



**CITY OF MERIDIAN
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)**

**CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE
AND EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER)
PROGRAM YEAR 2022**

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Introduction

The City of Meridian qualifies as an entitlement city, receiving the annual Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Obligated by this funding, the City must prepare a Consolidated Plan outlining its housing and community needs, prioritizing them, identifying the necessary resources, and establishing annual goals to address these needs. Detailed activities are specified in yearly action plans submitted to HUD, detailing how the City intends to fulfill the Consolidated Plan's goals and objectives for that program year.

Following the completion of each program year, the City furnishes both the public and HUD with a comprehensive summary of expenditures and accomplishments known as the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

The success of the City's program, as reflected in the CAPER, relies significantly on the combined efforts and resources of various private and public entities, in addition to HUD.

Guidelines for the CAPER are delineated in 24 CFR § 91.520. This report evaluates the City's performance in the 2022 Program Year (PY22) and encompasses the overall achievements of the 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan. The current program year spanned from October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023.

Incorporating reports generated by HUD's Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS), this CAPER contains tables and reports outlining the City's accomplishments in PY22. These IDIS-generated details are integrated into the narrative and attachment sections, providing an updated insight into the City's progression toward meeting the Consolidated Plan's goals and objectives.

CR-05 - Goals and Outcomes

Progress the jurisdiction has made in carrying out its strategic plan and its action plan.

91.520(a)

The Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) reflects the activities and expenditures for the City of Meridian's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) during Program Year 2022 (PY22), which was administered from October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023. This report details the advancements made in achieving objectives outlined in the PY22 Action Plan. These objectives stem from the overarching goals set forth in the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan/Consolidated Plan, which encompass the following key areas:

- Public Facilities and Infrastructure Improvements
- Public Services
- Housing
- Program Administration

During PY22 the City of Meridian and its subrecipients accomplished the following activities:

- Finalized **mortgage assistance** payments for households previously approved and reported in PY21 via NeighborWorks Boise, utilizing CARES Act funds.
- Facilitated scholarships through IDAEYC, benefiting 17 children by providing **access to childcare**, funded by the CARES Act.
- Distributed **rental assistance** to 76 households, comprising 209 individuals, via the Ada County Housing Authority (ACHA), utilizing CARES Act funds.
- Granted scholarships to 52 youths, enabling their participation in **extended care programs** at the Boys & Girls Clubs.
- Delivered **rental assistance** to 15 households, involving 36 individuals, through Jesse Tree.
- Undertook essential repairs for six homeowners through NeighborWorks Boise.
- Installed or modernized four streetlights along walking routes to Meridian schools, ensuring **safe and reliable access** for children commuting to school.
- Successfully completed the installation of an **all-abilities** playground, enhancing inclusivity in recreational facilities.
- Collaborated with the Cities of Caldwell, Nampa, and Boise to **educate the community** on fair housing issues.
- Coordinated efforts with the Idaho Housing and Finance Association (IHFA), Caldwell, Nampa, Boise, and Pocatello to organize and facilitate monthly meetings and training sessions for the **Idaho Fair Housing Forum**.

Comparison of the proposed versus actual outcomes for each outcome measure submitted with the consolidated plan. 91.520(g)

Goal	Category	Indicator	Unit of Measure	Strategic Plan			Program Year		
				Expected	Actual	Completed	Expected	Actual	Completed
Housing	Affordable Housing	Rental units constructed	Household Housing Unit	4	0	0%	0	0	0%
		Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	20	6	30%	7	6	86%
		Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers	Households Assisted	2	1	50%	1	1	100%
Program Administration	Affordable Housing Public Housing Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	Other	Other	1	1	100%	1	1	100%
Public Facilities and Infrastructure Improvements	Non-Housing Community Development	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	2,000	3,770	189%	400	3,770	943%
Public Services	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	165	471	285%	120	471	393%
		Homelessness Prevention	Persons Assisted	90	36	40%	45	36	80%

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.

The City of Meridian utilized its CDBG funding to address the priorities and specific objectives identified in its Consolidated Plan, focusing on the highest priority activities identified through stakeholder engagement and extensive community input.

1. Objective: Housing

Priorities Addressed

- ***Priority 1: Provide Decent Housing***

To address the priority of providing decent housing, Meridian directed resources towards assisting low- and moderate-income (LMI) households in purchasing homes within the city. Additionally, funds were allocated for essential homeowner repairs, ensuring that existing housing stock remains in good condition and accessible to residents in need.

