

Horry County, South Carolina  
Fourth Program Year CAPER



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## Housing and Community Development

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*2011-2012  
Consolidated Annual Performance  
Evaluation Report (CAPER)*



**Before**



**After**

August 15, 2012 Prepared by Staff

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## Introduction

Horry County, South Carolina has completed its fourth year administering a federal award of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The use of these funds is governed by the County's Consolidated Plan (2008-2013), which details the five-year strategies to address the community's needs, and its Annual Action Plan, which outlines the activities to be undertaken over the course of one year. The Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan were developed with the help of citizen participation and were previously approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Horry County's 2011-2012 CAPER describes the activities implemented using CDBG funds and compares the County's actual accomplishments to the projected measurable goals and objectives contained in the annual plan. This CAPER constitutes the evaluation of the progress and achievements of the fourth annual plan of the five-year Consolidated Plan.

## General

### *Executive Summary*

This report reflects the activities and expenditures for Horry County's CDBG Program during the 2011-2012 program years, covering the period from July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012. In this, the fourth year of the Consolidated Plan, Horry County is reporting on developing and managing its CDBG programs. This CAPER illustrates the progress made towards one simple but very ambitious goal: to continue to create a county of growth and opportunity for all by making Horry County's neighborhoods better places to work, live, and play.

During CDBG year 4, the County continued to focus its energy on creating a suitable living environment, providing decent affordable housing, providing improved infrastructure, and providing improved public facilities benefits to the low and moderate income residents.

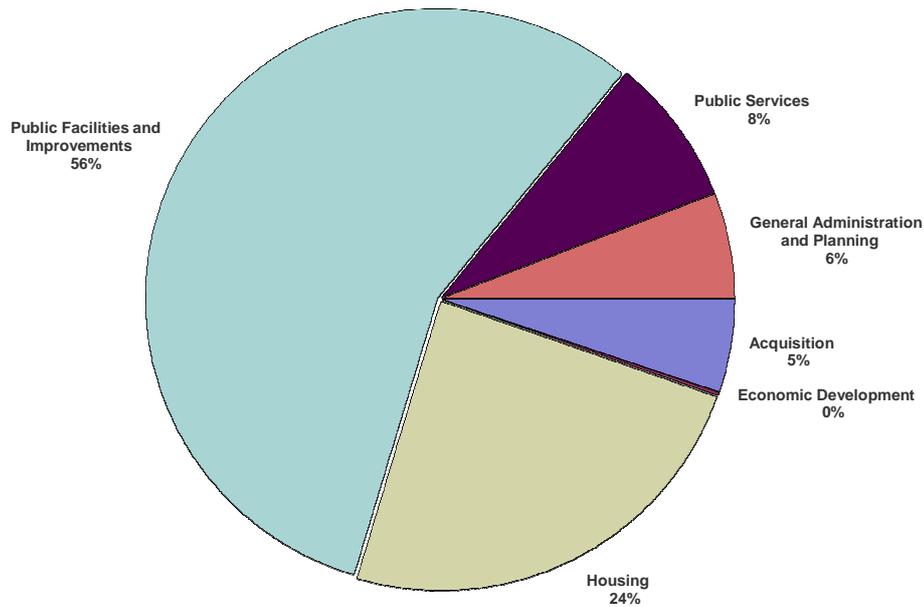
In Year 2, the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) was completed with the assistance of the Matheny-Burns Group. Several impediment issues emerged from the AI. The Community Development staff is addressing the identified resource gaps and needs and has written an action plan. Staff members made a concentrated effort on two fair housing issues in Year 4. Horry County remains committed to ensuring "the ability of persons, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, of similar income levels to have available to them the same housing choices."

An Intergovernmental Agreement between Horry County, the City of Conway, and the City of Myrtle Beach was executed on October 1, 2007 in order to maximize the amount of countywide Community Development Block Grant funding and to proportionately allocate the benefits. Horry County, Myrtle Beach, and Conway have established strong relationships among government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and for-profit businesses. This has resulted in a coordinated approach to implementing the strategies identified in the Consolidated Plan. Through these partnerships, the County has been able to leverage significant resources and to encourage and support activities for which it is not providing funding, but which do address needs identified in the area.

This report describes in detail the activities the County is undertaking and the funds expended on those activities as well as the activities being undertaken by its partners. Horry County is making progress in addressing the housing, homeless, non-homeless special needs, and other community development needs throughout the county.

Please see the page below for a performance profile of this year's accomplishments:

**Program Year 2011 Funds: \$1,403,019**



Type of Activity	Expenditure	Percentage
Acquisition	\$86,009.00	5.18%
Economic Development	\$3,134.70	0.19%
Housing	\$403,399.88	24.27%
Public Facilities and Improvements	\$934,941.09	56.26%
Public Services	\$136,820.79	8.23%
General Administration and Planning	\$97,607.50	5.87%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,661,912.96</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Timeliness**

Timeliness Ratio - unexpended funds as percent of 2011 allocation

1.17%

**Program Targeting**

1 -Percentage of Expenditures Assisting Low- and Moderate-Income Persons and Households Either Directly or On an Area Basis

100.00%

2 -Percentage of Expenditures That Benefit Low/Mod Income Areas

37.85%

**CDBG Beneficiaries by Racial/Ethnic Category**

Race	Total
White	44.41%
Black/African American	41.69%
Asian	1.92%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.00%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.00%
American Indian/Alaskan Native & White	0.00%
Asian & White	0.00%
Black/African American & White	0.32%
Amer. Indian/Alaskan Native & Black/African Amer.	0.32%
Other multi-racial	11.34%
Asian/Pacific Islander (valid until 03-31-04)	0.00%
Hispanic (valid until 03-31-04)	0.00%

**Income of CDBG Beneficiaries**

Income Level	Percentage
Extremely Low Income (<=30%)	51.76%
Low Income (30-50%)	28.43%
Moderate Income (50-80%)	19.01%
Total Low and Moderate Income (<=80%)	99.20%
Non Low and Moderate Income (>80%)	0.80%

**Program Year 2011 Accomplishments**

<b>Accomplishment</b>	<b>Number</b>
Actual Jobs Created or Retained	0
Households Receiving Housing Assistance	21
Persons Assisted Directly, Primarily By Public Services and Public Facilities	605
Persons for Whom Services and Facilities were Available	25,660
Units Rehabilitated-Single Units	21
Units Rehabilitated-Multi Unit Housing	0

***General Information***

1. *Assessment of the one-year goals and objectives:*
  - a. *Describe the accomplishments in attaining the goals and objectives for the reporting period.*
  - b. *Provide a breakdown of the CPD formula grant funds spent on grant activities for each goal and objective.*
  - c. *If applicable, explain why progress was not made towards meeting the goals and objectives.*

This report reflects the activities and expenditures for Horry County's CDBG Program during the 2011-2012 program years. It represents Horry County's Year 4 under the Consolidated Plan previously approved by HUD.

Horry County received \$1,497,837 in CDBG funds for 2008, \$1,535,494 in 2009, \$1,672,664 in 2010, and \$1,403,019 in 2011. The following table shows the allocation of funds for planned activities in the first year and the current status of each as reported in the IDIS.

Table 1. Status of projects

<b>Prgm Yr</b>	<b>Activity Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Funded Amount</b>	<b>Drawn Amount</b>
2008	Horry County Administration 2008	Completed	\$ 269,600	\$ 269,600
2008	Dewitt St.	Completed	\$ 32,000	\$ 32,000
2008	A Father's Place	Completed	\$ 22,037	\$ 22,037
2008	COAST	Completed	\$ 24,738	\$ 24,738
2008	Jail Diversion Program	Completed	\$ 170,000	\$ 170,000
2008	Bucksport Addition	Completed	\$ 326,012	\$ 326,012
2008	City of Conway Admin	Completed	\$ 9,851	\$ 9,851
2008	Public Improvements for Misc. Projects	Open	\$ 90,442	\$ 89,801
2008	Pittman St.	Completed	\$ 176,000	\$ 176,000
2008	Planning and Administration, CDBG,MB	Completed	\$ 7,577	\$ 7,577
2008	Gray Street Infrastructure	Completed	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
2008	Habitat Canal St. Subdivision	Completed	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
2008	Community Assistance Center MB	Completed	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000

2008	Women and Children's Center	Completed	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
2008	I.D. Assistance	Completed	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
2008	Rehoboth CDC Admin	Completed	\$ 1,752	\$ 1,752
2008	CASA Shelter Extension Project	Completed	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
2008	Housing Rehab - City of MB	Completed	\$ 164,747	\$ 164,747
2009	Administration expenses for Horry County	Completed	\$ 270,766	\$ 270,766
2009	City of Conway Mill Pond Rd Rec Center	Completed	\$ 231,484	\$ 231,484
2009	Pine Island Road	Completed	\$ 71,000	\$ 71,000
2009	Building Facade Improvement Program	Cancelled	\$ 10,000	\$ -
2009	Canal Nance Recreational Improvements	Completed	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
2009	Rehab (MB)	Open	\$ 151,000	\$ 150,000
2009	Center for Women & Children	Completed	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
2009	CASA Shelter repairs	Completed	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000
2009	I.D. Program	Completed	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
2009	Micro-Business Development Project	Completed	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
2009	Ten Year Homelessness Plan	Completed	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
2009	Land Trust Lease	Completed	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
2009	Comm Assistance Center	Completed	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
2009	Admin for the City of Myrtle Beach	Completed	\$ 32,299	\$ 32,299
2009	Old Railroad repaving	Completed	\$ 68,859	\$ 68,859
2009	Waccamaw EOC Green Sea area	Completed	\$ 48,700	\$ 48,700
2009	Waccamaw EOC Longs	Completed	\$ 28,295	\$ 28,295
2009	After School Program Parks & Recreation	Completed	\$ 93,397	\$ 93,397
2009	A Fathers Place	Completed	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000
2009	Coast Regional Transit Authority	Completed	\$ 80,253	\$ 80,253
2009	Capacity Building efforts	Completed	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
2009	Fair Housing Project #35	Completed	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600
2009	Aynor Library Addition	Completed	\$ 283,000	\$ 283,000
2009	Green Sea Environmental Review	Completed	\$ 4,800	\$ 4,800
2010	Habitat Hope's Crossing Infrastructure	Open	\$ 182,649	\$ 113,138
2010	A Father's Place	Completed	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
2010	Children's Recovery Center	Completed	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
2010	Waccamaw COG - Fair Housing Initiative	Completed	\$ 22,500	\$ 22,500
2010	Finklea Alumni Community Center	Completed	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000
2010	Grand Strand housing - Rehab	Completed	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
2010	Housing Authority of MB - Halyard Bend	Completed	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
2010	Horry County Administration 2010	Completed	\$ 298,900	\$ 298,900
2010	Jail Diversion Program	Completed	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
2010	Little River Water & Sewer - Frank Gore Rd. sewer ext	Completed	\$ 90,000	\$ 82,466
2010	Parks & Rec After School	Completed	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000
2010	Rape Crisis Center	Completed	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
2010	Housing Authority of MB - Veteran's Rental Asst.	Completed	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000
2010	City of Conway - Infrastructure Projects	Open	\$ 252,164	\$ 127,400

2010	Women & Children's Center (MB)	Completed	\$ 26,000	\$ 26,000
2010	Boys & Girls Club (MB)	Completed	\$ 31,000	\$ 31,000
2010	Community Assistance Center MB	Open	\$ 19,400	\$ 15,682
2010	Canal Nance Recreational Improvements	Open	\$ 50,000	\$ 37,083
2010	Helping Hand - ID Asst. / Transportation (MB)	Completed	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
2010	Housing Rehab - City of MB	Open	\$ 141,282	\$ 138,782
2010	MJW Apartments	Open	\$ 128,718	\$ 45,718
2011	A Father's Place	Open	\$ 20,000	\$ -
2011	Children's Recovery Center	Completed	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
2011	A Father's Place/Section 3 residents	Open	\$ 38,000	\$ 38,000
2011	Horry County Veteran's Admin.	Completed	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
2011	Horry County Sheriff	Completed	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000
2011	Grand Strand Housing	Open	\$ 140,000	\$ 112,143
2011	Impact Ministries	Open	\$ 20,000	\$ 2,280
2011	His Hands of Horry County	Open	\$ 18,000	\$ -
2011	Habitat for Humanity	Open	\$ 168,000	\$ 102,727
2011	Horry County Engineers	Completed	\$ 130,000	\$ -
2011	Horry County Administration 2011	Open	\$ 257,770	\$ 126,243
2011	Myrtle Beach/Demolition	Open	\$ 15,000	\$ -
2011	City of MB Housing Rehab Program	Open	\$ 143,000	\$ 85,027
2011	City of MB Housing Rehab administration	Open	\$ 3,500	\$ 1,100
2011	Center for Women & Children Mortgage Pmt	Completed	\$ 30,309	\$ 30,309
2011	Grey Street Infrastructure & Land Acquisition	Open	\$ 72,740	\$ 58,225
2011	Bathsheba-Bowens Park Improvements	Open	\$ 5,000	\$ -
2011	Jail Diversion Program	Completed	\$ 16,500	\$ 16,500
2011	MJW Homeless Assist.	Open	\$ 37,500	\$ 37,500
2011	Helping Hands of Myrtle Beach	Open	\$ 11,500	\$ 8,705
2011	Admin for the City of Myrtle Beach	Open	\$ 4,691	\$ 2,542
2011	Misc. Infrastructure Projects City of Conway	Open	\$ 210,000	\$ 7,783
2011	Admin for the City of Conway	Open	\$ 1,509	\$ 409
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Open</b>	<b>\$ 6,109,027</b>	<b>\$ 5,007,305</b>

Table 2 shows the funds drawn for the activities listed in the 2011 Action Plan for each of the goals and objectives established in Horry County's Consolidated Plan.

