

CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

Progress the jurisdiction has made in carrying out its strategic plan and its action plan. 91.520(a)

This could be an overview that includes major initiatives and highlights that were proposed and executed throughout the program year.

The 2023 Program Year saw HOME funds used to support vulnerable and very low-income households in its Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) program, the lease up of 70 units at the new permanent supportive housing project and 5 new low-income households become first time home owners. Homeowner assistance funds were awarded to 2 households for downpayment assistance.

Increase Affordable Housing Supply: The Consortium prioritized funding to affordable housing development during Program Year 2023. Preliminary awards were granted to 2 affordable housing development rental projects:

- Generations Place, Island Roots Housing: \$150,174 CHDO Development and \$75,668 General Development
- VOA North: \$500,000

Homelessness: Across the Consortium area, TBRA caseloads and spending increased in PY 2023 as expected but enrollments in TBRA are still lower than the actual annual goal due mostly in part to households remaining enrolled for longer periods and increased costs of housing. There continues to be a high need throughout the Consortium area for financial support for households experiencing homeless or at risk of homelessness. Recent Point in Time Counts show a drastic increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness across the Consortium regions. The rate of homelessness is not keeping up with the available resources, available housing units, and available caseloads for programs to meet the need.

Lack of available and affordable rental housing continues to become more pronounced throughout the Consortium area, and there continues to be a need for rental assistance resources for various levels of income. Eviction prevention funding was cut and many temporary programs have since sunsetted leaving a gap in services. Shelter programs and rental assistance programs such as TBRA are keeping households enrolled longer than usual and rates of exiting shelter to permanent housing are low which causes less total households to be served than expected. More funding is needed per household in TBRA programs due to increases in rental prices and higher move in costs. Vacancy rates are improving but still low, inflation is rising, and rents continue to increase in all three counties.

Comparison of the proposed versus actual outcomes for each outcome measure submitted with the consolidated plan and explain, if applicable, why progress was not made toward meeting goals and objectives. 91.520(g)

Categories, priority levels, funding sources and amounts, outcomes/objectives, goal outcome indicators, units of measure, targets, actual outcomes/outputs, and percentage completed for each of the grantee's program year goals.

Goal	Category	Source / Amount	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Expected – Strategic Plan	Actual – Strategic Plan	Percent Complete	Expected – Program Year	Actual – Program Year	Percent Complete
Administration and Planning	Affordable Housing Public Housing Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Other	Other	0	0				
Affordable Housing Development	Affordable Housing Public Housing Homeless	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$ / Housing Trust Fund: \$ / Local Sales Tax: \$	Rental units constructed	Household Housing Unit	25	0	0.00%	5	0	0.00%
Build CHDO Capacity	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Rental units constructed	Household Housing Unit	10	0	0.00%			
Build CHDO Capacity	Affordable Housing	CDBG: \$ / HOME: \$	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	0	5		2	5	250.00%

End Homelessness	Homeless	HOME: \$	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing	Households Assisted	40	32	80.00%	40	32	80.00%
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Table 1 - Accomplishments – Program Year & Strategic Plan to Date

Assess how the jurisdiction’s use of funds, particularly CDBG, addresses the priorities and specific objectives identified in the plan, giving special attention to the highest priority activities identified.

CR-10 - Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted

Describe the families assisted (including the racial and ethnic status of families assisted).

91.520(a)

	CDBG	HOME
White	0	25
Black or African American	0	2
Asian	0	4
American Indian or American Native	0	1
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0
Total	0	32
Hispanic	0	6
Not Hispanic	0	26

Table 2 – Table of assistance to racial and ethnic populations by source of funds

Narrative

The Consortium served 32 households with TBRA during Program Year 2023, with the households consisting of 89 individuals. See the attached table for the race and ethnicity of those served. There are some beneficiaries that identify as multi-racial or other race categories, so we have uploaded a separate table showing the additional categories. The table provided in IDIS does not have a category for other or multi-racial, which accounts for the differences in the totals between the tables. During Program Year 2023 the Consortium served 3 households that identify as multi racial. See attached table for additional information.