2. Objective: Public Facilities and Infrastructure Improvements

Priorities Addressed

- ***Priority 2: Create a Suitable Living Environment***

The city focused on creating a suitable living environment by installing an all-abilities playground in a specific census tract, catering to children with disabilities. Furthermore, the modernization and installation of streetlights in crucial areas aim to enhance safety and accessibility, providing residents with better access to essential community resources, such as schools and food facilities.

3. Objective: Public Services

Priorities Addressed

- ***Priority 3: Expand Opportunities for LMI Persons***

Meridian effectively expanded opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals by utilizing CDBG funds to support various initiatives. These include providing access to childcare resources, offering financial aid for rent and mortgage assistance, and allocating resources for transportation, particularly for seniors, to enhance their quality of life and access necessary services such as food and medical appointments.

4. Objective: Program Administration

Priorities Addressed

- ***Priority 1: Provide Decent Housing***
- ***Priority 2: Create a Suitable Living Environment***
- ***Priority 3: Expand Opportunities for LMI Persons***

Under the objective of program administration, the City ensured the efficient management of resources and programs. This included staff activities focused on program administration and improvement of fair housing resources in the community, demonstrating a commitment to advancing equitable housing opportunities. These efforts aligned with all three priorities identified: Provide Decent Housing, Create a Suitable Living Environment, and Expand Opportunities for LMI Persons.

The identified priority needs outlined in the Consolidated Plan were addressed through tangible initiatives that align with the community's identified needs. Meridian's use of various data sources, such as the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, Analysis of Built Environment, stakeholder meetings, and surveys, contributed to informed decision-making in prioritizing projects that would have the most significant impact on the community.

Overall, the City's strategic allocation of funds towards initiatives aligning with the Consolidated Plan objectives demonstrates a concerted effort to create a more inclusive, livable, and supportive environment for its residents, particularly focusing on improving housing conditions, enhancing living environments, and expanding opportunities for its

low- and moderate-income population.

Please note: there is an additional field titled "Funding" in HUDs reporting system that is blank. This field is uneditable by staff, so it is not included in this report..

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
White	454
Black or African American	12
Asian	22
American Indian or American Native	19
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0
Total	507
Hispanic	86
Not Hispanic	421

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

Narrative

In PY22, the people assisted by Meridian's initiatives showed a distribution across racial and ethnic groups that varied somewhat from the demographic makeup of the city. One discrepancy in the chart above is that IDIS has additional categories that do not populate in this table, so the extra people are included under "White". The numbers below include the additional races that are available for reporting on in HUD's IDIS system. Here's a breakdown:

- **White:** Assisted: 78%, City Demographic: 89.5%
- **Black/African American:** Assisted: 2%, City Demographic: 1.0%
- **Asian:** Assisted: 4%, City Demographic: 2.5%
- **American Indian/American Native:** Assisted: 4%, City Demographic: 0.4%
- **Other Multi-Racial:** Assisted: 12%, City Demographic: 5.5%
- **Hispanic:** Assisted: 17%, City Demographic: 8.0%

Comparatively, the representation of racial and ethnic groups among the families assisted in PY22 somewhat mirrors the city's racial distribution, but with notable variances in specific groups. Notably, the Hispanic population assisted in proportionate numbers to their representation in the city, while some racial groups, like Black/African American and Asian, are slightly overrepresented among those assisted compared to their demographic presence in Meridian.

This data indicates a reasonably reflective approach to assisting families in accordance with the city's racial and ethnic diversity. However, further efforts could be made to ensure more equitable representation among various racial and ethnic groups, particularly in targeting assistance programs to address potential disparities or unmet needs within specific communities.

Note: The IDIS PR23 is incorrectly calculating the CDBG-CV beneficiaries served, it may be including previous years.

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	\$1,086,942	\$729,881

Table 3 - Resources Made Available

Narrative

Resources available this year included \$72,331 from the 2020 allocation, \$177,263 from the 2021 allocation, \$517,466 from the 2022 allocation, and \$319,882 of the CDBG-CV funding. All resources were allocated to eligible projects during PY22.