Table 2. Activity Funds Drawn by Objective and Goal

	2008-2013 Goals	Goals Met in 2008	Goals Met in 2009	Goals Met in 2010	Goals Met in 2011	Total Met	% of Goal Attained	Amount Drawn
Availability/Accessibility of Decent Housing (DH-1)								
Owner-Occupied Housing Rehab & Emergency Repair		0	8	13	21	42		\$ 345,382

MJW Apts. (homeless permanent supportive housing)		0	0	0	11	11		\$ 44,718
Affordable Housing Rehab - Rental (Halyard Bend)		0	0	47	0	47		\$ 50,000
Total Households assisted	25	0	8	60	20	<b>100</b>	<b>400%</b>	
Sustainability of Suitable Living Environment by providing Public Services (SL-3.1)								
Jail Diversion		0	202	314	64	580		\$ 286,500
Parks & Recreation After-school Program		0	600	149	0	749		\$ 128,397
COAST RTA (Public Transportation)		18	1414	0	0	1432		\$ 104,991
Veteran's Rental Deposit Assistance (MBHA)		0	0	41	0	41		\$ 35,000
Rape Crisis		0	0	72	0	72		\$ 15,000
Children's Recovery Center		0	0	100	66	166		\$ 25,000
Helping Hand Low-Income/Homeless Project (MB)		0	0	3619	14,019	17,638		\$ 32,500
Veteran's Administration		0	0	0	200	200		\$ 10,000
Total public service recipients	1500	18	2216	4295	6529	<b>20,878</b>	<b>1392%</b>	
Sustainability of Suitable Living Environment by providing new or improved public facilities (SL-3.2)								
Community Assistance Center		75	0	585	0	660		\$ 36,935
CASA Shelter Repairs & Expansion		10	0	0	0	10		\$ 9,650
Women & Children's Center		8	4	8	0	20		\$ 66,000
Aynor Library Addition		0	0	0	597	597		\$ 283,000
Bucksport Community Center Addition		0	500	0	0	500		\$ 348,092
Head Start Building Improvements (Longs)		0	1834	0	0	1834		\$ 28,295
Head Start Building Improvements (Green Sea)		0	1370	0	0	1370		\$ 48,700
Misc Public Facilities (Loris Fire Station)		0	0	0	7,053	7,053		\$ 69,801
Misc. Public Facilities (Green Sea Park, etc.)		0	0	300	0	300		\$ 20,000
Finklea Alumni Community Center		0	0	650	0	650		\$ 16,000
Total number persons assisted	5800	93	3708	1543	7650	<b>13,994</b>	<b>241%</b>	
Sustainability of Suitable Living Environment by providing public infrastructure, such as streets, sewer, storm drainage (SL-3.3)								
Old Railroad Road		0	1000	0	0	1000		\$ 68,859
Pine Island Road		0	1132	0	0	1132		\$ 71,000
Pittman Street		2018	0	0	0	2018		\$ 176,000
DeWitt Street		3309	0	0	0	3309		\$ 32,000
Grey Street Infrastructure		0	0	0	0	0		\$ 55,700
Shoebuckle Road		0	0	0	2,604	2,604		\$ 0
Darden Terrace		0	0	0	1,343	1,343		\$ 57,450
Sugar Hill		0	0	0	2,116	2,116		\$ 34,019
Habitat Canal Street Infrastructure		0	15	0	0	15		\$ 73,228
Total households assisted	625	3309	2147	0	6063	<b>13,537</b>	<b>2166%</b>	
Availability / Accessibility of Economic Opportunity (EO-1.1)								
A Father's Place (employment training Section 3 residents)		0	0	0	3	3		\$ 16,000
Homeless I.D. Program (Help homeless get jobs)		111	250	92	150	603		\$ 22,205
A Father's Place (Employment Training)		36	87	84	85	292		\$ 100,000
Total persons assisted	350	147	87	177	1386	<b>898</b>	<b>172%</b>	

As indicated in the prior table by the bolded percentages, Horry County has already exceeded all of the unit performance numbers.

One of the major accomplishments this year is the completion of the addition to the Aynor Library (\$283,000). The addition consisted of the children's reading and community meeting space of approximately 1,200 square feet. There is \$198,000 leverage in Horry County bond funds making the total project cost of approximately \$500,000.



**Aynor Library Children's Reading Room**

The Jail Diversion project (\$40,000), which provides counseling and treatment services to offenders to reduce recidivism rates in hopes of creating a safer living environment, has continued to build the program to serve both males and females. Of the 64 offenders tracked through the full three phases of the program, 58% were African American, 40% were white and 1-2% was of Hispanic descent. All were either very low income or homeless. All had prior criminal history upon entry. The Year 4 grant is fully expended and it is slated to receive Year 5 funding in the amount of \$60,000.

Little River Water and Sewer project (\$77,000) expanded the existing sewer service to LMI residents in the Brooksville community. The Brooksville community is a community of old tobacco farms. This project helped bring running water and flushing toilets to 16 households.

In addition to the above-mentioned projects, the Horry County Community Development Office has set goals regarding homelessness and fair housing outreach and education. The accomplishments are as follows:



**Little River Water & Sewer Project**

- Fair Housing – Fair Housing outreach and education activities help to provide educational materials geared to recognizing and preventing unlawful housing discrimination. The Fair Housing DVD that was purchased in Year 2 for the Myrtle Beach Housing Authority is played on the Housing Authority's lobby television for all visitors to see.



Hundreds of people are reached on a daily basis while the information keeps repeating in their lobby. This year, the Community Development Office and the Affordable Workforce Housing Commission is planning an Affordable Housing Conference to include fair housing issues, budget counseling, first-time homebuyers' information, and foreclosure counseling information. On April 3, 2012, the Community Development Office, Coastal Carolinas Association of Realtors, and the Affordable Housing Committee held the first 2012 Fair and Affordable Housing Expo. Over 50 participants attended, including realtors and residents of Horry County. In addition, the Community Development Office paired with Myrtle Beach Housing Authority and sponsored two low-income landlords to complete a Nan McKay fair housing course. Finally, a collaborative effort was formed with the Coastal Carolina Association of Realtors to provide educational training to brokers and property managers regarding the everyday ways that real estate professionals must deal with situations to prevent violating the Fair Housing Act. One is given each month by the Horry County Grants Coordinator. Feedback from these events has been very positive and surveys have indicated improved participant knowledge about the topic of Fair Housing as a result of the training.

- 10-Year Homelessness Plan – The Waccamaw Community Foundation, City of Myrtle Beach, City of Conway, Horry County, Home Alliance Inc., and other non-profits have funded and worked with the Matheny-Burns Group to create a long term plan to reduce and/or end homelessness in Horry County. A final version of the Plan is now completed and several seminars were held throughout the County to get support for the Plan. A committee called the Horry County Homelessness Collaborative (HCHC) was formed. The Chairman of the Committee, Horry County's Community Development Director, holds bi-monthly meetings with the funding agencies. Every other month the funding users are invited to participate along with the funding agencies. Communication between funders and users will help to build relationships between municipalities, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and foundations. The thought behind this is that funding can go further if the municipalities and foundations can collaborate and work together to fund homelessness projects. In CDBG Year 5 applicants who applied for funding on homelessness issues marked on their application which strategy under the plan they are trying to accomplish. Recently, the Plan has gone for review to the Affordable Housing Committee. Recommendations will be given to Horry County Council for adoption in late fall, 2012.
- Children's Recovery Center expanded their services, which included forensic interviews, medical examinations and advocacy for children suspected of having suffered sexual abuse, in a manner that minimizes re-victimization throughout the process. Many of the children are homeless, are in low-income families, and/or referred by Social Services or law enforcement agencies. CDBG staff toured the facility in May 2012 for monitoring purposes and to see the progress being made in the program.

- Shoebuckle Road – This resurfacing project, located in an LMI area, was completed as of June 29, 2012. Punch list items were completed in July 2012. The total population in the service area is 2,604 and this project is benefiting that population.



Shoebuckle Road project

- Aynor Library Addition – The addition of a reading room and community meeting space will assist underserved children and their family members. The total CDBG funds allocated for this project are \$283,000.00. In addition to the CDBG funding, there is \$198,000 in leveraged bond funding, for a total of almost \$500,000 toward this project. The project is complete and had a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 7, 2012.
- Mill Pond Road – All of the funds (\$231,484) for this activity have been expended and the project is 100% complete. This project replaced existing vehicle parking and associated driveways at the Conway Recreation Center and provides a better accessibility for individuals with physical disabilities that affect mobility.
- Veteran's Administration – The Horry County Veteran's Administration project (\$10,000) for expanded services for veteran's has been a success. Over 200 veterans were processed in addition to their regular caseloads with the CDBG funds received.



Veterans Administration

- Located inside a low-to-moderate income (LMI) area, the Conway citizens living at Darden Terrace are in need of a safe walking route to get to the commercial establishments along Main Street (US Highway 501) and Church Street (US 701). Darden Terrace is a Conway Housing Authority community located along Oak Street and Boundary Street. The scope of the CDBG Project includes approximately 865 linear feet of a five feet wide sidewalk along Oak Street from Duckett Street to Mill Pond Road. This project also includes drainage improvements and ADA intersection ramps. Construction of this project was completed in the spring of 2012. The total cost was \$60,000. As a result, the people living in Darden Terrace are able to safely walk along Oak Street to Mill Pond Road, which has an existing sidewalk network that connects to both Main Street and Church Street in Conway.

Other projects from the four years' Action Plans are delayed due to conditions or are in the planning, the environmental review, or other appropriate stages of predevelopment even though there was not necessarily a drawdown of funds. The following provides a summary of the status of these projects:

- Grey Street Infrastructure – This project (\$75,000) has met many obstacles. After having to change the plans because land rights for an abandoned railroad were unobtainable to complete the project, the revised project identified potential wetlands in an alternate project area. An Environmental Review update was completed for the modified plan, engineering, and acquisition of a portion of the needed roadway has been accomplished. Restrictive covenants were designed to prevent the encroachment into any of the wetland areas. The project continues to be underway with additional engineering and property acquisition needed to complete the infrastructure’s pre-construction phase. One property has been acquired and there is an option on the second property. To date, the project is expected to expend all remaining funds by December of 2012. Additional construction funding in CDBG Year 5 will see the project through to completion. Staff will be seeking HOME funds and other funds to construct up to four affordable housing units.
- The MJW Homeless Assistance/Mitigation consists of a one-time grant (\$37,500) for furnishings so that low-income homeless clients will have access to a suitable furnished long-term housing option. The 11 affordable transitional housing units will be completed late in 2012 and furnishings will be purchased at that time. The majority of the MJW project is funded with NSP funds.
- A Father’s Place – Section 3 residents – Some of the challenges of working with Section 3 residents are that they need immediate employment, failure to complete soft-skills training, they are reluctant to cross-train, and they have unsatisfactory education and/or opinion of education. There are several challenges A Father’s Place has faced in attempting to get the section 3 clients to pursue hard-skills training. One of the criteria put in place was that in order to qualify for the hard-skills training a participant must complete the week-long employment “soft skills” boot camp. Getting the participants to complete the first portion of training to refer them to the second portion has been a challenge. Many of them simply fail to complete the job boot camp or are hired during the course of the boot camp and begin working. Secondly, those that do complete and are qualified for the hard skills training are either not interested in further training/education or are heavily focused on getting immediate employment because of child support issues, being behind in their personal bills, etc. Though they see the benefit of advanced training and education, it has proven challenging to get them to commit to engaging in the trainings. Many of them are focused on short term (immediate) success. A third challenge is that many of them have worked in a particular industry, primarily hospitality and foodservice, for the majority of their working years and are reluctant to pursue training in different areas. A fourth



MJW Apts.

challenge is that many of them did not receive a satisfactory secondary education and need remediation and/or have an unsatisfactory opinion of educational settings. Therefore, they withdraw from more formalized education such as the available hard skills training. The Community Development staff continues to work with A Father's Place to work through these challenges and meet the goal of having trained Section 3 residents that pursue attaining a job in their chosen field.

- Impact Ministries is a faith-based group that will match volunteer labor teams and provide repairs for very-low income to low-income owner-occupants. A total of two volunteer teams came to perform necessary repairs and/or limited rehab on housing units. One team worked on units in June and the second team in July, 2012. CDBG funds supplied construction materials for each project. This repair program was slow to start but expects all funds (\$20,000) to be expended by fall of 2013.
- The City of Myrtle Beach has acquired and is improving an old neighborhood park in the heart of the City's Harlem- Carrie Mae Johnson neighborhood. The park is an adjunct children/family outdoor facility to the City's Canal Street Recreational Center. CDBG funds (\$91,862.17) have been used to purchase playground equipment, construct a picnic shelter, build parking spaces and walkways, fencing, lighting and signage. The project is nearly complete and will serve the very low income neighborhood as a family and children-oriented community facility. The Cultural Arts Advisory Committee, in conjunction with neighborhood children/families, created an art project in the park with hand-painted ceramic tiles on a low wall and names and handprints in the sidewalk.



2. *Describe the manner in which the recipient would change its program as a result of its experiences.*

No changes in the program are currently anticipated.

3. *Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing:*

- a. *Provide a summary of impediments to fair housing choice.*
- b. *Identify actions taken to overcome effects of impediments identified.*

### **Horry County Activities**

Horry County remains committed to ensuring “the ability of persons, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, of similar income levels to have available to them the same housing choices.” As such, the County wrote an Action Plan to address the six impediment issues. The action strategies follow.

**Issue 1:** There are indications that discrimination on the basis of conditions such as race, a disability, economic status, national origin, and language barriers is a factor in obtaining affordable rental housing in Horry County.

#### **Action Strategies:**

- Include issues related to fair housing choice for discussion and deliberation by the Horry County Affordable/Workforce Housing Commission.
- Continue to provide information (in English and in Spanish) related to fair housing laws and contact information for fair housing complaints on the Horry County, Conway and Myrtle Beach access channels.
- Collect information on fair housing issues and potential violations in conjunction with neighborhood community meetings and public hearings.
- Continue referral of housing discrimination complaints received directly to the Horry County Community Development Office, through the Myrtle Beach Fair Housing Hotline. The Myrtle Beach Human Rights Commission monitors complaints from the Housing Hotline and forwards the complaints to the S.C. Human Affairs Commission.
- Work closely with the Cities of Conway, Myrtle Beach, and the WRCOG Fair Housing Program to support fair housing activities that coordinate and disseminate fair housing awareness information, including programs to the public, neighborhood groups, realtors, non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, and other related groups throughout Horry County.
- Continue promotion of the Horry County Community Development and WRCOG Fair Housing websites and the development and distribution of additional media and materials.
- Seek partnerships with municipalities, WRCOG, K-12 schools, higher education, libraries, financial institutions and other related organizations to educate renters, including teens and young adults, on renter rights and responsibilities as well as financial management strategies to enable them to move toward self-sufficiency.
- Seek opportunities to coordinate awareness and disseminate information about fair housing issues and awareness through community activities such as health fairs, housing meetings, and other outreach activities.

- Expand participation in fair housing awareness promotion efforts such as *Fair Housing Month* to increase awareness and support for fair housing initiatives among the general public, local officials, financial institutions and the private sector.

