013 City of Newburgh Sidewalk Replacement Program encouraged City property owners to participate in improving the aesthetic and safety of their sidewalks. The program provided a stipend to City property owners of 50 % of the total cost up to a maximum of \$1,500.00.

The program helped 21 property owners replace almost a mile of sidewalk with a concentration being in Census Tracts 3 & 5. The total dollars spent on this project was \$52,517.46 of which \$24,727.42 was funded by CDBG.

The Sidewalk Replacement Program was well received by the public so it will be repeated again in 2014.



**Lander St. Before & After**



**Marne Ave Before & After**

### **DPW Sidewalk Program**

Local hiring has continued to be a priority for the community and City Council. As a part of the 2013 planning process the CDBG Advisory Committee and the City Council prioritized activities the City could complete themselves that could provide opportunity for local unemployed residents to join the workforce. The Director of Public Works identified City sidewalks that were almost impassable and recommended hiring a local crew to complete the work. DPW hired three laborers and one working supervisor on a temporary basis, during the summer and fall of 2013. Workers were provided on the job training in order to complete the tasks. The DPW crew completed sidewalks around City parks to ensure accessibility to City open space. One worker has been placed into permanent positions. Sidewalk improvement locations include South Street near tennis courts, Centennial Court sidewalks and Downing Park sidewalks along Dubois St.

### **In-Rem Stabilization**

The Department of Housing and Urban Development allows the City to allocate funding to support the stabilization of areas prone to blight due to foreclosure. As such, the In-rem stabilization program was designed to prevent further abandonment within the neighborhood due to tax foreclosure.

The goal of this program is two-fold, to eliminate blight and promote local hiring. Funding was allocated to hire two temporary DPW workers whose primary focus was on the properties currently owned by the City of Newburgh. They ensured that the properties were secured, stabilized, and cleaned.

Secondly, the City maintains properties so they are not a major detriment to their neighborhoods. The In-Rem stabilization team, has one of the larger loads to bear in the City. They remove literally tons of garbage and furniture from City property every month. The department has set apart the

garbage collected from these sites in 2014, so to measure the amount of waste dumped onto City – owned properties each year.

### **Clearance and Demolition**

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CDBG funding supported the stabilization of buildings and neighborhoods by removing hazardous conditions and buildings within targeted areas. Activities include demolition of buildings, removal or demolition materials, and removal of environmental contaminants to support the revitalization of blighted neighborhoods.

In 2011, the City of Newburgh hired an engineering firm, CT Male, to provide engineering services to CDBG projects, including demolition. Structural stability and contamination were both major factors in the determining which buildings the City owned should be demolished.

A bid was developed including the properties identified high risk demolition. Those BIDS, however were not accepted because several requirements were not met by the bidding contractors including compliance with section 3. The project was rejected by the City Council in December 2011.

The City moved forward immediately to rebid 45-47 Chambers St. as it was part of a development project with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh and the Newburgh Community Landbank. The demolition was section 3 compliant, and completed by late Spring 2012.

10 Dubois St., 113 Washington and 159 Grand St. were all demolished in 2012/2013./ Jackson Demolition was awarded the bid to complete the work. Jackson demolition had hired a contractor to comply with the section 3 requirements, which did not come to fruition. Jackson Demolition and the City of Newburgh decided to separate a portion of the bid, mainly the reseeded at the end of the job, in order to hire local residents. Below is the before and after photos of two of the sites.

#### **10 Dubois St. Before & After**





**159 Grand St. Before & After**

### **Housing Rehabilitation Programs**

CDBG funds and CDBG-R funds support low interest loans and forgivable loans to owners of owner occupied units. Priority is given to health and safety violations, energy efficiency upgrades, and rehabilitation loans to persons with disabilities and seniors. This program targets families who are living at 80% or lower than the area median income. The amount of assistance provided is determined by a complete review of the property, underwriting by the Housing Loan Officer and the approval of the Housing Loan Committee.