During PY22 the City expended \$410,000 in regular funds and \$319,882 in CV funds. The following projects were not fully expended and will carry over into PY23:

- PY21 Homebuyer Assistance – unspent funds from projects that were completed under budget or were withdrawn was allocated to this project.
- PY22 Homeowner Repair – applications for this funding year ended September 30, 2023, remaining funds will be used to complete work on those that have already been approved.
- PY21 E MHS/MMS Streetlights – will continue into PY23.
- PY22 Franklin and 5th Streetlights – will continue into PY23.
- PY22 Landing Sub. Streetlights – will continue into PY23.

Below is a breakdown of the projects that were closed or had reduced funding in PY22 and the reallocation of funds to other initiatives:

- CV Boys and Girls Club Counseling – due to staff turnover they were unable to locate client files that determined eligibility. A repayment of \$803 was processed and reallocated to the CV ACHA Rental Assistance program.
- PY20 Locust Grove Streetlights – completed \$13,082 under budget, reallocated to PY21 E. MHS/MMS Streetlights.
- PY21 NeighborWorks Boise Homeowner Repair – completed \$8,423 under budget, reallocated to PY21 E. MHS/MMS Streetlights.
- PY21 Chateau Playground – completed \$6,219 under budget, reallocated to PY22 NeighborWorks Boise Homeowner Repair.
- PY21 Boys and Girls Club Scholarships – one household was identified as not residing in Meridian and were therefore ineligible for Meridian CDBG funding. A repayment of \$163 was processed and reallocated to PY22 NeighborWorks Boise Homeowner Repair.
- PY22 NeighborWorks Boise Homebuyer Assistance – \$40,000 was allocated to this project but was later merged with the PY21 NeighborWorks Homebuyer Assistance project to streamline the use of remaining funds.
- PY22 Admin – completed \$3,229 under budget, reallocated to PY23 LMA Walkability: NW 3rd project.
- PY22 Fair Housing – completed \$2,150 under budget, reallocated to PY23 LMA Walkability: NW 3rd project .

- PY22 Meridian Senior Center Transportation – completed \$539.18 under budget, reallocated to PY23 LMA Walkability: NW 3rd project.
- PY22 NeighborWorks Boise Homeowner Repair – reduced budget by \$19,738 to only allow funding for projects that were approved in PY22, reallocated to PY23 LMA Walkability: NW 3rd project.
- PY22 unallocated funds - \$6,219 was originally allocated to PY22 NeighborWorks Boise Homeowner Repair, but it was replaced with the reallocation from the PY21 Chateau Playground. These unallocated funds were reallocated to PY23 LMA Walkability: NW 3rd project.

All reallocations are aligned with the goals of the Consolidated Plan that was effective during the timeframe the funding was received. Additionally, the total and/or individual reallocations did not trigger a substantial amendment. It is anticipated that the projects continuing into PY23 will complete slightly under budget and any remaining regular CDBG funds will be reallocated to the PY23 LMA Walkability: NW 3rd project according to the method identified in the current Citizen Participation Plan.

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation	Narrative Description
Meridian Citywide	100	100	All funds were distributed to Meridian residents.

Table 4 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

The City of Meridian’s basis for allocating projects is geographically delineated within its municipal boundaries. Funding is determined by meeting national objectives, qualifying eligible activities, and through a competitive application process. The City does not specify target areas either by census tract or block group.

There are eight (8) Census tracts that are either fully or partially within Meridian's municipal boundaries. Census tracts 103.21, 103.22, 103.33, and 103.35 fall within Meridian's LMI area. The use of CDBG funding is not pre-determined in areas of LMI concentration. The Boys & Girls Club and Meridian Senior Center are located in Meridian while Jesse Tree, IDAEYC, and NeighborWorks are located in Boise; however, LMI clients served reside throughout Meridian.

Multiple low-moderate area activities were conducted during PY22, specifically streetlight installation and modernization in census tracts 103.21 103.22, and 103.33, and an all-abilities playground was installed in census tract 103.35.

Leveraging

The City of Meridian receives CDBG funds through its annual entitlement; this is the only HUD funding that the City directs toward community development-type projects. The City pays staff salaries for the administration of the program and for staff time on projects the City administers, such as streetlights. It is estimated the City leverages \$100,000 in local funds to administer this program. No publicly owned land or property was leveraged during PY22.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Ada County receives additional funding from federal grants and private donations. These funds are leveraged to provide staff time and additional scholarships to the Boys & Girls Club programs. Roughly

\$162,500 in federal grants, private donations, and program fees were used to support this program.