**Issue 2:** Minority and low income residents are experiencing a greater number of denials for home purchase loans.

**Action Strategies:**

- Continue to support local groups such as Habitat for Humanity that work to provide affordable homes and seek viable financing options for potential LMI homebuyers.
- Continue to develop and disseminate fair housing awareness materials and programs to local realtors, the Coastal Carolinas Association of Realtors, Horry-Georgetown Home Builders Association, and residential developers.
- Explore funding sources and seek partnerships for the development of a down payment assistance program for County residents.
- Work with community partners (including local faith-based organizations, adult education providers, higher education institutions, Head Start programs, high schools and other forums) to seek additional avenues to build education, counseling, and awareness on issues including consumer credit and financial management among minority and low income residents.
- Work with the community to educate potential LMI homebuyers on the importance of credit history, debt-to-income ratio and collateral in future home buying endeavors.
- Support local and State efforts to educate the public on the perils of predatory lending and on how to read and understand contracts, including addressing language barriers by working with Hispanic serving organizations to promote greater understanding of financial tools, options, legal rights, and risks.

**Issue 3:** The supply of affordable housing in Horry County, for purchase and for rent, is inadequate to meet current and future demands.

**Action Strategies:**

- Continue to participate in the monthly meetings and support the work of the Horry County Affordable/Workforce Housing Commission.
- Explore funding mechanisms for a down payment assistance program for LMI homebuyers.
- Develop partnerships that would increase the availability of safe, decent affordable housing to include housing rehabilitation and upgrades to accommodate the needs of disabled residents.
- Identify ways to reduce land costs for the development of affordable housing.
- Educate local developers and builders on funding assistance programs available for the development of affordable housing.

- Explore ways to assist multiple owners of inherited property in navigating and possibly expediting the process of obtaining clear titles to the property. Clear titles are required in order to obtain a mortgage for home construction, purchase a manufactured home, and to refinance.
- Continue to support the Waccamaw HOME Consortium and other community-based organizations in their efforts to provide funding for loans, down payments and other financial assistance for the purchase or rehabilitation of homes for low and moderate income households for both rental and homeownership.
- Work to identify and pursue potential funding sources and leverage partnerships to support affordable housing objectives to include governmental and non-traditional funding sources.
- Explore possible incentives for the private development of affordable housing units, to include fee reductions and zoning incentives.
- Support the HOME Consortium's funding of designated Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) for eligible housing related activities.
- Support local housing authorities in the continuation of LMI programs and projects aimed at increasing the amount and quality of affordable housing resources within the County and in their efforts to secure additional funding for housing assistance for County residents.
- Support local non-profit housing organizations in their efforts to improve and expand affordable housing options in Horry County.
- Promote diversity (economic, geographic, and cultural) in the appointment of local boards and commissions that deal with land use regulation, permitting and enforcement.
- Support efforts by Horry County, municipalities and independent fire districts to upgrade and expand fire protection services that lower ISO ratings and lower insurance costs for County property owners.
- Support federal, state and local efforts to explore initiatives that can alleviate escalating insurance costs in coastal areas that threaten housing affordability (such as the Grand Strand Coastal Alliance).
- Actively support the efforts of area non-profits and service providers that work to provide supportive services for LMI residents and particularly for special populations.
- Periodically review regulations, procedures and policies to identify potential barriers for developers of affordable housing and encourage zoning, regulations, and community development proposals that promote fair and equal housing opportunities.
- Continue to actively support the efforts of ECHO, the Continuum of Care entity, and other area organizations that plan for and provide housing and supportive services for the homeless and those at risk of homelessness.
- Continue to integrate affordable housing concepts into the local government consolidated plan and comprehensive planning process.

- Identify and promote the use of potential tax credits at the state and federal levels to assist developers with making affordable housing an option.

**Issue 4:** The lack of public transportation remains a significant barrier for low and moderate income residents and special populations.

**Action Strategies:**

- Support efforts to improve and expand the capacity and reliability of the public transit system in Horry County.
- Encourage the continued efforts of Coast RTA to keep public transportation rates affordable for LMI residents.
- Seek opportunities to participate in transit planning activities at the County and regional levels to promote the jobs/housing/transportation linkage.
- Encourage support of alternative modes of travel to include well-designed systems of walkways and trails within proximity of affordable housing that provide residents with safe, inexpensive transportation alternatives to access jobs, education and services.
- Continue to integrate affordable housing concepts within the transportation, housing, economic development and community facilities elements of the Comprehensive Plans.

**Issue 5:** The prevalence of tourism and service sector jobs in Horry County reduces unemployment, but masks the precarious economic standing, lack of job security, and low wages of many of the County's residents.

**Action Strategies:**

- Continue to support efforts by Horry-Georgetown Technical College and the Horry County School District to increase access to advanced training and education opportunities for residents, particularly in high-demand, higher wage occupations such as health care, construction, and education.
- Continue to support the work of organizations involved in jobs creation in recruiting higher-tech, higher-wage employers and diversify the economic base of Horry County.
- Work with elected officials, community partners and economic developers to promote the perception and recognition of affordable housing as an economic development issue.
- Work with institutions of higher education and community partners to promote entrepreneurial awareness and education among local residents.
- Promote workforce development efforts, including Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs aimed at strengthening the skill levels and employability of lower income individuals, the unemployed, and the underemployed.

**Issue 6:** The attainment of access to fair housing and suitable living environments for all Horry County residents will require the planning and implementation of housing opportunities across traditional jurisdictional boundaries.

**Action Strategies:**

- Provide a suitable living environment for residents by conducting, participating in, and encouraging efforts including Horry County Community Development and HOME Consortium consolidated plans and annual action plans, County and local land use planning, regional transportation planning, planning and review of public utilities including water and sewer, public transportation planning, planning for parks and recreational facilities, and cleanup of environmental hazards.
- Continue to utilize CDBG funding and seek additional resources to improve availability and accessibility of residents to adequate public facilities, services, infrastructure and other critical community needs.
- Encourage and support efforts by municipalities and service providers in the provision of suitable living environments through new or improved availability and accessibility to public facilities, services, infrastructure, and other critical community needs for LMI residents.
- Promote the provision of a suitable living environment through new or improved services that promote sustainability in neighborhoods or communities by supporting efforts and initiatives aimed at balancing economic opportunities with access to housing and community facilities.
- Explore programs and funding sources for the elimination of blighted areas and conditions in LMI areas and the provision of adequate infrastructure.
- Coordinate with municipalities within Horry County to collaboratively address the need for fair housing access and suitable living environments and facilitate cross-jurisdictional efforts.

Horry County has worked diligently to expand its Fair Housing efforts and address impediments identified in the Horry County Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing (AI) which was completed in December of 2009. In doing so, the Horry County Community Development office opted to focus on Issue #1 (identified above) for Year 4 of CDBG funding, which is the 2010-2011 program year.

*Issue #1: There are indications that discrimination on the basis of conditions such as disability, economic status, national origin, and language barriers is a factor in obtaining affordable rental housing.*

The County hired a Grants Coordinator, who is acting as the County Fair Housing Administrator. Activities undertaken within the past year include:

- The Community Development office and the County Affordable Workforce Housing Commission is planning an Affordable Housing Conference to include fair housing

- issues, budget counseling, first time homebuyers information, and foreclosure counseling information. The conference is expected to be held in early 2013.
- The Grants Coordinator teaches Fair Housing Courses each month to the Realtors Association. To date, the courses were given in 2012 on January 25, February 29, March 28, April 25, and May 30, 2012. The classes are a great success and the realtors are asking for more information.
  - On April 3, 2012 the Community Development Office, Coastal Carolinas Association of Realtors, and the Affordable Housing Committee held the first 2012 Fair and Affordable Housing Expo. Over 50 participants attended, including realtors and residents of Horry County. Staff was present as well as the County's Planning Staff, who are charged with writing the housing element of the Comprehensive Plan.
  - In March, 2012, the Community Development Office partnered with Myrtle Beach Housing Authority and sponsored 2 low-income landlords to complete a Nan McKay fair housing course.
  - The County contracted with the Waccamaw COG (Year 3) to provide outreach directly to minorities by identifying minority-owned businesses such as barber shops, beauty salons and restaurants located in areas highly concentrated with African-American residents' and providing these businesses with educational information packets to distribute to their clientele. Six partnerships were established and 150 information packets were provided to each of those.
  - Both the County and the Waccamaw COG provide assistance with filing fair housing complaints to callers who believe they have experienced discrimination. The County has contracted with the COG to provide services for both English and Spanish speaking individuals.
  - The County has partnered with the Veteran's Affairs office to offer Fair Housing materials to disabled veterans who come to their office for other services.

For Year 5, 2011-2012, the Community Development Office will continue to implement the kinds of activities that it undertook in Year 4. Additionally, the Fair Housing Program focus will expand to include Issue #5.

*Issue #5: The prevalence of tourism and service sector jobs in Horry County reduces unemployment, but masks the precarious economic standing, lack of job security, and low wages of many of the County's residents.*

In the 2011-2012 program year Horry County funded \$58,000 for employment development programs at A Father's Place, a local non-profit entity whose primary clientele is African-American men. The programs assist Section 3 eligible individuals with developing the skills they need to obtain employment as well as furthering their skill in a trade through technical education that will be provided through a partnership with Horry-Georgetown Technical College.

Recognizing the need for economic development within the community, the Horry County Council is proposing \$1.8 million in economic development funds for the FYE 2012 budget. The goal of these non-federal funds will be to attract and secure needed jobs for Horry County residents. The plan for these funds includes the creation of 1000 jobs over the next 5 years.

There is several economic development grants either funded or in the pipeline for funding which will create many jobs at an average hourly rate of approximately \$15.00.

Additionally, the Horry County Community Development Director is serving as the Horry County Homelessness Collaborative Chairperson and is working together with area municipal and philanthropic leaders to address the community's affordable and fair housing needs on a widespread and collaborative basis.

*4. Describe Other Actions in Strategic Plan or Action Plan taken to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs.*

Horry County has identified underserved populations in its consolidated plan as rural residents, single-parents, the elderly, minorities, the disabled, and the homeless. The primary needs associated with these groups include the following:

- Seniors spending 50 percent or more of income on housing;
- Lack of adequate transportation (which creates barriers to needed services for seniors and rural residents);
- Problems enforcing laws and ordinances created to protect special needs populations,
- Inadequate financial literacy;
- Lack of affordable insurance;
- Increasing cost of housing (including rising values, increasing taxes, and gentrification);
- Shortage of reputable banks willing to lend to low-income families and individuals; and
- Insufficient income.

The major obstacle to meeting underserved needs remains a lack of funding to adequately address all of the needs. The County has, however, included activities in its first, second, and third, and fourth year action plans, of which several are underway. These include the following:

- Providing job training and employment development (underway);
- Building a library addition (completed);
- Repairing Head Start centers (completed);
- Providing affordable after-school programs (completed);
- Providing an emergency repair housing program (underway);
- Providing infrastructure so that affordable housing units (Habitat for Humanity) (23 units) can be built (underway);

- Providing rental assistance to disabled veterans (underway);
- Providing transportation to medical appointments for the elderly, disabled, and low-income (completed); and
- Assisting homeless persons by acquiring personal identification needed to obtain employment and access resources (underway).
- Providing job training for Section 3 residents (underway)

5. *Leveraging Resources*

- a. *Identify progress in obtaining “other” public and private resources to address needs.*
- b. *How Federal resources from HUD leveraged other public and private resources.*
- c. *How matching requirements were satisfied.*

Horry County works with many community partners to implement the strategies described in the Consolidated Plan. By continuing to strengthen existing partnerships with housing, community development, and social service providers, the County maintains the ability to gain new insight into problem solving, build upon successful efforts, and leverage scarce resources.

In CDBG Year 4, \$3,762,139 of leveraged funds were attached to the 2011-2012 award. In CDBG Year 5, a total of \$17,544,489 of leveraged funds is attached to the 2012-2013 annual action plan projects. The leveraged funds are as follows: SOS Health Care Inc. (\$17,620 in private funds); The Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club of Conway (\$164,639 in local funds and \$5,000 in state funds); Sea Haven Inc. (\$28,450 in local funds and \$105,100 in federal funds); Little River Medical Center, Inc. (\$23,987 in Private funds); A Father’s Place (\$274,101 in federal funds and \$42,000 in local funds); Children’s Recovery Center (\$18,750 in private funds, \$31,825 in state funds and \$175,584 in federal funds); Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach (\$345,600 in federal funds); His Hands of Horry County (\$5,000 in federal funds); Grand Strand Housing (\$8,413,543 in local/private funds, \$620,000 in federal funds and \$40,000 in state Funds); Habitat for Humanity (\$1,933 in private funds); Horry County Sheriff Department (\$52,600 in local funds and \$496,833 in in-kind funds); Waccamaw EOC (\$6,496,924, in federal funds); Horry County Fire Rescue (\$100,000 in local funds); Street Reach Ministries of Myrtle Beach (\$20,000 in local funds); and, Housing Rehabilitation Myrtle Beach (\$60,000 local match).

In addition, Horry County has received CDBG-Recovery funds as well as Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) stimulus funds. The breakdown of the CDBG-R funds follows.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM – CDBG-R FUNDING

Project Description	Horry County	City of MB	City of Conway	Amount	Priority Needs
Pine Island Rd., Myrtle Beach – Resurfacing & drainage	\$128,205	\$117,595	\$0	\$245,800	PN6, SL1.1
Green Sea Floyds Park - sidewalk & energy efficient restrooms	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	PN6, SL1.1, 1.3

West Cox Ferry Rd. - Paving	\$63,842	\$0	\$0	\$63,842	PN6
Mill Pond Rd., Conway - Sidewalks	\$0	\$0	\$72,148	\$72,148	PN6, SL1.1, 1.3
TOTALS	\$217,047	\$ 117,595	\$ 72,148	\$406,790	

A total of \$406,790 has been drawn down and Horry County is 100% complete as of December 31, 2010 with all of the CDBG-R projects.

Pine Island Road had leveraged funds from the City of Myrtle Beach CDBG funds and State CTC funds as stated above. The total cost of the project was \$736,385. The infrastructure project included drainage improvements, sidewalks, and road resurfacing. Because the area is close to the mall, area residents will now be able to walk safely to where they work and shop.



The West Cox Ferry Road project was complete as of June 29, 2010. The resurfacing project had leveraged funds in the amount of \$141,113 from Horry County.

The Mill Pond Road sidewalk project is 100% complete and drawn down. The improvements include new sidewalks and handicap accessible sidewalk cuts. The LMI area is close to the Mill Pond Road Recreation Center, which includes a Senior Center, baseball fields and other recreation activities.



The last project completed was the new sidewalk project in the Green Sea Floyds Park. The new sidewalk project included new handicap parking spaces and a new sidewalk to the baseball field so that LMI residents could walk safely in the park.



A total of 12.38 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs were created using the CDBG-R funds. The CDBG-R project was officially closed in May 2012.

Horry County also received \$622,075 in HPRP funds. In the County's APR report as of 6/30/2012, 804 people were served under this program. There were 688 served under the homeless prevention category and 116 served under the homeless assistance category. All funds have been expended and drawn by June 30, 2012. The HPRP Grant is in the process of formally closing with the paperwork being completed.