The City Council appointed a Loan Committee comprised of banking and housing professionals, as well as community a representative, with the purpose of reviewing the loans generated from the department. The committee reviews each application including the applicant’s income and financial capacity. The committee also reviews each of the three construction estimates and the Housing Quality Standard inspection. Applicants are required to submit three bids consistent with HUD’s Housing Quality Standards scope of work. The loan committee reviews homeowner, rental rehabilitation, small business and façade grants and loans.

In 2013, all funding paid for the repair and or replacement of sewer laterals.

#### **2013**

Number of Homes with renovations underway in 2013:	4
Average Assistance Per Household	\$4,817.00
Projects in Underwriting but not approved:	3
Number of Homes where renovation is complete	3
Average Household Income	\$27,236.00
Average Household Size	2.5
Elderly Household	1
Household Racial Characteristic	33% African American
	33% Hispanic
	33% White

### **Downing Park Green House:**

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The City of Newburgh and Downing Park Planning Committee partnered over the summer to deconstruct clear the vegetation, concrete block, and piping located within the greenhouse. Again, the goal of this program was not necessarily to complete the construction of the greenhouse within the year, but train local workers. There was a crew of two workers and a Downing Park planning committee supervisor, who completed these tasks, including repainting the head house, over an eight week project. In the fall of 2013, the City Council also voted to increase funding to \$200,000 in order to build a hydroponic greenhouse system. The construction of the greenhouse will begin 2014.



### **Strategic Code Enforcement**

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Strategic code enforcement strategies are the backbone to any neighborhood revitalization effort. Focused initiatives in low income neighborhoods will include response to specific violation areas. Coordinating community outreach mechanisms with the officers during the summer allowed the City to develop a unique relationship between the City residents and the City.

The Newburgh Strong campaign included weekly code sweeps as well as community building in targeted blocks. The City worked with not-for-profit Greater Newburgh Partnership to organize neighborhood groups, educate building owners and arrange events such as movie nights. These partnerships allowed residents to build relationships with City staff enabling a more personalized conversation about code enforcement and quality of life issues occurring within the targeted neighborhoods.

Completing the summer activities, the City hired a sanitation enforcement officer to continue the work of the summer program and begin to work in a strategic and personalized approach to clear some of the violations. The Sanitation Enforcement Officer works with the rest of the codes department to track down owners, act as an education arm, as well as track and trend quality of

life issues within the City. Attached is a copy of the latest PowerPoint presentation provided to the City Council.

One example of the program includes stickers and markings program. In an effort to address the ongoing problem of illegal dumping in the city, the program has begun affixing stickers and markings to unlawfully discarded items (furniture, tires, mattresses, etc.) The stickers and marking contain tracking numbers allowing us to link the specific discarded item to the property of origin. This will encourage property owners and managers to ensure these items are being properly disposed of and not simply transferred onto another property within the City.

### **Façade & Signage Activities**

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The façade improvement program primary objective is to revitalize the City’s Commercial District by preserving the integrity of the buildings and restoring existing storefronts. The focus has been on Liberty Street and Broadway. The aim of the program is to restore and preserve properties, provide an aesthetically pleasing place to shop, work and travel. Lastly, the program aims to be a catalyst toward significant building improvements throughout the community. Funding under this program funds façade improvement and commercial signage. This program was funded during multiple years.

The 2013 Façade Improvement Program was available to business or mix-use property owners to enhance storefront windows, entrances, signage, awnings and lighting. Priority was given to projects that were adjacent to one another and located on Broadway. The program offered business property owners 50% of the construction costs up to the maximum of \$15,000.00. During the first and second quarter of 2013 the City conducted a search for an architect to manage the design portion of the façade improvement program. The City selected Liscum, McCormack, VanVoorhis as the architect for the project.

The City received 23 applications which were divided into phases. In “phase one” . Seven (7) Broadway buildings were selected. The criteria for selection were properties that were contiguous to each and/or able to make a large visual impact to the neighborhood when all of the buildings are completed. The maximum CDBG funding for “phase one” is approximately \$96,700.