Jesse Tree estimates \$2,221,275 federal and local grants, private donations were leveraged to administer the program and provide supportive services to recipients of this program throughout the Treasure Valley.

NeighborWorks Boise, ACHA, Meridian Senior Center, and IDAEYC did not report leveraging other funds to complete their projects.

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	0	0
Number of Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	8	7
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Total	0	0

Table 5 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	0	0
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	0	0
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	7	6
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	1	1
Total	8	7

Table 6 – Number of Households Supported

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

In PY22, the action plan aimed to provide affordable housing to eight non-homeless households. This target comprised seven households supported through the rehabilitation of existing units and one household assisted through the acquisition of existing units.

- Rehabilitation of Existing Units:** The Homeowner Repair program successfully completed the rehabilitation of six owner-occupied units. Additionally, two more units were identified and approved for rehabilitation. However, the program fell short by one household in meeting the goal due to delays in acquiring materials and labor necessary to complete the rehabilitation of these two additional households.
- Acquisition of Existing Units:** The goal was to support one household through the acquisition of existing units. The Homebuyer Assistance Program successfully assisted one household in purchasing a home in Meridian, effectively meeting the set goal.

Overall, the Homeowner Repair program accomplished the rehabilitation of a significant number of owner-occupied units, coming close to meeting the set goal but falling short by one household due to logistical challenges. The Homebuyer Assistance program successfully achieved its objective by facilitating the purchase of a home for one household in Meridian.

Note: The IDIS PR23 report includes beneficiaries in the race/ethnicity section that were reported in previous years (IDIS activity # 138, 139, and 141).

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

The PY22 outcomes for these programs will have an impact on future annual action plans as shown below.

- Homeowner Repair Program Success:** The successful completion of the Homeowner Repair program, despite falling slightly short of the targeted number of households due to logistical challenges, indicates its effectiveness and importance in addressing housing needs within the community. The city's decision to continue supporting competitive subrecipient applications for this project in future action plans aligns with the program's demonstrated impact in rehabilitating owner-occupied units. This continuity ensures ongoing support for homeowners in maintaining and improving their properties, contributing to the overall stability and quality of housing in Meridian.
- Challenges in Homebuyer Assistance Program:** The difficulties encountered by the Homebuyer Assistance Program in identifying affordable homes for eligible households highlight the challenging housing market conditions faced by low- and moderate-income (LMI) residents in Meridian. The city intends to discourage future subrecipient applications for this activity until the housing market becomes more conducive to affordability. This decision acknowledges the current limitations and aims to avoid setting unrealistic expectations for potential subrecipients due to unattainable housing options.

The city will continue to adapt its strategies to better align with the local housing market conditions.

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	1	0
Low-income	2	0
Moderate-income	4	0
Total	7	0

Table 7 – Number of Households Served

Narrative Information

During PY22, seven (7) households were assisted that were already homeowners (Homeowner Repair Program) or became a homeowner (Homebuyer Assistance Program), of which one (1) household qualified as extremely low-income, two (2) households qualified as low-income, and four (4) households qualified as moderate-income. No homeless or middle-income households were served. The City does not limit housing

activities based on level of income, all households that are 80% of the AMI or less are treated equally. All activities were completed for homeowners, there were no rental households assisted under the affordable housing goal.

The City will continue to serve residents with housing solutions and will be providing funds for homebuyer assistance in the coming year. To ensure the Section 215 definition of affordable housing will be met, participants are required to qualify as first-time homebuyers to purchase a home that was their principal residence, and the homebuyer's annual household income must be below 80% of the area median income. The homebuyer assistance program will offer participants housing counseling and work with potential homebuyers to find housing where the cost of the housing is reasonable and affordable to the homebuyer, so the housing does not exceed 95 percent of the median purchase price for the area.

During the Consolidated Planning process, the City of Meridian prioritized assistance for very low-income renters and/or persons at risk of losing shelter or housing and uses this to rank projects during the application process. Often these households pay more than half of their income for rent and live in substandard housing. To assist those households with the highest/worst case needs, which includes those with disabilities, the City funded public service activities that provide emergency rental assistance through Jesse Tree, mortgage assistance through NeighborWorks Boise, and access to childcare through the Boys & Girls Club. The City does not require affordable housing activities to narrow its focus to households that qualify as those with "worst-case needs" because it is difficult to find eligible households with the basic LMI criteria that can find a home to purchase within their means. These programs are available as applicable to residents that qualify as homeless, extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate income. Those with a middle income are not served with CDBG funds.