### ***Managing the Process***

1. *Describe actions taken during the last year to ensure compliance with program and comprehensive planning requirements.*

Intergovernmental Cooperation: An Intergovernmental Agreement between Horry County, the City of Conway, and the City of Myrtle Beach was executed on October 1, 2007, in order to maximize the amount of countywide Community Development Block Grant funding and to proportionately allocate the benefits. Under this agreement, Horry County's percentage of allocation is 60%, Myrtle Beach's percentage of allocation is 25%, and the city of Conway's allocation is 15%. Both Myrtle Beach and Conway are considered Subrecipients of the Horry County Entitlement Grant. In all cases, 100% of the CDBG funds go toward low to moderate-low income areas and/or persons.

To ensure compliance with program and comprehensive planning requirements, the CDBG office coordinates with various Horry County offices including planning, engineering, construction management, finance, public safety, and public works. These collaborations aid in avoiding duplication of efforts and enhancing the timing of County projects.

The Community Development Specialist and/or Grants Coordinator is responsible for monitoring compliance of the Davis Bacon wage rates, Section 3 participation, Fair Housing issues and other federal, state, and local regulations.

For projects administered by Subrecipients, Horry County Community Development Office staff went to each agency to monitor, review records, and document compliance. Monitoring letters were sent out in May 2012 to 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 Subrecipients that were selected for monitoring visits. In the months of May, staff went to each agency to review the files and give technical assistance to each Subrecipient. Staff followed guidance from the HUD Handbook and documented their efforts. A follow-up letter was sent, along with a copy of the report providing technical assistance to the Subrecipients.

The successful implementation of the CDBG program requires ongoing coordination among all entities involved in the housing and community development activities affecting Horry County as well as outreach and inclusion of neighborhood associations and supportive service providers. Specific steps the County has taken so far to enhance coordination include: entering into intergovernmental agreements with the cities of Conway and Myrtle Beach related to CDBG program administration; joining the Waccamaw HOME Consortium; and having the

Community Development Director serve as a staff liaison to assist the County’s Affordable Housing Commission.

**Citizen Participation**

1. Provide a summary of citizen comments.

Horry County advertized a 15-day comment period during which citizens were offered the opportunity to provide written comments on its CAPER. In addition, a public hearing was held August 29, 2012, allowing citizens to provide verbal comments. Horry County received no citizen comments on its CAPER.

2. In addition, the performance report provided to citizens must identify the Federal funds made available for furthering the objectives of the Consolidated Plan. For each formula grant program, the grantee shall identify the total amount of funds available (including estimated program income), the total amount of funds committed during the reporting period, the total amount expended during the reporting period, and the geographic distribution and location of expenditures. Jurisdictions are encouraged to include maps in describing the geographic distribution and location of investment (including areas of minority concentration). The geographic distribution and expenditure requirement may also be satisfied by specifying the census tracts where expenditures were concentrated.

Type of Activity	Expenditure	Percentage
Acquisition	\$86,009.00	5.18%
Economic Development	\$3,134.70	0.19%
Housing	\$403,399.88	24.27%
Public Facilities and Improvements	\$934,941.09	56.26%
Public Services	\$136,820.79	8.23%
General Administration and Planning	\$97,607.50	5.87%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,661,912.96</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Timeliness**

Timeliness Ratio - unexpended funds as percent of 2011 allocation 1.17%

**Program Targeting**

1 -Percentage of Expenditures Assisting Low- and Moderate-Income Persons and Households Either Directly or On an Area Basis 100.00%

2 -Percentage of Expenditures That Benefit Low/Mod Income Areas 37.85%

**CDBG Beneficiaries by Racial/Ethnic Category**

Race	Total
White	44.41%
Black/African American	41.69%
Asian	1.92%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.00%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.00%
American Indian/Alaskan Native & White	0.00%
Asian & White	0.00%
Black/African American & White	0.32%
Amer. Indian/Alaskan Native & Black/African Amer.	0.32%
Other multi-racial	11.34%
Asian/Pacific Islander (valid until 03-31-04)	0.00%
Hispanic (valid until 03-31-04)	0.00%

**Income of CDBG Beneficiaries**

Income Level	Percentage
Extremely Low Income (<=30%)	51.76%
Low Income (30-50%)	28.43%
Moderate Income (50-80%)	19.01%
Total Low and Moderate Income (<=80%)	99.20%
Non Low and Moderate Income (>80%)	0.80%

**Program Year 2011 Accomplishments**

Accomplishment	Number
Actual Jobs Created or Retained	0

Households Receiving Housing Assistance	21
Persons Assisted Directly, Primarily By Public Services and Public Facilities	605
Persons for Whom Services and Facilities were Available	25,660
Units Rehabilitated-Single Units	21
Units Rehabilitated-Multi Unit Housing	0

General Information section identifies the amount of available funding and the amount committed and drawn for individual projects and programs. The maps included in Attachment B show the location of the areas covered by the Consolidated Plan and the location of the activities.

Horry County projects are selected either in LMI areas, as designated by census, including more than 51% of an LMI population or by clientele, when a program is designed to serve LMI individuals. The low-to-moderate income areas of Horry County often correspond to high-minority concentrated areas. Some of these areas, such as communities within the City of Conway, the Canal-Nance Revitalization District in the City of Myrtle Beach and outlying areas such as the Bucksport Community, are prime examples of areas where there is a large concentration of minority residents, particularly African-Americans. Some of the Horry County census tracts where projects are located include: 704, 705, 201, 506, 507 and 509. Reference the maps in Attachment B to see low-to-moderate income areas as well as project sites.

A notice of the public hearing on the draft CAPER was published in “*The Sun*” Newspaper’s “Neighborhood” section on August 15, 2012. A copy of the notice is included as Attachment C. The public hearing was held on August 29, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. in the Voter Registration & Election/CDBG Building. Staff was in attendance.

## ***Institutional Structure***

### ***1. Describe actions taken during the last year to overcome gaps in institutional structures and enhance coordination.***

The County is an active participant in coordinating activities among community partners in the affordable housing and community development delivery system and has taken steps to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of programs addressing the needs of Horry County’s residents. These steps include the following during the past year:

- Administering and implementing the intergovernmental agreements with the cities of Conway and Myrtle Beach related to CDBG program administration;
- Continuing and enhancing a relationship with the Waccamaw HOME Consortium and the CDBG Specialist serving on the COG’s HOME funds application committee;

- Providing letters of support, technical resources, and service referrals to support subsidized projects for low- and moderate-income persons;
- Having the Community Development staff serve as a liaison to assist the County's Affordable/Workforce Housing Commission;
- Continuing a relationship with the Eastern Carolina Homeless Organization (ECHO) and having the Community Development Director serve on the Grant Committee to help fund the non-profit Continuum of Care (CoC)
- Serving as the Chairman of the Horry County Homelessness Collaborative (HCHC) Committee, the Community Development Director oversees the 10-Year Homelessness Plan.
- Serving as the Chairman of the Board on Tri-County Housing Development Corporation, a CHDO, funded by the HOME Consortium, the Community Development Director oversees the program.
- Encouraging groups serving special needs populations to assist efforts to count the number of homeless persons or persons at risk for becoming homeless; and
- Supporting interagency and intergovernmental coordination efforts of nonprofit organizations that work to provide emergency utility assistance, clothing, food, and housing for the homeless and special needs populations.

One of the best examples of coordinated efforts is the Waccamaw HOME Consortium. The consortium is a cooperative effort involving Horry, Georgetown, and Williamsburg county governments and nearly all of the municipalities in those counties. The Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments (COG) is the administrative agency and it has successfully completed its first four program years. The Community Development Director and staff work very closely with the Consortium to direct the Horry County portion of HOME funds into activities/projects where the funds are most needed.

The County Jail Diversion Program is the result of cooperative efforts between the City of Myrtle Beach's Community Development Administrator, City of Conway, Horry County's Jail Administrator, the Community Development staff, and professionals from the Waccamaw Center for Mental Health and Shoreline Behavioral Health Center. This program helps persons in jail who have special needs, such as dual diagnoses or addictions, to receive treatment and training to help break the cycle of homelessness and incarceration. In CDBG Year 3, Horry County had funded this program in the amount of \$80,000. In CDBG Year 4, Horry County and the City of Myrtle Beach funded the program \$56,500. In CDBG Year 5, Horry County has funded \$60,000 toward the program with both cities contributing a total of \$30,000. The Community Development staff is helping the Sheriff's Department seek other grants for this activity.

In Myrtle Beach, the City Council created the Myrtle Beach Downtown Redevelopment Corporation (DRC), a 501(c) 3 nonprofit corporation, to implement the Pavilion Area Master Plan. The DRC's 11-member Board of Directors is comprised of City representatives and local downtown business and property owners. With City funding, the DRC is working on several plans and issues central to the future development of the downtown area, including the following:

- Streetscape project on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and Ocean Boulevard (completed);
- Redevelopment of the 11-acre Pavilion Amusement Park, owned by the Burroughs & Chapin Company, in the heart of the downtown area (underway); and
- Redevelopment of the 70-acre former Myrtle Square Mall site (no specific development plans have been announced by the property owners during this reporting period).

The DRC has also worked with Myrtle Beach to plan and design a new mile-long Ocean Boardwalk project between the 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue North ocean piers. This boardwalk has stimulated redevelopment along the ocean front of downtown. With City funding available, the project was completed the spring of 2010. To date, a new zip line as well as the giant ferris-wheel, known as the "Sky Wheel" has opened to the public.

In addition, the Myrtle Beach Community Development Administrator, Conway Community Development & Planning, the Horry County Planning Director, and the Horry County Community Development Director continue to work with Home Alliance, Habitat for Humanity, the Myrtle Beach Housing Authority, the Conway Housing Authority, Grand Strand Housing, the Affordable Workforce Housing Committee, Horry County Council, and other organizations that assist in providing affordable housing options. These efforts include plans to bring together public services, infrastructure, rehabilitation, and other improvements in these areas through CDBG-funded activities.

To overcome additional gaps in the system, Horry County will continue to provide opportunities for public, private, and governmental organizations to come together to share information, advocate for issues of concern, leverage resources, and address barriers associated with development of affordable housing.

## ***Monitoring***

### *1. Describe how and the frequency with which you monitored your activities.*

To ensure the timely progress of projects and programs in accordance with the Consolidated Plan and CDBG regulations, Horry County has established an annual monitoring and evaluation process. The process allows the CDBG office to review all CDBG funded projects and program

accomplishments in relationship to established goals and objectives and identify agencies to be monitored based on risk-level. Information gained from the reviews will help the County to identify projects, programs, and strategies that are successful, the benefits achieved, the needs met, and the objectives accomplished. Staff goes out on a yearly basis, or more often if necessary, and reviews file documentation and Subrecipient financial system procedures. Staff also gives technical assistance at these visits as well as on a regular basis through phone, e-mail and on-site help to ensure that regulatory compliance is achieved and programs/projects are meeting their intended goals.

*2. Describe the results of your monitoring including any improvements.*

As previously mentioned, a Community Development Specialist position was created in November of 2009 for compliance on monitoring issues. Horry County CDBG adopted the HUD monitoring objectives and used these as a guide to ensure Subrecipients were properly completing projects and requesting reimbursement in accordance with guiding laws and regulations. A monitoring tool was created for use with all Horry County CDBG Subrecipients.

As staff completed monitoring visits, individual items of needed technical assistance were provided on a one-on-one basis to the Subrecipients. Some of these areas of training included providing assistance with file organization, documentation methods and compliance with other federal requirements such as the Davis-Bacon Act. The Community Development staff completed a desk audit for each of the Year 2 projects and used the information identified therein to plan for the site-visits. The monitoring process revealed a very high level of compliance with program and project goals. Overall, Subrecipients maintained orderly records that documented the services provided and the manner in which the services met a CDBG National Objective.

As a result of monitoring, projects that were stalled or moving slowly were brought to light and therefore a greater focus on these projects was emphasized so that timely project completion can be facilitated.

Additionally, in order to provide HUD timely, accurate, and orderly information, and to better accommodate the interoffice needs for project information, the Community Development staff re-designed the Subrecipient reimbursement forms and also created reporting forms that are specific to each entity's projects and programs. A schedule for reporting this information was also developed with the Subrecipients opting to report either monthly or quarterly based on the schedule that works best for their respective types of programs and projects. Each year, usually in August, a Subrecipient meeting is held. Staff does a Power Point presentation and answers any questions. A flash drive is given to each entity with their information on it, such as the reporting forms, agreements, etc.

### 3. *Self Evaluation*

- a. *Describe the effect programs have in solving neighborhood and community problems.*
- b. *Describe progress in meeting priority needs and specific objectives and help make community's vision of the future a reality.*
- c. *Describe how you provided decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanded economic opportunity principally for low and moderate-income persons.*
- d. *Indicate any activities falling behind schedule.*
- e. *Describe how activities and strategies made an impact on identified needs.*
- f. *Identify indicators that would best describe the results.*
- g. *Identify barriers that had a negative impact on fulfilling the strategies and overall vision.*
- h. *Identify whether major goals are on target and discuss reasons for those that are not on target.*
- i. *Identify any adjustments or improvements to strategies and activities that might meet your needs more effectively.*

The Horry County Community Development Office has successfully balanced a diverse array of housing and community development issues. Given the range of competing needs, the community must invest its scarce public resources wisely. Therefore, as a general principle, the County has and will attempt to expend public funds in a way that leverages the commitment of private sector support and community partnerships whenever possible. Through the public participation process, the County has identified the communities' overall goals and priorities. With this input, the overall effect is positive as the residents of the County have a role in solving neighborhood and community problems. CDBG funds are a helpful resource to be able to solve some of the community problems.

For some time there was discussion of a strategic alliance between the Continuum of Care (COC) Eastern Carolina Homelessness Organization (ECHO) and Horry County, the City of Conway, and the City of Myrtle Beach. This move would create a greater awareness and buy-in from the larger community about the issue of homelessness. In 2010, this alliance became a reality with the creation of the Horry County Homelessness Collaborative (HCHC) which is chaired by the County Community Development Director. HCHC, a committee under ECHO, holds bi-monthly meetings with the municipalities, non-profit organizations that deal day-to-day with homelessness issues, and the foundations. Together, we can tackle the issue of homelessness through advocacy, information, funding, and networking.

Horry County has completed its fourth CDBG program operating year. As such, some of the Year 1 & 2 projects have been completed in Year 3 of the CDBG program. The Community Development Office has gained momentum and several projects have been completed in the past year. Some great accomplishments have been made in regard to the County's goals as described in Table 2.