According to 2022 US Census estimates, across the Consortium Region (not including the City of Bellingham) 14% of the population identifies as Hispanic, and 76% identifies as white alone and non-Hispanic. 87% of the population identifies as white, 2.2% identifies as Black/African American, 3.8% identifies as Asian, 1.9% identifies as American Indian/American Native, 0.4% identifies as Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, and 4.2% identify as 2 or more races.

Of the households served with HOME TBRA, 81% identified as white, 6% identified as Black/African American, 3% identified as American Indian/American Native, and 9% identified as Other/Multi-Racial. Of the households served with HOME TBRA, 19% identified as Hispanic and 81% identified as non-

Hispanic. Based on the data for households served, it appears that the program is reaching diverse communities within the region.

The Consortium will continue to track this data over time to determine if additional affirmative outreach is needed to ensure HOME funds are utilized equitable across racial and ethnic groups. The Consortium will continue to strengthen partnerships with by and for agencies and other culturally specific community-based organizations so that service improvement to marginalized communities can better serve individual needs.

CR-15 - Resources and Investments 91.520(a)

Identify the resources made available

Source of Funds	Source	Resources Made Available	Amount Expended During Program Year
CDBG	public - federal	0	
HOME	public - federal	1,001,160	537,250
Housing Trust Fund	public - state	375,000	375,000
Other	public - local	250,290	0

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

Consortium Region: Admin and Planning 16%

Island County: TBRA 24%

Skagit County: TBRA 32%

Whatcom County: TBRA 28%

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
Consortium region	100	16	admin, planning

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

The HOME funding for Admin/Planning and housing development activities is allocated across the Consortium. Admin/Planning funds support the Consortium overall, without regard to geography. Because of the cost and other challenges associated creating new housing and the small amount of HOME funds available annually, HOME housing development funds are allocated competitively across the three-county area. TBRA funding is allocated geographically by county using a population and demographic-based formula; each county has its own system and partners for administering these resources.

Leveraging

Explain how federal funds leveraged additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements were satisfied, as well as how any publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that were used to address the needs identified in the plan.

The Consortium fulfilled match requirements during Program Year 2023 due to large contributions of local spending on the two development projects.

Fiscal Year Summary – HOME Match	
1. Excess match from prior Federal fiscal year	2,073,528
2. Match contributed during current Federal fiscal year	36,110
3. Total match available for current Federal fiscal year (Line 1 plus Line 2)	2,109,638
4. Match liability for current Federal fiscal year	259,567
5. Excess match carried over to next Federal fiscal year (Line 3 minus Line 4)	1,850,071

Table 5 – Fiscal Year Summary - HOME Match Report

Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year								
Project No. or Other ID	Date of Contribution	Cash (non-Federal sources)	Foregone Taxes, Fees, Charges	Appraised Land/Real Property	Required Infrastructure	Site Preparation, Construction Materials, Donated labor	Bond Financing	Total Match
Home Trust of Skagit CHDO-Channel Cove	02/08/2023	36,110	0	0	0	0	0	36,110

Table 6 – Match Contribution for the Federal Fiscal Year

HOME MBE/WBE report

Program Income – Enter the program amounts for the reporting period				
Balance on hand at begin-ning of reporting period \$	Amount received during reporting period \$	Total amount expended during reporting period \$	Amount expended for TBRA \$	Balance on hand at end of reporting period \$
0	0	0	0	0

Table 7 – Program Income

Minority Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises – Indicate the number and dollar value of contracts for HOME projects completed during the reporting period						
	Total	Minority Business Enterprises				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Contracts						
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub-Contracts						
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	Women Business Enterprises	Male			
Contracts						
Dollar Amount	0	0	0			
Number	0	0	0			
Sub-Contracts						
Number	0	0	0			
Dollar Amount	0	0	0			