Applications for “phase two” will be reviewed in addition to applications received from new parties interested in the 2014 program.

### **SIGNAGE and FAÇADE GRANTS**

Number of Façade Grants:	2
Number of Facades Under Construction:	6
Projects in Underwriting	16

### **Tenant Education/ Homeownership**

This project was completed at zero cost to the City of Newburgh. The goal of the program was to develop an education, training and counseling program for low and moderate income residents including residents of public housing. The goal was to work with current residents up the “housing ladder” into homeownership. The City partnered with the Newburgh Community Landbank, Newburgh Armory Unity Center, and Pathstone. No residents attended the pilot program. PathStone is providing similar classes throughout the year and the partners have agreed to refer candidates.

The City also co-sponsored a tenant education program during the second/ third quarter of 2013 in conjunction with the Orange County Department of Health, Orange County Department of Social Services, Orange County Rural Development Advisory Corporation, Hudson Valley Legal Services, St. Luke’s Cornwall Hospital, and Cornell Cooperative Extension. The program was designed as a dinner conversation with local tenants identified through the Department of Health. During these roundtables, partners discussed the following topics:

#### **Clean & Healthy Home**

Tenants received presentations on the methods of avoiding asthmas, smoke related disease, and food borne illnesses, poor nutrition, pest infestation and lead poisoning.

#### **Legal Rights &Energy Too!**

The intent of this class was to provide an overview of tenants’ rights and responsibilities, legal agreements and the complaint process. Techniques to save money and energy were also provided.

#### **Taking Care of Your Personal Health**

Tenants completed a personal portfolio to help them acquire and maintain stable housing. Family budgeting was discussed, as well as homeownership as a feasible option.

### **Youth Violence Reduction/ Promising Neighborhoods**

The 2013 grant program was to further community education goals, and prevent gang violence and youth criminal activities, deter youth from joining gangs and to redirect gang involved youth from gang activities. Efforts were prioritized that target public services to low income families including literacy, education, and job training services. The City received a number of applications and decided to provide each agency that applied \$5,000. In September, the City Council decided to award additional fund to applicant that were recommended by the CDBG Advisory Committee.

## Youth Empowerment Center

The Youth Empowerment Center provides a safe place for high risk youth and young students (ages 18 – 21) Thursday through Saturday evenings from 3pm to midnight. The program addresses life skills, educational support, literacy, a fun environment to be in, and referrals if necessary to other agencies. Flyers and marketing materials were placed in the community at the commencement of the program – in the manner of a grassroots campaign - to attract participants. Within 30 days of the opening of the Center, 32 youth were recruited. To date, the center has 66 youth participating in the program. According to the Center's most recent report, "The center provides a safe place for high risk youth to receive a helpful hand and immediate support to maintain the hope and dignity during a difficult time". This contract is still open.

## Orange County Hoops

The summer basketball program ran July - August 2013 - held at the Newburgh Armory Monday through Friday (evening hours). This program provided a safe alternative to hanging out in the streets. The program was targeted toward middle school and high school aged children during the period of time they are most at risk of being involved in illicit activity. 200 area youth participated. 95 of which were City of Newburgh residents. Additionally, the City of Newburgh was the home for this event and approximately 50 youth.



### Direct Benefit Data by Persons

#### Race/Ethnicity

Race	Total	Hispanic/Latino
White	3	2
Black/African American	177	12
<b>Totals</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>14</b>

#### Income Levels

	Total
<b>Extremely Low</b>	180
<b>Low</b>	
<b>Moderate</b>	
<b>Non-Low/Moderate</b>	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>180</b>
<b>Percent Low/Mod</b>	<b>100 %</b>

## Northeast Gateway to Freedom

The goal of this program was to expose City Youth to experiences outside the City of Newburgh. The program took 75 youth on various trips during the summer months. The Kidz Initiative took kids to Splash Down, Jersey Shore, New Paltz Swimming Pool, Bear Mountain and NYC Top of the Rock.