The total HUD disbursements in Program Year 2011-2012 for Year 4 projects were \$1,661,913. A breakdown is as follows:

A total of \$86,009 (5.18%) went toward acquisition; \$403,399.88 (24.27%) went toward fifty (50) single-family or multi-family residential units completing essential repairs. Additionally, \$934,941.09 (56.26%) was used for public facilities and improvements – general. Economic development was a total of \$3,134.70 (0.19%). General public services were a total of \$136,820.79 (8.23%). Fair Housing activities totaled \$12,136 (as part of admin) and planning and administration costs totaled \$97,607.50 (5.87%).

The Horry County Community Development Office sites the following as major activities:

- The goal of housing rehab and emergency repair of 25 units – 42 units to date have been completed and 58 affordable housing rehab/rental units have been completed. The County has attained 400% of its goal in Year 4.
- The goal of sustainability of suitable living environment by providing public services – In the 2008-2013 Consolidated Plan the County projected that 1,500 residents would be assisted and would benefit by the additional services. The County has already helped 20,878 people (1392%) and has surpassed the original goal.
- The goal of sustainability of suitable living environment by providing new or improved public facilities – The County is at 241% of its five-year goal in Year 4.
- The goal of sustainability of suitable living environment by providing public infrastructure – In the 2008-2013 Consolidated Plan the County projected that 625 households would benefit from improved or new infrastructure projects. A total of 11,519 households or 1843% of the goal have been met in Year 4.
- The goal of availability/accessibility of economic opportunity - The County has met 172% or 898 persons assisted of its five-year goal in Year 3.

As housing and infrastructure continue to be the high priority focus for CDBG funds, the Year 4 allocation has continued the momentum by funding at least an additional 10 emergency repair projects in Horry County and several more in the City of Myrtle Beach. Years 3 and 4 has also provided infrastructure for a neighborhood of 23 Habitat for Humanity houses as well as pre-development to costs for the rehab of 48 affordable housing units in Halyard Bend. The Halyard Bend project has been completed and all 48 units are now occupied by low and very-low income families.



Two projects, Pittman Street and Mill Pond Road improvements, were stalled due to the environmental review procedure. Both ER's were completed and approved by HUD in July 2010. Pittman Street is now 100% completed and Mill Pond Road improvements are now 100% completed. Both environmental reviews for the Grey Street infrastructure project and the Aynor Library Addition are complete.

Aynor Library Addition project is now 100% completed and the library was re-opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony in June 2012.

As activities are completed, the County is optimistic that the CDBG program shows positive signs of meeting its goals, objectives, and priority needs. The goals set in 2008 with the first Consolidated Plan have all been exceeded.



Aynor Library Addition Project

The Community Development Office staff has made several adjustments in Year 2, Year 3, and Year 4. Staff designed a new application and instruction packet to assist anyone interested in applying for a CDBG-funded project. Staff held three instruction classes in December, 2011 and January 2012 for the Year 5 applicants. E-mails were sent to over 100 entities and to all of the County's department heads so that people were well informed that CDBG grants were available. Information is posted on the county's website. Also, two public meetings were held with a total of over 20 people in attendance. A total of 27 applications were received for the Horry County projects and 18 projects were funded. The Cities of Myrtle Beach and Conway each held an additional public meeting and their respective Councils decided on projects to be funded through their portions of CDBG monies as set aside in the Intergovernmental Agreement, prior to sending their applications to the County for approval.

For Year 4, Subrecipients' agreements were sent out for signatures in August 2011 and a Subrecipient workshop was held. Staff designed reporting forms for each Subrecipient so that accurate information would be gathered for each project and activity. A Power Point presentation was given along with a packet for each agency, specific to their organization.

Budget Adjustments: The City of Myrtle Beach asked the Horry County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for Fiscal Year 2009/2010, Year 2, budget revision #2, for a budget revision in the amount for the cities projects. The remaining \$10,000 in the Building Façade program was re-programmed into the CASA shelter repair activity and the housing rehabilitation program activity. No non-profits applied for the building façade program. Last year, the City of Myrtle Beach had \$50,000 of unspent available funds in FY2009/2010 budget and requested (budget revision #1) to make appropriate Annual Action Plan program and budget revisions in order to obligate and expend all CDBG funds in FY2009/2010, CDBG Year 2. The City held a public hearing on the budget revision on Monday, April 18, 2011 at 5:30

p.m. A total of \$40,000 for the Building Façade Improvement Program and \$70,000 for the Friendship House Rehabilitation are to be transferred to the Housing Rehab Program for a total of \$110,000. The Friendship House Rehabilitation project is scheduled to be completed with NSP funds. The Building Façade Program has had only one application. The funds will be added to the original amount of \$35,000 for a grand total of \$145,000 going toward the City of Myrtle Beach's Housing Rehab Program. The Housing Rehab Program is not a new activity nor is the amount of the budget revision greater than 10% of the total budget. If it was, that would create a budget amendment, which must be approved by HUD. County Council approved this budget revision through a resolution in April, 2011. The City has 12 families on their waiting list.

The City of Myrtle Beach asked the Horry County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for Fiscal Year 2010/2011, Year 3 for a budget revision (budget revision #2) in the amount for the City's projects. The budget revision consisted of \$5,000 going from the Housing Rehabilitation Program to Administration and an additional \$5,000 going from the Salvation Army Building Repairs to the Boys and Girls Club Facilities Repairs. Last year, the City of Myrtle Beach had \$200,000 of unspent available funds in the FY2010/2011 budget and requests to make appropriate Annual Action Plan program and budget revisions in order to obligate and expend all CDBG funds in FY2010/2011 CDBG Year 3. The City held a public hearing on the budget revision on Monday, April 18, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. A total of \$52,718 for the Housing Rehab Program is to be transferred to the Mr. Joe White Apartments for a total of \$128,718. The Mr. Joe White Apartments is for transitional housing and is funded by NSP, HOME, private, and CDBG funds.

The City of Myrtle Beach asked the Horry County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for Fiscal Year 2011/2012, Year 4 for a budget revision (revision #1) in the amount for the cities projects. A total of \$15,000 for the demolition was earmarked and came out of the housing rehabilitation program and administration. To date, no structure has been demolished. The City is contemplating an area to designate as slum and blight.

The projects are not new activities nor is the amount of the budget revision greater than 10% of the total budget. If it was, that would create a budget amendment, which must be approved by HUD. County Council approved all budget revisions once the City's Council approved them by resolutions. All resolutions are on file at the Community Development Office.

The Community Development Office will strive to keep improving on the policies and procedures, protocol, and methods of its program.

### ***Lead-based Paint***

#### ***1. Describe actions taken during the last year to evaluate and reduce lead-based paint hazards.***

Any housing units built before 1978 undergoing rehabilitation will receive a lead inspection and risk assessment. The County conforms to the federal mandate established by Title X of the 1992 Housing and Community Development Act that HUD-funded programs, including housing

activities that disturb lead-based paint, incorporate lead-based paint hazard evaluation, remediation/reduction strategies and clearance requirements for all housing structures built before 1978. Over 85 percent of all residential housing built before 1978 contains some lead-based paint. The older the house, the more likely it contains lead-based paint. The estimated number of affected households in the United States is believed to exceed 60 million.

Children living in poverty are four times more likely to have elevated blood lead levels than children from wealthier families. Children with elevated blood lead levels are not evenly distributed geographically; rather, they are disproportionately located in older neighborhoods. African-American children are four times more likely to have elevated blood lead levels than white children. Nationwide, more than one-third of African-American children living in large central cities have elevated blood lead levels.

To reduce the potential for adverse health effects attributable to the rehabilitation of deteriorated lead-based paint surfaces, the County provides educational material and a lead pamphlet to all rehab customers. All clients receiving housing rehabilitation assistance from the county are informed about the potential health hazards posed by the presence of deteriorated lead-based paint. The Community Development Director, who oversees rehabilitation projects, is trained to incorporate proper hazard reduction techniques into the treatment of lead-based paint. She holds an Ohio license as a lead risk assessor and contractor.

In Horry County, evaluating and reducing lead-based paint hazards is currently addressed through a combination of efforts at the state and local levels and includes both public and private entities, which includes the following:

- The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) investigates childhood lead poisonings in Horry County and has a primary focus on childhood lead poisoning prevention and detection activities;
- Private sector providers are available to complete inspections of older homes that are being rehabilitated and suspected to contain lead-based paint;<sup>1</sup>
- The Horry County Building Department assists the DHEC during its construction inspection process; and
- The Community Development staff, along with five of their Subrecipients, who perform rehab, attended the Renovation, Remodeling & Painting (RR&P) one-day course at Horry Georgetown Technical College on October 6, 2011. All 10 participants are certified.

Horry County will continue to support existing programs available through the DHEC. For additional information concerning lead-based paint, residents may call the Horry County Health

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<sup>1</sup> These providers may be accessed through the local telephone directory or by calling 1-800-424-LEAD.

Department's Environmental Quality Control Office at (843) 488-1902. Pamphlets and disclosures are available through the Horry County Health Department, the CDBG office, and from HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control at [www.hud.gov/lea/leadhelp.html](http://www.hud.gov/lea/leadhelp.html).

## Housing

### *Housing Needs*

*1. Describe actions taken during the last year to foster and maintain affordable housing.*

In addition to identifying projects intended to foster and maintain affordable housing to be funded from its CDBG allocation, Horry County's goals are to provide housing rehabilitation services to low and moderate-income homeowners; housing repairs with essential problems; to improve quality of life for homeowners and extend economic life of the properties; and to conduct emergency and essential repairs on housing countywide.

To date, a total of 100 units have been completed. A total of 42 owner occupied units underwent emergency repairs and 48 affordable rental housing units were completed. In addition, 11 homeless transitional housing called the MJW Apartments are to be 100% by October 1, 2012. The County projected to complete at least 25 units in a five-year Consolidated Plan period. To date, 400% (100 units) of this goal has been attained.

In order to increase affordable housing, CDBG Year 3, 4, and 5 funding includes infrastructure for Hope's Crossings so that Habitat for Humanity can build 23 affordable housing units. In addition, Halyard Bend was funded in the amount of \$50,000 with CDBG Year 3 funds to provide for pre-development costs and to fill the gap of other funding. The total project cost was over \$1.8 million for 48 affordable housing units. A grand opening was held on July 14, 2011 and now all units are occupied. There are plans to build an additional 16 affordable housing units using HOME funds as a future affordable housing project. In addition to these multi-unit rehabs, at least 10 single-family housing units will undergo essential repairs in the unincorporated areas of the County as well as several more within the City of Myrtle Beach.



Hope's Crossing Infrastructure

The County in partnership with the Myrtle Beach Housing Authority works to increase the number of rental assistance vouchers available to low-income and special needs families each year. With the resources available, the housing authority was able to reduce the number of households on its waiting list during its past operating year.

## ***Specific Housing Objectives***

- 1. Evaluate progress in meeting specific objective of providing affordable housing, including the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income renter and owner households comparing actual accomplishments with proposed goals during the reporting period.*
- 2. Evaluate progress in providing affordable housing that meets the Section 215 definition of affordable housing for rental and owner households comparing actual accomplishments with proposed goals during the reporting period.*
- 3. Describe efforts to address "worst-case" housing needs and housing needs of persons with disabilities.*

One of the goals identified in the Consolidated Plan was to have a county housing program started by the third program year. The County has met this goal funding 35 emergency repair units with CDBG Year 3 funds at \$100,000 and CDBG Year 4 funds at an additional \$100,000. As of June 30, 2012, a total of 42 owner-occupied emergency repairs were completed, 11 new homeless transitional housing units, and 48 rental affordable housing units underwent rehabilitation.

In CDBG Year 4, a total of 20 units were completed with \$403,400 derived from a combination of funds from Program Years 1-4. Of these units, 44.41% were white, 41.69% were African American, 1.92% American Indian and 11.34% other multi-racial. A total of 51.76% were extremely low income ( $\leq 30\%$ ), 28.43% were low income (30-50%), 19.01% were moderate income ( $\leq 80\%$ ) to equal 99.20% (.80% was now low-income).

In addition, Horry County has made progress towards this goal by establishing a relationship with the Affordable/Workforce Housing Commission. The Commission meets monthly along with the Community Development Director and staff from the County Planning Department facilitating the meeting. There are currently eight appointees by Council that are county residents. Some positive outcomes from the meetings are that in 2013 an Affordable Housing Conference will be held in Horry County. All housing agencies, non-profit organizations, fair housing coordinators, and private corporations who are interested in housing will be invited. This is the first conference of many to be held in the County.

Some of the worst-case housing needs are relevant to homeless veterans. CDBG Years 3 and 5 have funded a one-time rental assistance payment to match the VASH vouchers that the Myrtle Beach Housing Authority administers. The referrals will come from the Charleston-based Veterans Administration Program. To date, 41 disabled veterans have been helped. The barrier to the veterans receiving a voucher is that they could not afford the one-time security deposits on the rental units and/or utility deposits. The CDBG funding will remove this barrier. This

program is intended to reach over 50% of the homeless veteran population in Horry County. This project has shown a need in CDBG Year 5 and has been re-funded.

### ***Public Housing Strategy***

- 1. Describe actions taken during the last year to improve public housing and resident initiatives.*

Although Horry County does not provide financial resources for public housing projects, the County acknowledges the need for public housing and the large number of people awaiting placement due to its short supply. The County works with local housing authorities (and other entities, where possible) to develop its plans for future housing units and to encourage other public and private entities to invest in housing opportunities for the most financially needy residents of Horry County. Additional resources available through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) and other new stimulus programs will be used to assist in addressing affordable housing needs, improving living environments, and serving the needs of homeless and special needs populations.

As previously stated, CDBG partnered in Year 3 with the Myrtle Beach Housing Authority on funding for 48 affordable housing units at Halyard Bend. CDBG Year 3 and Year 5 funds will also provide for the stop-gap measure of security deposit assistance for use when other funding provides vouchers for rental assistance to aid in the prevention of homelessness for at least 70 veterans. HPRP funds flowed through both Authorities.

### ***Barriers to Affordable Housing***

- 1. Describe actions taken during the last year to eliminate barriers to affordable housing.*

CDBG Year 3 and 5 funded a one-time rental assistance payment to match the VASH vouchers that the Myrtle Beach Housing Authority administers. The referrals come from the Charleston-based Veterans Administration Program. As of June 30, 2012 a total of 41 disabled veterans have been helped. The barrier to the veterans receiving a voucher is that they could not afford the one-time security deposits on the rental units and/or utility deposits. The CDBG Year 3 funding will remove this barrier and assist the veterans with obtaining subsidized housing. As previously state, CDBG Year 5 has re-funded this project as the need for a one-time rental assistance payment is needed as the housing authority was funded with additional VASH vouchers.