Table 8 - Minority Business and Women Business Enterprises

Minority Owners of Rental Property – Indicate the number of HOME assisted rental property owners and the total amount of HOME funds in these rental properties assisted						
	Total	Minority Property Owners				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dollar Amount	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 9 – Minority Owners of Rental Property

Relocation and Real Property Acquisition – Indicate the number of persons displaced, the cost of relocation payments, the number of parcels acquired, and the cost of acquisition						
Parcels Acquired		0		0		
Businesses Displaced		0		0		
Nonprofit Organizations Displaced		0		0		
Households Temporarily Relocated, not Displaced		0		0		
Households Displaced	Total	Minority Property Enterprises				White Non-Hispanic
		Alaskan Native or American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cost	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 10 – Relocation and Real Property Acquisition

CR-20 - Affordable Housing 91.520(b)

Evaluation of the jurisdiction's progress in providing affordable housing, including the number and types of families served, the number of extremely low-income, low-income, moderate-income, and middle-income persons served.

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	45	75
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	2	0
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Total	47	75

Table 11 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	40	32
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	7	5
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	0	0
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
Total	47	37

Table 12 – Number of Households Supported

Discuss the difference between goals and outcomes and problems encountered in meeting these goals.

We saw an increase in TBRA spending as expected and high demand on eviction prevention services. All three Consortium regions are facing a loss of an abundance of funding to provide eviction prevention and we anticipate this to have a negative effect on our communities. We expect evictions to rise along with the numbers of people experiencing homelessness and risk of homelessness. Households are staying longer in rental assistance programs such as TBRA, housing costs are increasing, and therefore agencies are serving a lower number of total households.

The other hurdles we encountered in operating rental assistance programs from previous years are still in existence today:

1. Availability of rental housing within the payment standards is extremely limited across the Consortium Region, causing significant delays in families leasing up. The average length of housing search has been increasing with many households taking more than 60 days to secure a unit.
2. TBRA vouchers are prioritized by Coordinated Entry, and households typically have several significant barriers to housing, such as a credit issues, criminal background and/or eviction history. The Consortium is seeking to improve the local Coordinated Entry systems. We are working with TBRA providers to increase enrollments from shelter to TBRA so households are more engaged in case management and housing search while in shelter. We anticipate this approach to be an effective strategy for engagement.
3. Vacancy rates are extremely low coupled with severe increase in the price of rent across the three counties makes it extremely difficult for anyone in any income level to lease a housing unit.
4. Across the Consortium region providers struggled with staffing gaps and retention, wages for these positions are not competitive and direct service staff are also struggling. Agencies lack funding to pay case managers for their work, especially when administering TBRA through HOME funds which do not pay for staffing costs.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

The Consortium will look toward prioritizing development projects to increase the affordable housing supply.

Include the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income persons served by each activity where information on income by family size is required to determine the eligibility of the activity.

Number of Households Served	CDBG Actual	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income	0	31
Low-income	0	1
Moderate-income	0	0
Total	0	32

Table 13 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

All households served within the TBRA program were under 50% AMI. The majority (97%) were under 30% of AMI and an additional 3% were between 30% and 50% AMI.

CR-25 - Homeless and Other Special Needs 91.220(d, e); 91.320(d, e); 91.520(c)

Evaluate the jurisdiction's progress in meeting its specific objectives for reducing and ending homelessness through:

Reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs

Each county operates a Coordinated Entry system to assess homeless households for vulnerability. Households are referred to programs based on specific needs and available openings with the goal of connecting homeless households to permanent housing as quickly as possible. Each county prioritizes unsheltered households for entry into their Coordinated Entry system. Each county is required to meet a performance target for the percentage of households served who are unsheltered.

All counties in the Consortium continue to work with agencies and interested parties to increase the percentage of entries into their systems who are unsheltered. Each county reports data on system prioritization targets to the Washington State Department of Commerce, which means that households with a recent history of unsheltered homelessness or fleeing violence are prioritized.