### Direct Benefit Data by Persons

#### Race/Ethnicity

Race	Total	Hispanic/Latino
Black/African American	75	20
<b>Totals</b>	75	20

#### Income Levels

	Total
Extremely Low	75
Low	
Moderate	
Non-Low/Moderate	
<b>Totals</b>	75
<b>Percent Low/Mod</b>	100 %

## Newburgh Zion Lions

The Newburgh Zion Lions Program was completed meeting all of its objectives. Chiefly, the creation of a safe haven for the most vulnerable City youth. The outreach component of the program included Coaches/ male City of Newburgh residents hitting the streets and reaching out to the youth. The program was designed to have at risk children, who were potentially, or were at risk, of participating in gang activity, participate in a summer league. The Summer Basketball leagues aim was simple, to create a positive atmosphere for the youth. The days and hours of the operation were Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 5pm to 9pm starting July 7<sup>th</sup> and ending August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The target age group was 9-17 and the number of youth served was 120.



**Race/Ethnicity**

Race	Total	Hispanic/Latino
White	15	5
Black/African American	100	
Black/African American & White	5	
<b>Totals</b>	120	5

**Income Levels**

	Total
<b>Extremely Low</b>	118
<b>Low</b>	2
<b>Moderate</b>	
<b>Non-Low/Moderate</b>	
<b>Totals</b>	120
<b>Percent Low/Mod</b>	100 %

**Newburgh Armory Unity Center**

The Newburgh Armory Community Garden and Summer Reading Program hired two young women, entering their senior year of high school were hired as interns to assist school groups in the garden and summer reading program. The program ran June through August. Students participated in environmental community projects and developed activities around composting, recycling, and repairing the borders of the Quassaick Creek trail. The contract is still open.

**Direct Benefit Data by Persons****Race/Ethnicity**

Race	Total	Hispanic/Latino
Black/African American	356	50
<b>Totals</b>	356	50

**Income Levels**

	Total
<b>Extremely Low</b>	
<b>Low</b>	356
<b>Moderate</b>	
<b>Non-Low/Moderate</b>	
<b>Totals</b>	356
<b>Percent Low/Mod</b>	100 %

## **Ebenezer Baptist Church Sports Ministry - Boxing Program**

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The program teaches at risk youth the art of boxing and self-defense, and helps give youth a good moral foundation for life. Youth develop self and community awareness, gain greater self confidence, respect, and discipline. The boxing program is a six month program located at the City of Newburgh recreation park. The program targets 60 youth and provides them with the following:

1. Conditioned, well groomed, and respectful
2. Events to compete in – two boxing shows
3. Help parents monitor school work
- 4.

This program began funding during the fall of 2013 and is in progress. Accomplishment data will be forthcoming.

## **City Youth Bureau Programming**

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### **Summer Programming**

The City Newburgh Strong Program was an interdepartmental collaboration utilizing each department's resources to create neighborhood change during the summer. CDBG funded two Community Outreach workers to oversee the program and coordinate efforts with the Playground on Wheels staff. The partnership between the two programs proved a great success. Between 50 to 80 youth and families joined daily activities in neighborhood parks. This provided a grassroots introduction into the neighborhoods that allowed staff to get resources out in different and unique ways.

This work leveraged the work of the codes department, and at times the police, who were working with Orange County Health Department, and the Greater Newburgh Partnership to mitigate health and safety issues on the street.

### **Fall Programming**

The Heights Community Center provided community awareness about programs and resources available in the City of Newburgh and surrounding areas; participating inner city youth will have weekly assistance with homework at the walk in center.

Through these services we assist in strengthening youth by identifying and creating a common goals for everyone; by engaging young people to create positive, effective changes in their community.

Youth addressed targeted areas of discussion that they are faced with on a daily basis:

- Bullying
- Knowledge of Racial Profiling

Through the program youth come together in a positive, artistic and diverse manner to enhance leadership skills, to build character and community spirit. The Heights Center in collaboration with the Washington Heights Association implemented, planned and developed a series of events for children, youth and families:

- Banner Beautification Program
- Caroling Nights



### **Workforce Policy Development**

***The City of Newburgh contracted with the Workforce Development Institute in April 2013. Below is an overview of results from Contract quarter one through three:***

Working in Newburgh (WIN) focuses on building connections between the demand and supply side of the workforce equation. By providing links between the business community, training/vocational organizations and job seekers, the WIN program helps businesses meet their workforce needs and local residents find good jobs.