The approach the City has taken up to this point is to assist with services and provisions that reduce the amount of income designated for basic living expenses (e.g. food, childcare, etc.) and allow people to utilize more of their income for housing costs. This is an effort to leverage all resources to foster and maintain affordable housing. During PY22 the City provided public services in the form of childcare, rental assistance, mortgage assistance, and transportation for senior citizens to 507 Meridian residents.

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

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

The City of Meridian is engaged in addressing homelessness through its partnership with the Ada County Continuum of Care, known as Our Path Home, in collaboration with CATCH, the coordinated entry access point. CATCH plays a crucial role in outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness, particularly those without shelter. Their services, along with those of partner agencies, are instrumental in assessing individual needs and appropriately referring participants to suitable services.

Our Path Home CONNECT is the access point to the homeless services system. Every household experiencing homelessness is evaluated and prioritized based on the duration of their homelessness and the severity of their service needs. Partner agencies within Our Path Home agree to use this prioritized list to prioritize the most vulnerable individuals. This agreement ensures that all partner agencies receive referrals from this list to fill vacancies in their supportive housing programs. This jurisdiction does not receive Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) funds.

The City of Meridian facilitates connections between local community providers, organizations, and Our Path Home to support the homeless population. City representatives regularly engage in public discussions, presentations, and meetings with citizens, government officials, and local service providers such as the West Ada County School District, Jesse Tree, and CATCH. These engagements aim to offer support, understanding, and outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness within Meridian.

The Meridian Police Department extends assistance to unhoused residents by providing transportation to emergency housing shelters in Boise when needed, as there are none in Meridian. This demonstrates a commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of individuals experiencing homelessness within the city.

Through these collaborative efforts and partnerships, the City of Meridian actively addresses homelessness by connecting individuals in need with vital services and support systems while fostering community engagement and understanding of the challenges faced by the unhoused population.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City of Meridian is in regular contact with case management and supportive service organizations such as CATCH and Jesse Tree to assess and address the emergency and permanent housing needs of those experiencing homelessness in Meridian. In PY22, Jesse Tree was funded through Meridian's CDBG program to provide homelessness prevention to Meridian residents at risk of losing housing.

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

Meridian's efforts to prevent homelessness among low-income individuals and families, particularly those at risk of homelessness after discharge from publicly funded institutions and those receiving assistance from various agencies, are involve coordinated collaborations:

1. **CDBG Funding for Homelessness Prevention:** Meridian allocates CDBG funding to Jesse Tree, focusing on preventing homelessness among Low- to Moderate-Income (LMI) residents at risk of housing instability. Jesse Tree actively participates in Our Path Home and plays a pivotal role in implementing homelessness prevention strategies.
2. **Homeless Discharge Coordination:** Meridian, through its involvement in Our Path Home, contributes to the implementation of the homeless discharge coordination in the Treasure Valley. This effort streamlines support to individuals transitioning from publicly funded institutions to prevent homelessness, ensuring a smoother reintegration into the community with adequate support services.
3. **Participation in Our Path Home:** Our Path Home is the local coordinated entry for homeless services and is a collaborative platform comprised of representatives from health care facilities, mental health facilities, correctional facilities, and private agencies addressing housing, health, social services, employment, education, and youth needs. This collaborative effort aims to develop comprehensive and coordinated approaches to prevent homelessness among individuals and families at risk, especially after discharge from institutions.
4. **Collaborative Partnerships:** Our Path Home partners with various organizations, including homeless shelters, school districts, behavioral health providers, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, the Idaho Department of Labor, and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC). These partnerships facilitate a comprehensive network of support and resources aimed at addressing the diverse needs of low-income individuals and families and preventing homelessness post-discharge.
5. **Utilization of Resources:** Although the city doesn't receive Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) funds, the collective efforts of Our Path Home and partner organizations focus on leveraging available resources, services, and expertise to prevent homelessness and address the specific needs of vulnerable populations, especially those at risk after discharge from institutions.