The number of unsheltered households across the Consortium region is reflective of the increasingly tight rental market and the increase in the number of barriers that unsheltered households deal with. All three regions are expanding street outreach services and continue to improve collaboration around care coordination for the unhoused community.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The Consortium does not receive HOME funding for activities concerning emergency shelter and/or transitional housing. However, Whatcom, Island, and Skagit counties all make local funds available to organizations providing these services. During PY2023, Consortium members used a combination of motel and additional winter shelters to support the unhoused community for temporary shelter beds during the cold weather season. Eviction prevention programs experienced a large decrease in funding across all three regions which only exacerbates the housing crisis. Whatcom County in particular does not have a family shelter and relied solely on motels to support homeless families. Skagit County does not have a drop in shelter and all other shelter programs have waitlists. Whatcom County is working towards increasing shelter beds for families and is currently working on developing a new program in partnership with YMCA. All Counties lack in transitional and supportive housing options to meet the complex needs of an increasing number of homeless people with layers of barriers and vulnerabilities.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: likely to become homeless after being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections

programs and institutions); and, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs

The Consortium's TBRA program is available to people discharging from institutions and receiving assistance from public or private agencies for a variety of socio-economic needs. When possible, we coordinate with other partners, such as the criminal justice, education, and behavioral health systems to increase referrals to TBRA. We optimize funding by providing additional local support for case management and voluntary behavioral health services, particularly for clients exiting institutions or involved with the behavioral health system. Skagit County members also participate with the local Anchor Community Initiatives to work towards ending youth homelessness in Skagit County which targets youth and young adult homeless populations and is working to achieve functional zero by working through a system of step by step actions, creating a by name list, and case conferencing across providers. We have other prevention and diversion resources available for at risk youth and families. Whatcom County is working towards increasing shelter beds for families. All of these systems working towards preventing homelessness are facing great challenges with affordability and lack of housing units that people can afford.

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again

During the PY2023, the Consortium continued to maximize the amount of funding allocated toward the development of a permanent supportive housing project, low income home ownership project, and tenant-based rental assistance, which acts as bridge housing assistance while the household works toward longer term housing goals. The Consortium worked strategically with partner agencies to develop the critical supportive services for the individuals exiting homelessness into the permanent housing program.

Agencies administering TBRA funding also make homeless households aware of additional services designed to help them achieve long-term housing stability through active case management. As staff at the agencies have become more familiar with HOME TBRA funding, they have implemented progressive engagement to support the self-sufficiency of program participants.

CR-30 - Public Housing 91.220(h); 91.320(j)

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

The Consortium primarily addresses the needs of individuals who are not receiving public housing.

The Anacortes Housing Authority owns and operates more than 100 public housing units. The Sedro-Woolley Housing Authority owns 80 units of public housing, operated by the King County Housing Authority. The Housing Authority of Island County owns and operates more than 100 units of public housing for seniors and people with disabilities. The Housing Authority of Skagit County owns and/or manages several affordable apartment complexes, including farmworker and Veteran housing.

The various housing authorities within the Consortium continue their efforts to rehab public housing, with the support of their associated jurisdictions. The Consortium is not formally involved with any current public housing rehab activities.

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

None

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

Not Applicable

CR-35 - Other Actions 91.220(j)-(k); 91.320(i)-(j)

Actions taken to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment. 91.220 (j); 91.320 (i)

Although Skagit County (HOME Participating Jurisdiction) has limited authority to influence land use policy issues in the various municipalities that comprise the Consortium, staff do engage on planning topics through our regional Skagit Council of Government (SCOG) organization. Public health and planning staff attend planning meetings of committees focused on growth management. Each municipality planning under the Washington State Growth Management Act engages in regular updates to their Comprehensive Plans. These plans set the jurisdictions' direction for meeting employment and housing needs of their growing populations. Many jurisdictions within the Consortium have engaged professional affordable housing consultants to study barriers to affordable housing and create affordable housing action plans.