On the demand side of the employment equation, WIN profiles local businesses to learn about their workforce needs and growth trends. Workforce Development Institute offers businesses grants to fund employee training programs and gap funding for capital equipment purchases. WDI also connects businesses with other funding opportunities tied to increasing productivity and workforce expansion.

Job seekers are the supply side of the equation. WIN connects job seekers with training and vocational opportunities to ensure job seekers:

- Have the best resume possible – There are several vocational providers that help people create and update resumes at no cost to Newburgh residents
- Know what skills employers are looking for – We connect people with free or low cost computer, GED and ESL programs
- Find hiring opportunities – WIN helps job seekers connect to businesses that have openings

In our efforts to build partnerships, WIN participated in 36 outreach events, ranging from job fairs to speaking engagements and community meetings. We actively work with the Department of Labor, RECAP, BOCES, OCC and various unions to connect job seekers to training and employment opportunities. We have met with 14 businesses to learn about hiring trends and workforce needs.

The WIN Business Advisory Council was formed and we plan on meeting quarterly to give businesses a forum to discuss common workforce challenges faced in all industry segments. Between July and December 2013 we met with 79 job seekers. Thirty eight were referred to training and 47 to job opportunities. Sixteen got interviews and five were hired. Another eight, after receiving training and/or WIN job coaching, were able to find jobs through their own networking efforts.

In 2014 WIN plans to continue working with businesses and vocational providers to make sure Newburgh residents have every opportunity they need to succeed in today’s workforce. We are partnering with the Department of Labor to offer a National Workforce Readiness Certificate Program for residents who need more soft skills training. We will work with SUNY IT to ensure students are getting training for jobs that exist in today’s market. We also plan on increasing business outreach to find job opportunities. WIN is connecting with the River of Opportunities Initiative to let new businesses know about local workforce availability and pre-employment training opportunities.

Our Facebook page is ready and we have created a database to capture information about businesses, job seekers and vocational programs. The following charts show summaries of participant data we have collected since July 2013.

Individuals Referred to Jobs and Outcomes

# of People Screened	# Referred to Job	# Applied	# Interviewed	# Hired	# Found Job After Coaching
79	43	16	6	5	8

Individuals Referred to Training and Outcomes

# of People Screened	# Referred to Training	# Completed Training	Type of Training
79	33	20	Resume
	15	N/A	Computer
	33	20	Interview/Soft Skills
	5	4	OCCC Job Search Class
	6	N/A	ESL or GED Programs

## IV. HUD REQUIRED ANALYSIS

### **Section 3**

The City Completed two section 3 eligible projects in 2013. The first was the demolition of buildings located at 10 Dubois, 113 Washington and 159 Grand St., the other is the sidewalks located on Chambers St.

### **Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing**

The City of Newburgh has conducted this Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing (AI) as part of its commitment to affirmatively further fair housing in the City of Newburgh. *Fair housing* refers to housing choice that is free from discrimination based on race/color, national origin, disability, or familial status/children. The purpose of this document is to review public and private programs and policies in the City of Newburgh in order to evaluate their impact on the availability of fair housing. The goal of the AI is to provide the City and other community development grantees, housing developers, and non-profits with information and tools to affirmatively further fair housing in the City of Newburgh.

A review of the housing and demographic statistics, combined with the results of the outreach campaign identified the following barriers to fair housing in The City of Newburgh:

- No clear human rights violation complaint process
- Unsafe dilapidated housing stock
- High poverty
- Language barriers
- Poor building code compliance

### **Complaint Process**

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, as of August 2012, there are no pending fair housing complaints or fair housing discrimination suits in the City of Newburgh. A clear defined process for making complaints about discrimination in housing choice is a necessary first step towards addressing housing discrimination in the City of Newburgh. The residents of the City of Newburgh could benefit from the creation of a tenant organization that could offer much needed advocacy and legal aid. While the City is positioned well to act as a legal advocate for tenants, this document recommends that an organization with experience handling discrimination lawsuits can apply for federal funding to assume this function.