The City of Myrtle Beach continually reviews its municipal regulations in an effort to identify regulatory barriers to affordable housing. The result of the review indicated there were no regulatory barriers to affordable housing found. Even so, staff recognizes there are actions the City could take to assist affordable housing developers, such as offering additional incentives or

having the City waive certain development fees. These findings were reviewed and approved by the Myrtle Beach Housing Authority for referral to City Council.

As stated earlier, Horry County contracted with a consultant and completed a countywide Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice. The analysis examines barriers to affordable housing that are being addressed now and will continue in future years. The types of barriers in the County include a higher demand for affordable renter and owner-occupied housing than the current inventory, high Fair Market Rents compared to incomes, a lack of affordable housing for the lowest income residents, and language barriers for non-English speaking residents.

Horry County currently supports state and other local efforts to educate citizens on the perils of predatory lending and on how to read and understand contracts. To address language barriers, the County provides information in both English and Spanish. Informational brochures are provided to local real estate agents and lending institutions.

The County Planning Department is currently working on identifying barriers to affordable housing in collaboration with the Affordable Housing Workforce Committee and the Community Development Office. In the future, they will conduct periodic reviews of its development regulations to identify potential barriers for developers of affordable housing and will also champion zoning and community development proposals that provide fair and equal housing opportunities.

## **Homeless**

### ***Homeless Needs***

#### ***1. Identify actions taken to address needs of homeless persons.***

In CDBG Year 1, 3 and 5, Horry County committed funds for the Jail Diversion Program to help end the cycle of homelessness to incarceration by offering special assistance to prisoners in its J. Reuben Long Detention Center who have dual diagnoses and are in need of rehabilitation. As of June 30, 2012 a total of 580 people have been assisted with this program. Funds have also been committed to this program in CDBG Year 5.

The Continuum of Care (COC) Eastern Carolina Homelessness Organization (ECHO) works very closely with Horry County, the cities of Conway and Myrtle Beach. At the meeting on July 14, 2010, attendees formed and voted on committees and established a Chairman for each committee. The County Community Development Director co-chairs the Grant Application committee along with Cliff Rudd, CDBG Administrator for the City of Myrtle Beach. The County Community Development Director is also the Chairman of the Horry County Homelessness Collaborative, which is a committee under ECHO.

Horry County, Myrtle Beach, and Conway all provided funding for development of a new 10-Year Homelessness Plan for all of Horry County. The project, sponsored by Home Alliance, is being developed by the Matheny-Burns Group and is completed. Other funding for the project has been provided by the Waccamaw Community Foundation and the Knight Foundation.

Please see Table 3 for more information.

*2. Identify actions to help homeless persons make the transition to permanent housing and independent living.*

Under the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) program, Horry County is partnering with the Conway Housing Authority (CHA) and the Myrtle Beach Housing Authority (MBHA) to provide housing and services to the homeless. Through this partnership and participation in the ECHO, Horry County is tapped into a large network of organizations that provide outreach to the homeless and those in danger of becoming homeless—including the Waccamaw Center for Mental Health, Little River Medical Center, Horry County Department of Social Services (DSS), Street Reach, Helping Hands of Myrtle Beach, Myrtle Beach Haven, and other nonprofit and faith-based organizations.

MBHA and the County marketed the HPRP through this network of agencies as well their own websites ([www.mbhaonline.org](http://www.mbhaonline.org) and [www.horrycounty.org](http://www.horrycounty.org)). Combining these efforts with other marketing tools—such as the Myrtle Beach City television channel, the Conway Housing Authority Newsletter, onsite flyers, public service announcements—allows Horry County to reach out to many individuals and families. In addition, the MBHA and CHA receive referrals through the local Homeless Management Information System<sup>2</sup> and all three partners will outreach to the Horry County Court system to reach households that have not tried to access other assistance.

Potential participants will receive individual assessments to determine eligibility for the HPRP and the types of assistance needed because each will have different needs and require a varied level of case management. As part of the assessment process, the authorities will refer participants to the following:

- Coastal Work Center and Horry/Georgetown Technical College for job training and placement;
- DSS for food stamps and employment training;
- Little River Medical for health care; and
- Other service agencies as needed.

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<sup>2</sup> Homeless Management Information Systems are community-wide software solutions designed to capture client-level information over time on the characteristics and service needs of men, women, and children experiencing homelessness. In response to a Congressional directive, the HUD has required all Continuums of Care (CoCs) across the country to implement HMIS at the local level.

The types of assistance that help participants transition to more permanent housing and independent living include budget and credit counseling provided by a trained and certified homeownership coordinator at MBHA. Money Smart classes are also offered and participants in the HPRP program are encouraged to attend. In addition, both housing authorities have developed a network of landlords and property management companies that they can reach out to for housing needs. CHA’s and MBHA’s inspectors ensure that housing options meet minimum quality standards established by HUD.

As of June 30, 2012 the HPRP project is 100% expended/completed. Conway Housing Authority has spent all of its HPRP funds. A total of 804 clients were processed through the County’s HPRP Program.

3. Identify new Federal resources obtained from Homeless SuperNOFA.

The following table lists the South Carolina projects for which the ECHO received (SC503 & SC504) federal funding from the 2011 Homeless SuperNOFA for new projects and renewal projects.

Table 3. Eastern Carolina Homelessness Organization (ECHO)

	<b>SC-503 - Myrtle Beach/Sumter City &amp; County CoC</b>	<b>Awarded Amount</b>
Balsam Place Apartments	SHPR	\$68,606
Williamsburg Community Transitional Housing	SHPR	\$128,041
Trans-Aid	SHPR	\$122,550
Rental Assistance	SHPR	\$23,332
Project Helping Hands	SHPR	\$46,552
Pee Dee Shelter Plus Care	S+CR	\$69,168
PDCAA TH	SHPR	\$179,098
Alliance Inn Apartments	SHPR	\$98,650
ECHO HMIS	SHPR	\$126,360
Any Length Phase IV	SHPR	\$78,746
Withers/Warren Apartments	SHPR	\$40,000
MBHA Shelter + Care Renewal, Scattered Site	S+CR	\$215,064
<b>SC-503 Total:</b>		<b>\$1,196,167</b>

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## ***Specific Homeless Prevention Elements***

### *1. Identify actions taken to prevent homelessness.*

Prevention of homelessness is a fundamental component of the continuum of care system. Horry County is committed to working cooperatively with the ECHO by providing priority in funding in future years to homeless prevention activities that are supported by ECHO. Activities to help prevent homelessness include providing rental assistance, healthcare for children and the elderly, prescription drugs, and temporary financial assistance in addition to referring those in need to other programs that deal with specific underlying issues.

As previously mentioned, under the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) program, Horry County is partnering with the Conway Housing Authority (CHA) and the Myrtle Beach Housing Authority (MBHA) to provide housing and services to the homeless. As of June 30, 2012 the County was 100% complete with the project. A total of 804 clients have been processed through the County's HPRP Program to date.

The 10-year Homeless Plan sponsored by Home Alliance Inc., Horry County, the City of Conway and the City of Myrtle Beach, is a comprehensive plan with two major objectives: generating housing, and strengthening prevention/supportive services directed around the "housing first" approach. HCHC is actively focusing on implementing the Plan.

Implementation of the Ten-Year Plan is conducted through the Horry County Homelessness Collaborative committee along with ECHO. Committee members, who are working to identify implementation strategies, are coordinating the funding agencies, such as municipalities, the County, and Foundations as well as non-profit agencies or users of the funding. Both are identifying community needs. With coordination of efforts along with funding priorities, HCHC is confident that the organizations working together will make funding go further.

Home Alliance Inc. is the lead agency overseeing Horry County's 10-Year Plan implementation. Their mission is to empower individuals and families to restore hope, achieve stability, and thrive through quality support services, advocacy, and education. They will work to provide effective solutions and accessible services to eliminate chronic homelessness and to strengthen the County's effectiveness at addressing homelessness. Implementing the 10-Year Plan requires usage of several best practice strategies and initiatives from across America.

In addition, a listing of current service providers that seek to prevent families and individuals from becoming homeless in the area are the American Red Cross; CARETEAM; Helping Hands of Myrtle Beach; Myrtle Beach Housing Authority; the Salvation Army; SOS Health Care; Home Alliance, Inc.; Street Reach Mission; Myrtle Beach Haven; the Center for Women & Children; Waccamaw Housing and; the area churches.

## Community Development

### *Community Development*

1. *Assessment of relationship of CDBG funds to goals and objectives*
  - a. *Assess use of CDBG funds in relation to the priorities, needs, goals, and specific objectives in the Consolidated Plan, particularly the highest priority activities.*
  - b. *Evaluate progress made toward meeting goals for providing affordable housing using CDBG funds, including the number and types of households served.*
  - c. *Indicate the extent to which CDBG funds were used for activities that benefited extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income persons.*

Horry County's use of CDBG funds in relation to the priorities, needs, goals, and specific objectives in the Consolidated Plan, particularly the highest priority activities, and the progress made toward meeting goals for providing affordable housing and other activities using CDBG funds, are provided in Table 2, Activities Drawn by Goals and Accomplishments, which can be found in this document. As was the desired goal for Horry County, a total of 100% of the activities have benefited the extremely low-income, low-income and moderate-income population.

Significant improvements have been made in the sustainability of a suitable living environment for LMI Horry County residents through completed projects providing public services, public facilities improvements and needed infrastructure. Per the PR54 CDBG Performance Profile 7/1/2011 through 6/30/2012, a total of 5.18% of expenditures have gone toward acquisition, 0.19% of expenditures toward economic development, 24.27% expenditures toward housing, 56.26% of expenditures toward public facilities and improvement, 8.23% of expenditures toward enhancement of public services, and 5.87% of expenditures toward general administration and planning. The timeliness ratio of unexpended funds is 1.17, which is in compliance and below the 1.5 times of funds to have on hand. 100% of the funds are toward expenditures assisting low and moderate-income persons and households either directly or on an area basis.

2. *Changes in program objectives*
  - a. *Identify the nature of and the reasons for any changes in program objectives and how the jurisdiction would change its program as a result of its experiences.*

There are no changes in program objectives. The Horry County Community Development Office has no intention of changing its program objectives at this time as a result of its experiences. While the actions taken are contingent upon the yearly input of its residents via the adopted Citizen Participation Plan, experiences thus far have not warranted a change of direction.

3. *Assessment of efforts in carrying out planned actions*
  - a. *Indicate how grantee pursued all resources indicated in the Consolidated Plan.*

- b. Indicate how grantee provided certifications of consistency in a fair and impartial manner.*
- c. Indicate how grantee did not hinder Consolidated Plan implementation by action or willful inaction.*

The Community Development Office is looking to other entities for resources to leverage the CDBG funds. The CDBG office will continue to pursue all resources related to community development and will apply for funds under competitive grant applications.

The County has taken a lead role with the CoC ECHO as the Chairman of the HCHC in order to coordinate funding between the foundations, municipalities, and non-profit agencies.

In addition to the CDBG funds, Horry County has received and completely expended CDBG-Recovery funds as well as Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) stimulus funds.

The County takes a proactive approach setting goals for affordable, decent, safe, and sanitary housing for its residents.

In order to provide certifications of consistency in a fair and impartial manner, the Community Development Director reviewed all proposed programs to ensure consistency with the priority needs and specific objectives of the 2008-2013 Consolidated Plan. The review also determined whether the prospective programs were feasible, filled a gap in services, did not duplicate existing services, and had neighborhood stakeholders' support. All program descriptions and certifications were again reviewed by the applications committee, which consisted of five people (some were staff). The recommendation was then forwarded to the Administration Committee and finally Horry County Council for approval. In CDBG Year 4, a total of ten (10) Horry County programs, seven (7) Myrtle Beach programs, and one (1) Conway program were reviewed for consistency with the Consolidated Plan. All programs were consistent and certified as such.

The County did not hinder the implementation of the Consolidated Plan, including Annual Plans and CAPERS, by action or willful inaction. Since its adoption, the County has complied with its Citizen Participation Plan, which was approved by HUD. Pursuant to its Citizen Participation Plan, the County continued to actively encourage all of its residents and stakeholders to participate in the development of the Consolidated Plan by: posting all Consolidated Plan related public notices in print and on its website [www.horrycounty.org](http://www.horrycounty.org), conducting at least two public hearings per program year; holding meetings at ADA accessible locations and at times convenient for the public; and adopting the Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plans, and the CAPER via Council resolution. In addition, minutes from the public meetings, affidavits of publication, public comments, etc., are available at the Community Development Office during regular business hours.

- 4. For funds not used for national objectives*
  - a. Indicate how use of CDBG funds did not meet national objectives.*

- b. Indicate how use of CDBG funds did not comply with overall benefit certification.*

All CDBG funded activities met a national objective.

5. *Anti-displacement and relocation (for activities that involve acquisition, rehabilitation, or demolition of occupied real property)*
- a. Describe steps actually taken to minimize the amount of displacement resulting from the CDBG-assisted activities.*
  - b. Describe steps taken to identify households, businesses, farms or nonprofit organizations who occupied properties subject to the Uniform Relocation Act or Section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and whether or not they were displaced, and the nature of their needs and preferences.*
  - c. Describe steps taken to ensure the timely issuance of information notices to displaced households, businesses, farms, or nonprofit organizations.*

All activities that the County performed complied with the provisions of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Act of 1970. This act requires that activities undertaken using federal funds that will result in the displacement or relocation of existing occupants be carried out in a specific manner to minimize the impact on those temporarily displaced or relocated.

6. *Low/Mod Job activities (for economic development activities undertaken where jobs were made available but not taken by low- or moderate-income persons)*
- a. Describe actions taken by grantee and businesses to ensure first consideration was or will be given to low/mod persons.*
  - b. List by job title of all the permanent jobs created/retained and those that were made available to low/mod persons.*
  - c. If any of jobs claimed as being available to low/mod persons require special skill, work experience, or education, provide a description of steps being taken or that will be taken to provide such skills, experience, or education.*

One of the economic development activities undertaken was funding of the I.D. Assistance Program. A total of 898 people benefited from this program so that they were able to get identification in order to receive benefits and ultimately, employment. A Father's Place was the second economic development activity. A Father's Place, whose services assist with education and employment, help negotiate child support issues, provide peer support, develop parenting skills, create a co-parenting plan, and offer marriage and healthy relationship education. The participants are an at-risk population who are low income or no income, low educational levels, or have limited life and/or job skills. A total of 85 participants were trained with CDBG Year 4 funds.

7. *Low/Mod Limited Clientele activities (for activities not falling within one of the categories of presumed limited clientele low and moderate income benefit)*

- a. *Describe how the nature, location, or other information demonstrates the activities benefit a limited clientele at least 51% of whom are low- and moderate-income.*

The County collects beneficiary data on all participants in the following low/mod limited clientele activities, which do not fall within one of the categories of presumed benefit, in order to ensure at least 51% of those served are low/mod.