Meridian actively participates in collaborative initiatives like Our Path Home, engaging various stakeholders, providing funding for homelessness prevention, and contributing to homeless discharge coordination policies in a concerted effort to prevent homelessness among low-income individuals and families, particularly those vulnerable to housing instability post-discharge from publicly funded institutions or agencies providing support services.

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 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

The City of Meridian has implemented several strategies to aid homeless individuals and families, particularly those facing chronic homelessness, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth, in transitioning to permanent housing and independent living. These efforts focus on reducing the duration of homelessness, facilitating access to affordable housing units, and preventing recidivism into homelessness among those who were recently housed. Here's how Meridian addresses these challenges:

1. **Housing Transition Assistance:** Meridian works collaboratively with partner agencies like CATCH and Jesse Tree to provide comprehensive housing transition assistance. This includes case management, supportive services, and access to resources that aid individuals and families in securing permanent housing. Support services often encompass counseling, job training, financial literacy, and other crucial skills necessary for independent living.
2. **Rapid Rehousing Programs:** The city supports rapid rehousing initiatives that aim to shorten the time individuals and families experience homelessness. These programs provide short-term rental assistance coupled with case management and support services to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families into permanent housing, promoting stability and self-sufficiency.
3. **Access to Affordable Housing:** Meridian collaborates with housing agencies, landlords, and developers to increase access to affordable housing units for homeless individuals and families. By fostering partnerships and incentivizing the creation of affordable housing options, the city aims to expand housing opportunities for those experiencing homelessness.
4. **Prevention of Recidivism:** Efforts are made to prevent individuals and families who were recently homeless from falling back into homelessness. This involves ongoing case management and support services to address root causes, stabilize living situations, and provide ongoing assistance to maintain housing stability. Support programs often include financial assistance, counseling, and connections to community resources.
5. **Targeted Support for Specific Populations:** Meridian has specific initiatives catering to unique populations, such as homeless veterans and unaccompanied youth. These programs provide specialized services and resources tailored to the needs of these groups, aiming to facilitate their transition to stable housing and independent living.
6. **Collaboration and Advocacy:** The city engages in ongoing collaboration with various stakeholders, housing providers, and service agencies to advocate for improved services and increased resources dedicated to addressing homelessness. This includes efforts to identify systemic gaps and advocate for policy changes to enhance housing opportunities for vulnerable populations.

These initiatives focus on shortening the duration of homelessness, enhancing access to affordable housing, and preventing recidivism, thereby promoting stability and self-sufficiency among the homeless population.

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

Actions taken to address the needs of public housing

The Boise City & Ada County Housing Authorities (BCACHA) serve as the housing authorities for: Boise, Meridian, Kuna, Garden City, Eagle, Star, and unincorporated Ada County.

BCACHA is responsible for the ownership, management, and upkeep of a diverse portfolio of housing units, which includes a total of 441 units, catering to the housing needs of various populations:

- Of these, 250 units are designated for low-income households and are classified as public housing. This includes:
 - 160 units for elderly and disabled residents (Low Rent Public Housing);
 - 10 units for families, distributed across scattered sites (Low Rent Public Housing); and
 - 4 units dedicated to permanent supportive housing (PSH) to provide essential housing and supportive services for households exiting homelessness.
- Beyond public housing units, BCACHA manages 80 units under the HUD-assisted elderly/disabled category, which falls under the Section 8 New Construction Program.
- Additionally, there are 187 market-rate housing units, contributing to the diversity of housing options offered by BCACHA to the broader community.

The Low Rent Public Housing and Section 8 New Construction programs play a vital role in providing housing assistance to eligible households. These programs are designed to ensure that low-income families and individuals can access safe and affordable housing. Both programs are essential in addressing the housing needs of low-income individuals and families, helping to reduce homelessness and provide a stable foundation for a better quality of life. They play a crucial role in promoting economic stability, improving living conditions, and supporting the overall well-being of vulnerable populations.

Under these programs, eligible households typically contribute 30% of the combined household income as their portion of the rent. The rent amount is adjusted based on the income of the household, making it affordable for families with limited financial resources. The housing authority subsidizes the remaining portion of the rent to make up the difference between the household's contribution and the total rent cost, ensuring residents have access to quality housing without experiencing a heavy financial burden.