### **Unsafe, Dilapidated Housing Stock**

The available statistics on the housing market in the City of Newburgh indicate that there are many available housing units throughout the City. However, many of those units are dilapidated and unsafe. Poor compliance with building codes is an epidemic in the City of Newburgh and as a result vacant and abandoned buildings dominate the landscape. The following strategies and policies are currently being implemented in the City in order to address the distressed properties:

- The City of Newburgh has recently adopted a distressed properties policy (see appendix II) that is a comprehensive plan for community revitalization, rezoning, project approvals, development of key sites, funding strategies, code reform and enforcement, public nuisance abatement, acquisition of title to distressed properties, land banking, management, and remediation of these city-held properties, and the restoration of these properties to private ownership and the tax roles.
- The City is currently building support for the creation of a separate housing court.
- The City of Newburgh offers a loan program to pay for a portion of home rehabilitation costs, and between 2010- 2011 there were 3 applications for loans/grants in underwriting, and 13 homeowner and rental projects (an additional 6 under construction) were completed.
- The following tax exemptions are available to City of Newburgh residents: Senior Citizen Enhanced STAR Exemption, School Tax Relief (STAR) Exemption, Basic STAR Exemption, Alternative Veterans Exemption, Clergy Exemption, Senior Citizens – Enhanced School Tax Relief (STAR) Exemption, Residential-Commercial Urban Exemption Program Application Form, Commercial, Business or Industrial Tax Exemption, First Time Home Buyer Exemption, Historic Real Property Alternation or Rehabilitation Exemption, and the 1 & 2 Family Residences Home Improvements exemption.
- Habitat of Greater Newburgh has to date completed 50 affordable homes for families in need in the City.

### **Poverty**

According to 2010 Census data 24.3% of individuals are living below the poverty level. The price of a market rate one bedroom in Orange County, NY is \$971.00, well beyond the means of many residents in the City of Newburgh. In addition the unemployment rate in the City is 12.1%. The outreach campaign revealed that many respondents of the housing survey were paying well over 30% of their income on rent. There is an urgent need for quality job creation in the City. The City of Newburgh has adopted a Section 3 plan to help local businesses bid on City contracts. The Work Force Development Institute has partnered with the City of Newburgh to address barriers to employment for family assistance, safety net and low-income families and individuals. These developments will encourage quality Job creation, but more needs to be done to meet the needs of residents who currently cannot afford the cost of living in the City due to low wages and high unemployment.

### ***Language Barriers***

According to the 2010 Census the City's population is 47.8% Hispanic. However, this number is thought to be much higher as many residents are undocumented persons. In order to stabilize the housing situation in the City of Newburgh the Spanish Speaking population needs to be protected and extended the right to Fair Housing. Some of the most dangerous living conditions in the City are found in the illegal Single Room Occupancies that are crowded with people paying high rent for rooms that sometimes have no heat, electricity, or running water. If residents are not comfortable speaking English or fearful of deportation they will not complain about housing conditions.

### **City of Newburgh Fair Housing Action Plan 2013-2016:**

#### ***Economic and Community Development***

According to 2010 Census data 24.3% of individuals are living below the poverty level. The price of a market rate one bedroom in Orange County, NY is \$971.00, well beyond the means of many residents in the City of Newburgh. In addition the unemployment rate in the City is 12.1%. The outreach campaign revealed that many respondents of the housing survey were paying well over 30% of their income on rent. There is an urgent need for quality job creation in the City. There are currently two programs in motion to address job creation:

1. The City of Newburgh has adopted a Section 3 plan to help local businesses bid on City contracts.
2. The Work Force Development Institute has partnered with the City of Newburgh to address barriers to employment for family assistance, safety net and low-income families and individuals.