In order to comply with the national objective of low/mod limited clientele at 570.208 (a) (2), the County requires that its Subrecipients collect from their program participants/beneficiaries information on family size and income so that it is evident that at least 51% of the clientele are persons whose family income does not exceed the low and moderate income limit. Additionally, program selection criteria require applicants to identify the method that would be used for documenting that programs are reaching the intended beneficiaries. One example is the Bucksport Community Center addition, which is located in census tracts with a high population of minority LMI residents. In addition to the facility improvements provided at this location, it was also a site for the After-School programs that are public services provided through CDBG funds to Horry County Parks and Recreation Department. The Horry County Parks and Recreation surveys each of participant's family in order to identify the household income and size and therefore document the benefit to the desired clientele. From these surveys, the program was able to identify that the percentage of LMI families served through their program in Years 2 and 3 was well over 51% specifically at 84%. Additionally, these same surveys revealed that the program beneficiaries were comprised 81% of persons of minority race. This, like surveys for other programs, identify how CDBG dollars are providing programs that reach Horry County's traditionally underserved families who are in need of assistance.

A Father's Place has assisted 292 people in employment training. A Father's Place, whose services assist with education and employment, help negotiate child support issues, provide peer support, develop parenting skills, create a co-parenting plan, and offer marriage and healthy relationship education. The participants are an at-risk population who are low income or no income, low educational levels, limited life and job skills.

8. *Program income received*

- a. *Detail the amount of program income reported that was returned to each individual revolving fund, e.g., housing rehabilitation, economic development, or other type of revolving fund.*
- b. *Detail the amount repaid on each float-funded activity.*
- c. *Detail all other loan repayments broken down by the categories of housing rehabilitation, economic development, or other.*
- d. *Detail the amount of income received from the sale of property by parcel.*

There was no program income generated from any of the activities during the program year.

9. *Prior period adjustments – where reimbursement was made this reporting period for expenditures (made in previous reporting periods) that have been disallowed, provide the following information:*
- The activity name and number as shown in IDIS;*
  - The program year(s) in which the expenditure(s) for the disallowed activity(ies) was reported;*
  - The amount returned to line-of-credit or program account; and*
  - Total amount to be reimbursed and the time period over which the reimbursement is to be made, if the reimbursement is made with multi-year payments.*

There were no prior period adjustments due to disallowed expenditures. There was no amount returned to the line-of-credit or program account. There is no amount to be reimbursed.

10. *Loans and other receivables*

- List the principal balance for each float-funded activity outstanding as of the end of the reporting period and the date(s) by which the funds are expected to be received.*
- List the total number of other loans outstanding and the principal balance owed as of the end of the reporting period.*
- List separately the total number of outstanding loans that are deferred or forgivable, the principal balance owed as of the end of the reporting period, and the terms of the deferral or forgiveness.*
- Detail the total number and amount of loans made with CDBG funds that have gone into default and for which the balance was forgiven or written off during the reporting period.*
- Provide a List of the parcels of property owned by the grantee or its subrecipients that have been acquired or improved using CDBG funds and that are available for sale as of the end of the reporting period.*

There are no loans or other receivables to report for the program year.

11. *Lump sum agreements*

- Provide the name of the financial institution.*
- Provide the date the funds were deposited.*
- Provide the date the use of funds commenced.*
- Provide the percentage of funds disbursed within 180 days of deposit in the institution.*

There were no lump sum agreements during the program year.

12. *Housing rehabilitation (for each type of rehabilitation program for which projects/units were reported as completed during the program year)*

- Identify the type of program and number of projects/units completed for each program.*
- Provide the total CDBG funds involved in the program.*
- Detail other public and private funds involved in the project.*

A total of 20 single-family home units were completed in Year 4 using CDBG funds. The CDBG funds involved totaled \$403,400. Some of the matching/leveraged funds were CDBG City of Myrtle Beach prior year funding and some of the leveraged funds were other state and federal funds, such as HOME funds or State Housing Trust Fund monies.



Home rehabilitations provided essential repairs needed for LMI families and included such activities as the replacement of windows, roofs, electrical and HVAC systems as well as



the modification for accessibility by the disabled through the installation of ramps and accessible doors.



**13. Neighborhood revitalization strategies (for grantees that have HUD-approved neighborhood revitalization strategies)**

- a. Describe progress against benchmarks for the program year. For grantees with Federally-designated EZs or ECs that received HUD approval for a neighborhood revitalization strategy, reports that are required as part of the EZ/EC process shall suffice for purposes of reporting progress.

Horry County does not have a HUD-approved neighborhood revitalization strategy.

**Antipoverty Strategy**

- 1. Describe actions taken during the last year to reduce the number of persons living below the poverty level.

Horry County identified a number of actions in its Consolidated Plan to help reduce the number of persons living below the poverty level. These included recruiting higher-paying businesses; increasing skills and education; continuing to develop the tourism industry; attracting new businesses and encouraging competition among existing businesses; managing growth and encouraging redevelopment within existing cities; creating performance-based economic

development; developing public-private investment strategies; and encouraging people-based economic development.

Horry County has completed the activity of implementing a Capacity Building Program during the coming year. Funding for this project (\$10,000) was previously awarded to Mason Temple. They have provided training specifically for nonprofit organizations that will assist them with practical skills and strategies to efficiently enhance the services provided to the community. Capacity Building activities will include but are not limited to: 1) starting a non-profit; 2) tools for operating an effective board; 3) getting the best from volunteers; 4) effective fundraising for non-profits; 5) capacity building – assessing the needs of your organization; 5) introduction to financial management of non-profits; and, 6) best practices for communication and marketing.

In addition, Horry County has identified activities for the coming year that it plans to fund, which will help to implement its antipoverty strategy. These activities (all described in detail earlier) include the following:

- Jail Diversion Program – This program will help homeless persons in jail who have special needs to receive treatment and training to help break the cycle of homelessness and incarceration.
- A Father's Place will expand services to support workforce development training for at least 12 Section 3 participants that are low-income men and women who will be referred from a variety of Horry County organizations and agencies. Additional funds for A Father's Place will provide such services as assist with education and employment, help negotiate child support issues, provide peer support, develop parenting skills, create a co-parenting plan, and offer marriage and healthy relationship education. The participants are at-risk population who are low income or no income, low educational levels, limited life and job skills.
- I.D. Program – The program was implemented in the CDBG Year 1 allocation. The I.D. Program continues in the 2009-2010 year and 2010-2011 year for the homeless so they can get proper identification in order to receive benefits and ultimately be back in the work force.
- MJW Apartments Homeless Assistance Program will assist the homeless overcome barriers through counseling and connecting with other available services.

## **Non-Homeless Special Needs**

### ***Non-homeless Special Needs***

1. *Identify actions taken to address special needs of persons that are not homeless but require supportive housing, (including persons with HIV/AIDS and their families).*

In CDBG Years 1, 3, 4, and 5, the County recommendations provide services to incarcerated individuals who have special needs for them to receive treatment and training, training

services, as well as rental assistance for homeless veterans, in an effort to serve special needs populations. There is great need within the community among disabled veterans in Horry County. Funding recommendations for Years 3 and Year 5 provided sub-recipient funding for the stop-gap measure of security deposit assistance for use when other funding provided vouchers for rental assistance to aid in the prevention homelessness among these veterans. In Year 4, Horry County Veteran's Administration expanded services for veterans to expedite processing benefits. Many are disabled, homeless, and are referred to other agencies for housing and medical care.

A total of four new projects of over \$400,000 were funded for the CoC ECHO. Please see Table 3 for the renewals and new projects.

As previously stated, through the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) program, Horry County partnered with the Conway Housing Authority (CHA) and the Myrtle Beach Housing Authority (MBHA) to provide housing and services to the homeless. Through this partnership and participation in the ECHO, Horry County has tapped into a large network of organizations that provide outreach to the homeless and those in danger of becoming homeless. Horry County will continue to identify gaps in service delivery that need bridging.

## Attachment A – Fair Housing Brochure



The Civil Rights Act of 1968 included provisions, known as the Fair Housing Act, protecting individuals from certain types of housing discrimination. In 1988, significant amendments were made to these laws.

Today, even though these laws are no longer new and criminal penalties exist for violators, the fair housing laws are sometimes ignored. If you feel your rights under these laws have been violated, you may contact the Horry County Community Development office for more information and for assistance in filing a complaint with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Horry County Government  
Community Development Office  
1515 Fourth Avenue  
Conway, SC 29526  
843-915-7033

*For additional assistance, you may also contact the Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments*  
**FAIR HOUSING HOTLINE**  
1-877-527-9815



## FAIR HOUSING

The Fair Housing Act, as amended, prohibits housing discrimination based on:

- Race or Color
- National Origin
- Religion
- Handicap or Disability
- Gender
- Family Status

Under the Fair Housing Act, the following actions, if based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status or disability are illegal:

- Refusal to rent or sell housing
- Refusal to negotiate for housing
- Making housing unavailable
- Denying a dwelling
- Setting different terms, conditions or privileges for sale or rental of a dwelling
- Providing different housing services or facilities
- Falsely denying that housing is available for inspection, sale or rental

Only a few exceptions exist to these laws. One such exception allows for senior communities. More information about fair housing can be provided upon request.

### Horry County Community Development Office Fair Housing Services

- Presentations to Realtors, Property Managers and the Community
- Fair Housing Technical Assistance to local governments, non-profits and businesses
- Free Fair Housing Literature
- Assistance with filing Fair Housing Complaints



# Attachment B – Maps

Figure 1. Map of Horry County projects (By Council district, indicating LMI areas)