The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program benefits around 2,250 low-income households in Ada County, with roughly 8% of voucher recipients residing in Meridian. This program offers clients the flexibility to select affordable units that meet program criteria within Ada County. After identifying a suitable unit, the household contributes a portion of the rent based on their income, while BCACHA covers the Section 8 rental subsidy portion paid directly to the landlord.

Efforts to address the needs of public housing encompass the following initiatives:

1. Encourage residents and community members to actively engage in shaping policies, programs, and services related to public housing development.
2. Implement activities that acknowledge residents and community members as valuable assets in the effective and responsible management of public housing.
3. Act as coordinators and catalysts in the creation of opportunities for public housing residents with the goal of enhancing their economic and personal potential.
4. Involve public housing residents in the co-design of BCACHA's strategies, encouraging their participation in on-site resident councils, activity committees, and enhancing the communication of available resources for

residents.

5. Employ two full-time Service Coordinators and four full-time Family Self Sufficiency Coordinators who are dedicated to assisting residents in connecting with community services and programs, enabling them to maintain independent housing.

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

Enhancing the quality of life for public housing residents entails offering a diverse range of activities and services tailored to the needs of individuals and families. These initiatives are designed to address a broad spectrum of challenges encountered by individuals with low to moderate incomes, ranging from physical improvements to their living spaces to addressing various social issues.

The BCACHA strives to foster self-sufficiency and promote homeownership through its Family Self-Sufficiency program (FSS). To achieve this objective, BCACHA actively sustains community partnerships and conducts outreach to identify families eligible for homeownership opportunities. The FSS program empowers voucher holders to decrease their reliance on rental subsidies and encourages the pursuit of homeownership. Throughout their FSS participation, individuals collaborate closely with FSS Coordinators to identify and establish self-sufficiency goals. This program offers a range of supportive services, including job training, financial counseling, and opportunities for networking and connecting with housing providers.

BCACHA administers the Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Option program, specifically designed to encourage and facilitate homeownership for families enrolled in or who have successfully completed BCACHA's FSS program. Eligible families have the opportunity, subject to meeting specific criteria, to purchase a home and receive financial support for their mortgage payments rather than rental costs. BCACHA further provides informative workshops for first-time homebuyers, covering essential topics such as the advantages and preparations for homeownership, credit assessment, FICO scoring methodology, mortgage types and prerequisites, private mortgage insurance, loan-to-value ratio, down payment assistance programs, escrow and title procedures, property taxes, as well as home maintenance and homeowner responsibilities.

Actions taken to provide assistance to troubled PHAs

Neither the Boise City nor the Ada County Housing Authorities are deemed troubled. No assistance is needed at this time.

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)

The city has addressed barriers to affordable housing by initiating a comprehensive approach aimed at mitigating the negative impacts of public policies. Recognizing the significance of policies like land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees, growth limitations, and residential investment returns as potential obstacles to affordable housing, Meridian established a dedicated Housing Task Force. This task force was specifically designed to evaluate existing policies and identify measures to remove or ameliorate their adverse effects on affordable housing. By conducting thorough assessments and analyses, the Housing Task Force seeks to recommend policy adjustments that promote greater accessibility to affordable housing options while fostering a more inclusive and equitable housing landscape within the city.

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

The city has undertaken several initiatives to address obstacles hindering the fulfillment of underserved needs within the community. To tackle these challenges, Meridian has implemented targeted programs aimed at addressing the specific needs of underserved populations. These efforts include community outreach, engagement with local stakeholders, and the establishment of collaborative partnerships with organizations specializing in serving underserved communities. Meridian has actively sought input from these communities to better understand their unique needs and challenges. Additionally, the city has directed resources toward enhancing access to vital services, support systems, and opportunities tailored to meet the needs of these underserved populations. Through these partnerships, Meridian is working towards effectively addressing and overcoming obstacles that impede the fulfillment of underserved needs within its jurisdiction.

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

The city's primary action related to reducing lead-based paint hazards involves disseminating comprehensive information via the city's official website. Meridian offers direct links to resources provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to educate residents about the risks associated with lead-based paint. Considering that a significant portion of the city's growth occurred in the 2000s, the prevalence of lead-based paint is not a widespread concern for the majority of homes and buildings in the community. In cases where lead-based paint hazards may arise, Meridian has coordinated with Central District Health to establish a process to notify the city of any concerns.