***Tenant organization:*** The City of Newburgh is predominantly a renter population. Many tenants do not know their rights. There is very little free or low-cost legal aid available to tenants in landlord tenant disputes in the City of Newburgh. A tenant organization can help bring needed legal services and advice for low-income tenants. This report does not recommend that the City assume this role, as an organization with experience handling Civil Rights lawsuits can apply for Federal funding to support more advocacy work around fair housing in the City of Newburgh.

***Housing Court:*** The housing crisis in the City of Newburgh is characterized by low income homeowners struggling to keep up with the cost of maintaining their houses, bank owned properties that are not managed or maintained, and absentee landlords who leave properties vacant and let them deteriorate. Separate housing court allows a judge to focus on housing crimes, and therefore become intimate with the players and the issues that affect the housing market in the City. A housing court can make a commitment to work with community stakeholders. The City is currently pursuing the creation of a separate housing court.

***Administrative Policies that Affect the High Cost of Rehabilitation:*** The City should review and revise policies that act as impediments to rehabilitation efforts in the City by adding unnecessary cost. The City is currently evaluating the Architectural Review process. The State of New York mandates that cities have a licensing policy in place for electricians and plumbers in the City. Many complain that licensing lacks transparency and has created a closed network of electricians and plumbers that have a monopoly on the electrical and plumbing work in the City. One way to address this problem is if the County assumed the licensing functions and responsibilities. In addition the City should address resident's complaints about costs for electrical and plumbing work in the City.

### ***Zoning and Land Use***

Funding has recently been approved to pay for the following zoning code re-writes: remapping selected industrial and commercial zones as residential to encourage the development of single family housing, up-zoning selected residential areas (from R1-R3), the introduction of inclusionary zoning measures in larger development projects, and to revise zoning to support the subdivision of units that may cause economic hardship as solely single-family homes.

### ***Language Barriers***

The current Hispanic population is undercounted, as many residents are undocumented persons. According to the 2010 Census the City's population is 47.8% Hispanic. In order to stabilize the housing situation in the City of Newburgh the Spanish speaking population needs to be protected and extended the right to Fair Housing. If residents are not comfortable speaking English or fearful of deportation they will not complain about housing conditions. There is huge need for services and programs offered in Spanish, as well as English Language classes for children and adults.

### ***Housing Stock Rehabilitation***

The available statistics on the housing market in the City of Newburgh indicate that there are many available housing units throughout the City. However, many of those units are dilapidated and unsafe. Poor compliance with building codes is an epidemic in the City of Newburgh and as a result vacant and abandoned buildings dominate the landscape. The City has renewed its efforts and commitment to address distressed properties. These efforts are evidence of the City's commitment to affirmatively further fair housing. Through conversations with housing providers, residents, City staff, and other community stake holders, the state of the housing stock is the a central issue that effects the availability of fair housing. The purpose of this document is to provide an overview and analysis of fair housing activities within the City of Newburgh. The Consolidated Plan consolidates into a single document the CHAS, the community development plan, and the submission requirements for the CDBG, HOME, Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) programs. The Consolidated Plan more clearly ties the needs assessment, housing market analysis, and the strategy for addressing needs and achieving housing and community development objectives to the use of the program funds. Many of the fair housing related problems revolving around the issue of choice in low- and moderate-income housing programs are already addressed in the Consolidated Plan.

## **VI. Citizen's Comments**

The City of Newburgh published the availability for public review of the 2013 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) as of February 20, 2014. Notices were published in two (2) local newspapers, the *Hudson Valley Press* and the *Mid Hudson Times*. It was also listed on the City of Newburgh's web site. In order to provide sufficient comment time, the City's deadline for comments is March 13, 2014. Comments can be mailed to the Department of Planning & Development, Attn. CDBG Advisory Committee, 83 Broadway, Newburgh NY 12550 or [tmiller@cityofnewburgh-ny.gov](mailto:tmiller@cityofnewburgh-ny.gov)