Skagit County, Island County, and Whatcom County often provide technical assistance, research support, and data to municipalities within the Consortium region undertaking comprehensive planning. Furthermore, county staff participates in cities' affordable housing stakeholder engagement and planning processes.

Actions taken to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The Consortium directed the majority of its 2023 Program Year expended funding towards development because a major underserved need is affordable housing. In addition to housing development, the Consortium also prioritizes the tenant based rental assistance program. When possible, we have paired tenant-based rental assistance with local behavioral health case management funding to assist with the unmet needs resulting from the opioid crisis. The Consortium has encouraged agencies to explore opportunities within the Coordinated Entry program to assist eligible households that are vulnerable and have already identified housing units. The Consortium will monitor demographic data associated with tenant-based rental assistance to ensure all vulnerable populations are receiving equitable support.

Actions taken to reduce lead-based paint hazards. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

Skagit County implemented lead-based paint policies for the Tenant Based Rental Assistance program. During PY2023, Skagit County staff completed onsite visits with all three TBRA providers and completed file audits with the TBRA contractors to confirm that lead-based paint protocols were still being followed in the programs. The County confirmed that providers are conducting Housing Quality Standards Inspections, completing appropriate followup and sharing educational materials with their clients to promote awareness and building community knowledge about health, safety, and resources. Staff also conducted HQS inspections at new HOME assisted permanent supportive housing units.

Actions taken to reduce the number of poverty-level families. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The service providers engage in a comprehensive assessment of each household served to identify supportive services that will improve long-term housing stability. Tenant-based rental assistance programs are operated out of community action agencies in each county, which allows for strong referrals to a variety of anti-poverty programs, including Basic Food, energy assistance, WIC, job training, DSHS, etc. PY2023 brought a new resource to the Consortiu region- HDPF prevention and diversion funding was made available in Whatcom and Skagit County. This fund supports youth and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness with flexible funds.

Actions taken to develop institutional structure. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

The Consortium continues its efforts to build strong relationships among participating jurisdictions and contractors. These efforts include regular meetings and contacts with agencies and representatives from participating jurisdictions. The Consortium continues to formalize relationships through the use of MOUs, agreements, and contracts. Additionally, the Consortium provides representation on local community and interagency workgroups involved in Coordinated Entry or other programs with outreach and involvement with households who may benefit from HOME funding.

Skagit County believes it is important to bring community leaders and residents together to better understand affordable housing and homelessness in our communities, and to explore solutions.

Skagit County staff actively participate in the Skagit County Housing Consortium, which includes representation from local governments, non-profits, for-profit developers, and other stakeholders interested in affordable housing development. Additionally, Skagit County has partnered with Anchor Community Initiatives, Away Home Washington to address Youth Homelessness in Skagit County.

Additionally, through Skagit County's administration of multiple state CDBG grants, the Consortium staff has increased its familiarity with federal environmental review, labor, and procurement requirements.

Actions taken to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies. 91.220(k); 91.320(j)

Staff from Skagit, Island, and Whatcom counties each continue to participate in their local Continuum of Care, which allows regular coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies. Staff attend monthly meetings and participate in steering committee conversations that guide updates to their Plans to End Homelessness. Additionally, staff from Skagit, Island, and Whatcom counties are working with their city members to recruit landlords, housing developers, and social service agencies with the capacity to undertake new HOME-related projects.

Identify actions taken to overcome the effects of any impediments identified in the jurisdictions analysis of impediments to fair housing choice. 91.520(a)

In order to overcome impediments to fair housing choice, Skagit County, Island County and the city of Bellingham in Whatcom County funded outreach and engagement with landlords to educate them about affordable housing, tenants rights, and encourage them to work with disadvantaged tenants. Both Whatcom and Skagit have landlord liaison staff dedicated to cultivating strong partnerships between landlords, non-profit rental assistance agencies, and low income tenants. Landlord liaison programs encourage education of both landlords and tenants and work towards building equity with access to knowledge and resources to low income and vulnerable populations.