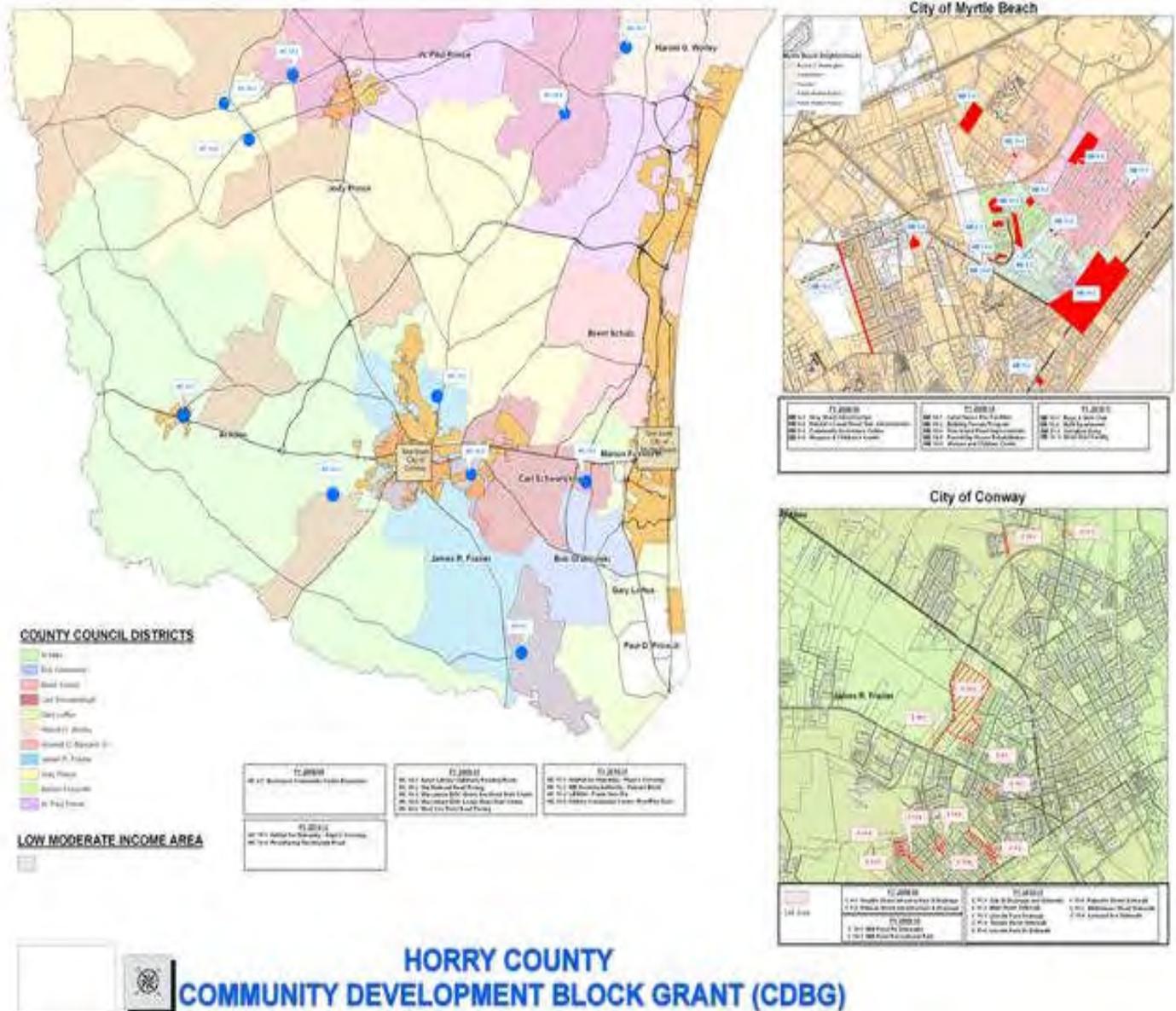


Figure 2. Map of Conway Projects

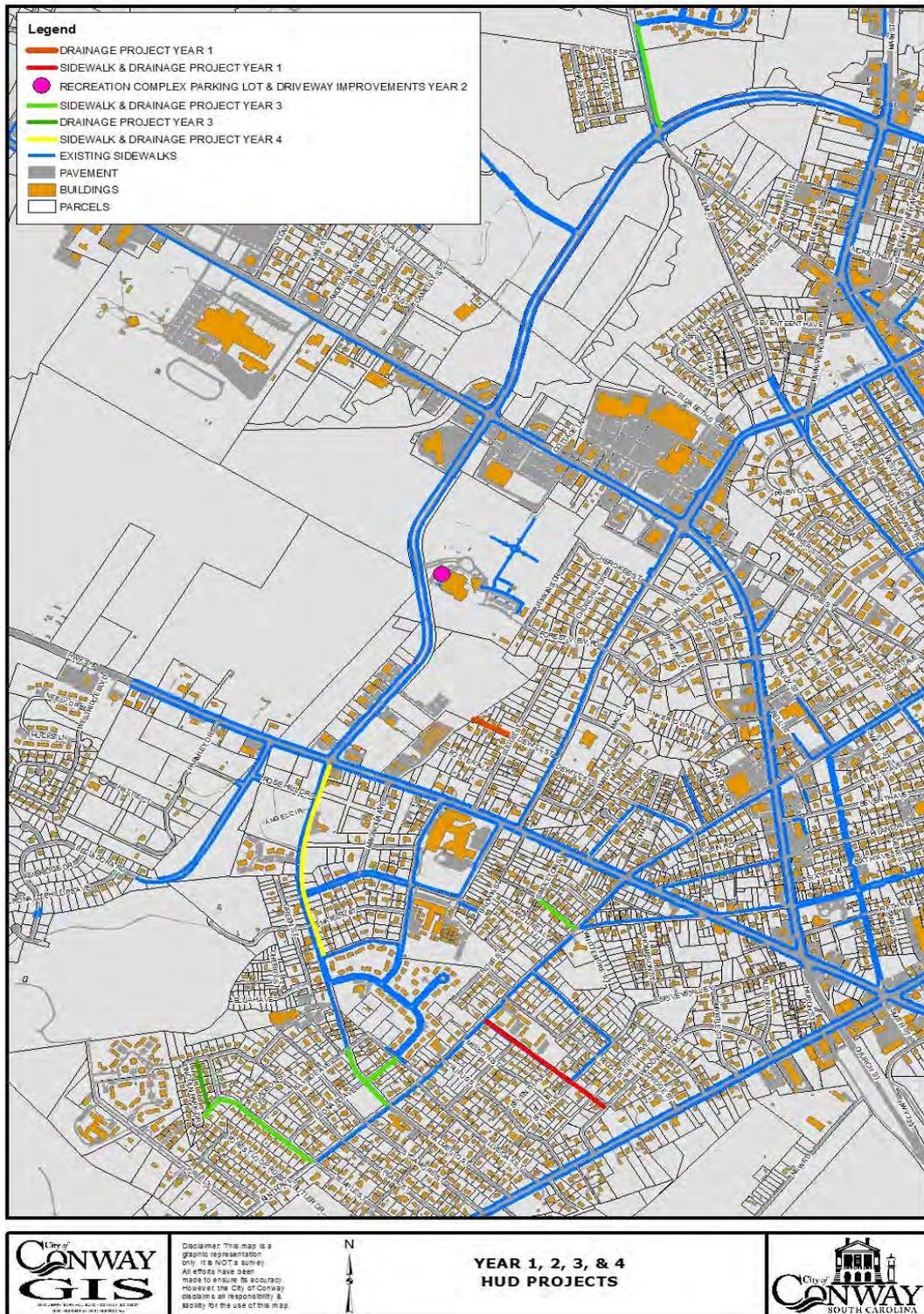
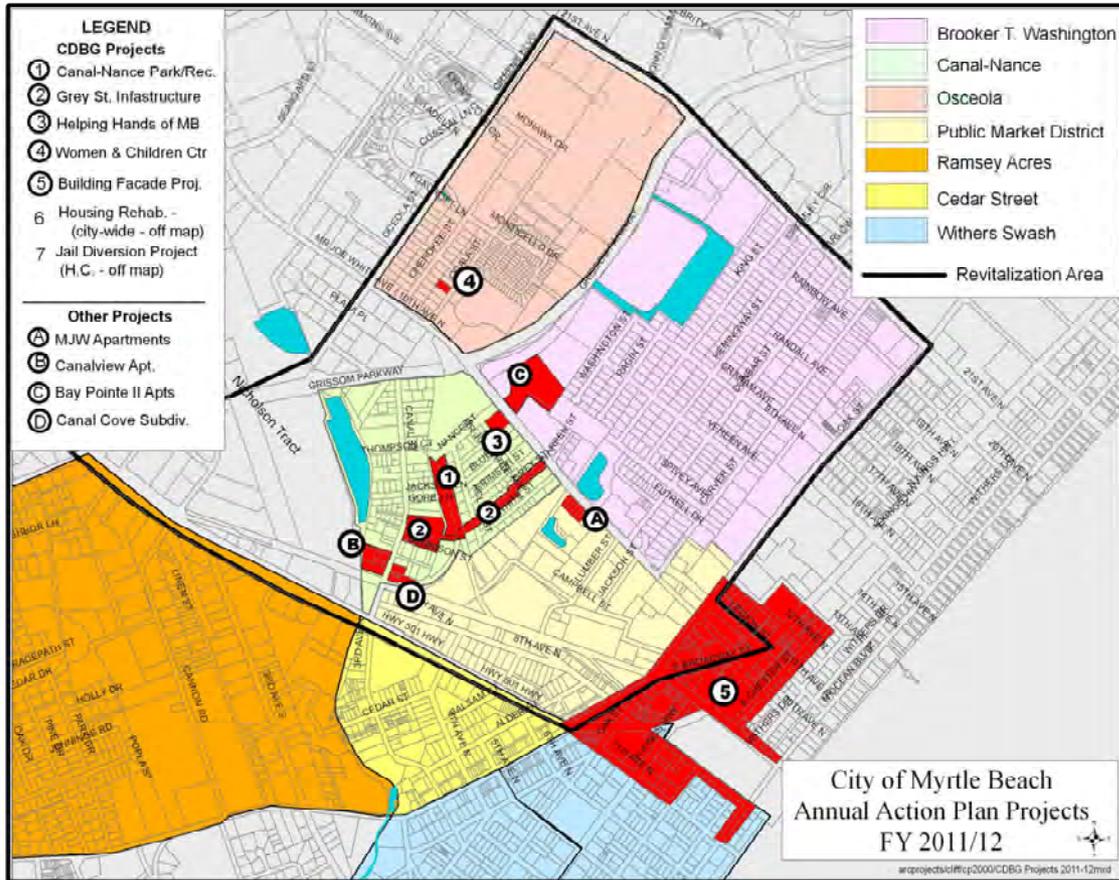


Figure 3. Map of City of Myrtle Beach Projects



## **Attachment C – Public Notice**

The Sun News | Myrtle Beach, S.C. | Wednesday, August 15, 2012  
MyrtleBeachSun.com

CAROLINAS

# The Carolinas

## WILTON HEAD ISLAND

### Beach park plans draw opposition

Plans for a Hilton Head Island beach park are drawing objections from neighborhood residents and an environmentalist.

The Island Packet of Hilton Head reports the town wants to build a park about a mile-and-a-half connecting Shelter Cove to the beach. A new trail, boardwalks and crosswalks would connect green spaces in the area. A 2006 report suggests the shoreline is subject to erosion.

Naturalist Todd Ballantine says inlet currents and rip tides make the beach unsafe for swimming and wading.

He also is concerned that building an 800-foot boardwalk will harm the fragile ocean inlet.

Town manager Steve Riley says state regulators are not enthusiastic about the project. But Riley says officials are OK with it as long as it avoids marsh grass.

## COLUMBIA

### Hospital elimination... used to treat inflammation.

The award from the National Institutes of Health comes after the group gave the university \$6 million that led to research that showed some dietary supplements can reduce inflammation.

Researchers say inflammation is essential to help the body recover from infections and injuries, but lingering, low-grade inflammation can also lead to the development of cancers and allergies as well as strokes and heart attacks.

Officials say the university's new Center for Dietary Supplements and Inflammation could revolutionize the way chronic inflammation is treated and find new techniques to fight a number of diseases.

## RALEIGH

### State Health Plan OKs new contracts

The health insurance plan for N.C. state employees, teachers, retirees and their family members has decided to diversify its outside contracts, which state officials say will save more than \$20 million annually.

The State Treasurer's Office announced this week the State Health Plan's trustees heard approved awarding some of the contracts to someone other than Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina - the state's dominant health insurer.

Blue Cross won the contract to keep processing claims and to offer a provider network to health plan members.

But the board awarded contracts to other firms for eligibility and enrollment services and to manage the program that offers insurance coverage for laid-off workers.

The contracts begin in July 2013 and last 3 1/2 years.

## RALEIGH

### Elections panel reviewing claims

The State Board of Elections likely will use a less severe method to consider campaign finance accusations made by N.C. Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin against his November Republican challenger Mike Casey, a top board official says.

Allegations against Casey likely will be resolved through administrative action, rather than getting the full board more involved in the probe, elections executive director Gary Bartlett told The News & Observer of Raleigh.

Bartlett said this week details had not been finalized and declined to comment further.

The actual board has held public hearings in recent years to investigate serious campaign finance allegations by other candidates or campaigns, which have ended with large fines, a referral to a district attorney for potential criminal charges, or both.

## ASHEVILLE

### Billy Graham released from hospital

Evangelist Billy Graham is out of an N.C. hospital following a two-day stay for treatment of bronchitis.

Pulmonologist Daniel Bertel said in a statement Tuesday that the 90-year-old had a quick recovery and responded well to his treatment at Mission Hospital in Asheville.

The doctor said that despite the illness, Graham is remarkably healthy for a man his age.

Graham, who has been working on a new book, returned to his home in nearby Mintrest.

His staff said he would continue his usual care and physical therapy at home and resume his involvement in ministry and writing projects.

— From wire reports

# Suit filed over insurance

## Public workers' health care premiums raised

By SHANNA ADOCK  
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA | A University of South Carolina professor has filed a class-action lawsuit against a state panel for raising public workers' health insurance premiums in spite of lawmakers' agreement to foot the bill in the state budget.

The lawsuit by Thomas Bryson, a USC chemistry professor and graduate studies director, alleges the Budget and Control Board lacked the authority to raise employees' premiums.

Legislators agreed in the state budget to provide money for agencies, school districts and public colleges to fully cover the costs.

Bryson Tuesday over how a regional mental health agency found itself with a multimillion-dollar shortfall within months of taking on expanded Medicaid responsibilities that are set to be limited state-wide by 2013.

The Western Highlands Network, which manages services for the mentally ill, substance abusers and the developmentally disabled in Buncombe and seven other western counties, converted to a new administrative format last January.

By June 30, the network was nearly \$4.6 million behind, according to a document provided by the state Department of Health and Human Services to legislators.

The network is expected to receive about \$40 million this year for services and administration.

The network's chief executive officer was fired last month, but legislators on an oversight committee remain concerned after an outside consultant determined issues identified last year before the network's conversion were still unresolved last month.

"It's not about the money," Bryson's attorney, Michael Medlock of Ridgefield, said Tuesday. "It's about the principle of law and following the rule of taking the proper steps and doing things right."

The lawsuit filed Monday in Richland County court seeks to represent the more than 200,000 public workers and retirees who have health insurance through the state health plan.

A total of 415,410 residents are covered through the plan, which includes spouses and children.

The lawsuit asks the court to block the hikes from taking effect of managed-care organizations by this coming January.

"This must work and we must provide for those that can least provide for themselves," said Sen. Tommy Tucker, R-Union. "We can't afford this. We can't afford these problems to reverberate throughout the system."

The Legislature agreed in 2011 on this conversion as a second-chance solution to mental health care reform that fell well short of expectations. The reform began in 2001 as 39 local public programs providing clinical treatment were converted into about half as many administrative hubs designed to help patients find community treatment.

Today, those hubs are being consolidated into 11 managed-care organizations that will receive a fixed amount of money for each Medicaid-eligible consumer to provide services.

One of the 11 - Piedmont Behavioral Health - began as a managed-care pilot program in five counties in 2005 and is now labeled by reform supporters as the model.

State health department of-

crease in their paychecks. The final budget increased most state workers' salaries by 3 percent, but also required them to contribute more toward their retirement.

It also distributed the necessary \$216 million to agencies and schools to fully cover premium hikes.

"What we have is another state agency saying we're going to ignore that," Medlock said.

In her executive budget proposal, Haley provided no raises for public workers. However, her line-item vetoes of legislators' budget didn't touch the raises or insurance coverage.

"We will always work to take care of state employees," Haley said in the consultant's financial report. But the action plan wasn't completed.

Charles Schoenheit, the network's interim CEO, said the review by the Marcor consulting firm late last year wasn't ignored. The network has extra funds in reserve to make up the shortfall for now.

"Our information systems department has been underfunded and I believe it is the source of many of those problems," Schoenheit told the oversight committee. "Our corrections have not been implemented as quickly as we would have liked."

State Medicaid office director Mike Watson - formerly the department's chief deputy - said in hindsight he wouldn't have signed off on the Western Highlands conversion given what he knows now.

Watson and Department acting secretary Al Delis said the agency is learning from the mistakes as seven other agencies prepare to come online in the coming months.

Two managed-care organizations that began after Western Highlands - East Carolina Behavioral Health in April and

means there's a \$5.8 million surplus in the budget. There's no mechanism for it to directly benefit taxpayers. It would mark the second consecutive year that premium hikes were split between agencies and workers.

The law reforming public pensions gave oversight of employee retirement and insurance programs to the new Public Employees Benefits Authority, separating those duties from the budget oversight board. Haley and her attorneys have said the board was legally acting on behalf of that agency's board, since its members are not yet in place.

By law, health premium rates must be approved by Aug. 15, to prepare for open enrollment in the administration processing problems.

Delis told the committee the agency is still on track to complete the conversion statewide by January, although the 2011 law provided six more months if needed.

Senate Minority Leader Martin Nesbitt, D-Buncombe, said Western Highlands officials shouldn't be singled out for the shortfall because they received \$16 million less to provide mental health and other services compared to what the state previous spent before the conversion.

So they are still saving the state money even with the shortfall, he said.

"It's incredible to me that we're down here skewering them," he said.

Rep. Nelson Dolar, R-Wake, co-chairman of the oversight committee, said other managed-care conversions appear to be succeeding because they are following more closely the Piedmont Behavioral Health model.

In contrast, Dolar said, the problems at Western Highlands appear to be a "complete failure" of its management.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**HORRY COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**2011 - 2012 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REPORT**

The Horry County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Year 2011-2012 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) is available for public review and comment. The 2011-2012 CAPER highlights expenditures of CDBG Program funds for the period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. The report includes information summarizing program resources, status of actions and community accomplishments, and a self-evaluation of program made during the year.

Copies of the report are available for review at the Horry County Community Development Office, 1515 Fourth Avenue, Conway, SC 29524, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. from August 16, 2012 through August 21, 2012. The report is also available from the County's website at [www.horrycountysc.com](http://www.horrycountysc.com).

There will be a public meeting on Wednesday, August 29, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. at the Community Development Office to receive further public input regarding 2011-2012 CAPER. Written comments may be addressed to Diana Seydlorsky at the Horry County Community Development Office or may be sent by email to [seidlorskd@horrycountysc.com](mailto:seidlorskd@horrycountysc.com). All comments must be received by 5 p.m. on August 31, 2012.

Horry County will furnish reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with limited English proficiency or disabilities upon 24-hour notice. Individuals with disabilities requesting auxiliary aids or services may contact Diana Seydlorsky, Community Development Director, by telephone at (843) 815-7083 or by writing the Community Development Office at 1515 Fourth Avenue, Conway, South Carolina 29524.

If you have questions, please call the Community Development Office at (843) 815-7083.