All three Counties work closely with their local Legal Aid programs to expand tenant education and information to income eligible residents, help prevent evictions, and help people maintain housing stability and be good tenants. Skagit Legal Aid has staff that speak multiple languages and hosts multiple legal clinics serving a variety of needs across Skagit, Island, and Whatcom Counties. The Consortium has also seen outreach teams expand staffing and provide more accessible mobile outreach throughout the Consortium regions with staff that include lived experience and staff that are multilingual. The Consortium has increased partnerships with by and for organizations and expanded Promotora staffing with multilingual staff to reach diverse communities across the region and ensure equitable access to information and resources.

The Consortium has focused its attention on dedicated local funds for affordable housing production, which was identified as a major impediment in the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice. We will continue to prioritize fair housing and ensure our local partners do the same.

CR-40 - Monitoring 91.220 and 91.230

Describe the standards and procedures used to monitor activities carried out in furtherance of the plan and used to ensure long-term compliance with requirements of the programs involved, including minority business outreach and the comprehensive planning requirements

During PY2023 the Consortium completed monitoring of all three TBRA contractors. Monitoring consisted of desk audit questions, files review, and financial record review on site with program staff. The Consortium has also developed monitoring procedures for all units produced with HOME funds to assure long-term compliance with relevant requirements. Throughout PY2023 Consortium staff reviewed subrecipient billings, invoicing, beneficiary reports, and backup documentation to ensure program compliance monthly. Skagit, Whatcom, and Island counties monitor HMIS data to measure progress toward goals to reduce and end homelessness. Subrecipients submit a quarterly TBRA beneficiary report along with monthly invoices for reimbursement for program activities.

HOME development projects are monitored regularly by Skagit County Public Health staff throughout development. The purpose of staff monitoring during development is to ensure and document compliance with HOME environmental mitigation requirements (as applicable); project progress in alignment with draw requests and HOME project deadlines; project execution consistent with HOME funding agreements and project plans; and monitoring of project spending and costs in comparison with final project development budget.

During PY2023 Skagit County conducted extensive monitoring of the Permanent Supportive Housing development in Mount Vernon which had been operating for 1 year so far. All HOME compliance requirements were reviewed, files and leases, site visit, and HQS inspections were conducted on HOME assisted units.

Comprehensive planning requirements are monitored through each jurisdiction's planning departments, governed by the Washington State Growth Management Act. Contractors are required to undertake minority business outreach, which is monitored through yearly on-site audits and one-on-one technical assistance conversations.

Citizen Participation Plan 91.105(d); 91.115(d)

Describe the efforts to provide citizens with reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on performance reports.

The CAPER was made available for citizens to comment over nineteen days from September 9th, 2024-September 24th, 2024. which exceeds the period required by the Consortium's policy. Citizens were also notified of report availability and an associated public hearing via the local newspaper (published in English and Spanish) and the Skagit County Commissioner's resolution calling for citizen input. Skagit County also sent out a request for public input to its housing listserve that reaches 2,000+ email addresses and followed up with a more targeted request for comment from Consortium member jurisdictions.

No public comments were received.

Citizen Participation Plan is found here:

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/HumanServices/Documents/Housing/Skagit%20County%20Consortium%20Citizen%20Participation%20Plan%201018.pdf>

CR-45 - CDBG 91.520(c)

Specify the nature of, and reasons for, any changes in the jurisdiction's program objectives and indications of how the jurisdiction would change its programs as a result of its experiences.

Does this Jurisdiction have any open Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) grants?

[BEDI grantees] Describe accomplishments and program outcomes during the last year.

CR-50 - HOME 24 CFR 91.520(d)

Include the results of on-site inspections of affordable rental housing assisted under the program to determine compliance with housing codes and other applicable regulations

Please list those projects that should have been inspected on-site this program year based upon the schedule in 24 CFR §92.504(d). Indicate which of these were inspected and a summary of issues that were detected during the inspection. For those that were not inspected, please indicate the reason and how you will remedy the situation.

Martha's Place Site Visits: 3/12/2024 HOME Compliance Audit and HQS Inspections

No issues identified

Provide an assessment of the jurisdiction's affirmative marketing actions for HOME units. 24 CFR 91.520(e) and 24 CFR 92.351(a)

Affordable Housing: The new Martha's Place PSH project was undergoing lease-up during the period. In addition to complying with fair housing requirements, the Consortium's goal in this process has been to assure that individuals who normally might not apply for units, because of their race, ethnicity, or other barriers: (1) know about the vacancies; (2) feel welcome to apply; and (3) have the opportunity to rent both HOME Program Assisted Units and other units of the development project. To ensure that the most vulnerable people had the opportunity to apply, providers across Skagit County worked together to identify individuals and make sure they were actively referred. This activity included regular meetings with county staff, the project sponsor, outreach teams, co-responders, shelter, and other organizations. For example, when applicants needed support with tasks like documentation of homelessness, identification or other application paperwork, outreach teams from Community Action, Skagit County, and the City of Mount Vernon helped find individuals and supported them through the process.

TRBA: households are prioritized by a consistent Coordinated Entry process in all of the three counties. When possible, we coordinate with other partners, such as the criminal justice, education, and behavioral health systems to increase referrals to TBRA. Agencies administering TBRA funding also make homeless households aware of additional services designed to help them achieve long-term housing stability through active case management.

Refer to IDIS reports to describe the amount and use of program income for projects, including the number of projects and owner and tenant characteristics

No program income was reported during the program year.

Describe other actions taken to foster and maintain affordable housing. 24 CFR 91.220(k) (STATES ONLY: Including the coordination of LIHTC with the development of affordable

housing). 24 CFR 91.320(j)

CR-58 – Section 3

Identify the number of individuals assisted and the types of assistance provided

Total Labor Hours	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
Total Number of Activities	0	0	0	0	0
Total Labor Hours		0			
Total Section 3 Worker Hours		0			
Total Targeted Section 3 Worker Hours		0			

Table 14 – Total Labor Hours

Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program	CDBG	HOME	ESG	HOPWA	HTF
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Public Housing Targeted Workers					
Outreach efforts to generate job applicants who are Other Funding Targeted Workers.					
Direct, on-the job training (including apprenticeships).					
Indirect training such as arranging for, contracting for, or paying tuition for, off-site training.					
Technical assistance to help Section 3 workers compete for jobs (e.g., resume assistance, coaching).					
Outreach efforts to identify and secure bids from Section 3 business concerns.					
Technical assistance to help Section 3 business concerns understand and bid on contracts.					
Division of contracts into smaller jobs to facilitate participation by Section 3 business concerns.					
Provided or connected residents with assistance in seeking employment including: drafting resumes, preparing for interviews, finding job opportunities, connecting residents to job placement services.					
Held one or more job fairs.					
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that can provide direct services or referrals.					
Provided or connected residents with supportive services that provide one or more of the following: work readiness health screenings, interview clothing, uniforms, test fees, transportation.					
Assisted residents with finding child care.					
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend community college or a four year educational institution.					
Assisted residents to apply for, or attend vocational/technical training.					
Assisted residents to obtain financial literacy training and/or coaching.					
Bonding assistance, guaranties, or other efforts to support viable bids from Section 3 business concerns.					
Provided or connected residents with training on computer use or online technologies.					
Promoting the use of a business registry designed to create opportunities for disadvantaged and small businesses.					
Outreach, engagement, or referrals with the state one-stop system, as designed in Section 121(e)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.					

Other.					
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Table 15 – Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program

Narrative

There were no new Section 3 covered activities during this period. Activities for the HTS Channel Cove and Martha's Place Project were report in last year's CAPER.