As a second layer of action, Meridian enforces lead-based paint regulations by requiring subrecipients to comply with HUD's guidelines. The city actively monitors subrecipients using HUD's tools to ensure strict adherence to these regulations, thereby enhancing compliance and minimizing lead-based paint hazards in housing and community development projects supported by the city's programs.

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

The city has aligned its Consolidated Plan and local strategic goals to alleviate poverty among its residents. The Consolidated Plan encourages projects aimed at providing housing stability as well as public services to meet fundamental needs, empowering individuals to navigate financial struggles and reduce poverty levels.

Meridian's local strategic plan further amplifies efforts to combat poverty by prioritizing economic development and enhancing employment opportunities tailored for the low- and moderate-income (LMI) population. The city's overarching objective is to provide access to vital services, fostering stability in meeting their basic needs and enabling them to strive towards self-improvement.

Meridian's Economic Development Division concentrates on job creation and enhancing educational opportunities to reduce the number of individuals living below the poverty line. The division actively engages in recruiting new employers and stimulating business growth within the city to bolster employment prospects.

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

To fortify its institutional structure, the city has directed efforts toward enhancing coordination among various departments and stakeholders to ensure cohesive and effective operations. Meridian has fostered collaboration between departments, agencies, and external partners to address gaps in the institutional framework. Additionally, the city has formalized standard operating procedures and developed guiding documents to streamline processes and establish clear guidelines for decision-making and program implementation. These actions aim to bolster the city's institutional capacity, improve efficiency, and ensure a more cohesive approach to community development initiatives while complying with regulatory standards.

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

Meridian participates in regular forums, meetings, and collaborative sessions that bring together representatives from public and private housing sectors along with social service agencies. These platforms serve as spaces for dialogue, information sharing, and joint strategizing to address community needs comprehensively. Additionally, the city has fostered partnerships, formalized agreements, and established communication channels between these entities to facilitate seamless collaboration. Meridian encourages cross-sector collaboration to optimize resources, improve service delivery, and better address housing and social service needs within the community.

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

To address impediments identified in its analysis of impediments to fair housing choice, the city increased collaboration with entities like the Intermountain Fair Housing Council and Idaho Legal Aid in an effort to prioritize understanding and mitigating potential fair housing issues within the community. To streamline the complaint process, the city enhanced the 504 Coordinator role, simplifying the procedure for individuals to issue complaints related to fair housing. Meridian also established a Language Access Plan (LAP) Workgroup aimed at updating and enhancing the city's Language Access Plan, ensuring equitable access to services for diverse populations. Additionally, the city aids in the facilitation of the Idaho Fair Housing Forum, which is a platform for sharing information, addressing rental market concerns, and disseminating fair housing education while actively working toward fostering fair housing practices and eliminating discriminatory barriers.

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

Per the Comprehensive Plan, a risk assessment is conducted on every subrecipient involved project during the application process. This assessment is taken into consideration when the CDBG Scoring Committee is evaluating applications and making funding recommendations.

During the program year, regular monitoring takes place with each draw. The activities submitted must comply with the stated requirements in the subrecipient agreements and provide requisite data (e.g. demographic data, payroll, etc.) for inspection before reimbursement.

Formal monitoring is also conducted throughout the year. A risk analysis is included as an attachment to the Subrecipient Agreement and is used to determine if a project will require a desk review or an onsite monitor for that program year. On-site monitoring occurs at least bi-annually to ensure subrecipients are meeting both the requirements and the intent of the CDBG program. A formal desk review is conducted for every program year that does not require an onsite monitor.

Other labor monitoring activities will be conducted, as activities require, according to all HUD and federal Davis Bacon labor requirements. Including minority business outreach. All relevant activities subject to these requirements will be monitored with on-site visits as frequently as required by regulations, more if circumstances require it. Desk-side monitoring takes place with each activity draw with staff and management from both Community Development and Finance Departments needing to review and sign off on any reimbursement requests.

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.

A public notice of the CAPER availability with the date, time, and process for public comment was published in the Idaho Press, the City of Meridian's newspaper of record, no less than 15 days in advance of the end of the public comment period. The City accepts all comments received during the public comment period and provides a summary of these comments with the CAPER if applicable. A public presentation of the CAPER was held at City Hall on December 5, 2023.

According to census data, roughly 4% of Meridian's population speaks Spanish, which is the most significant non-English language spoken. There is not a local newspaper specific to the Spanish-speaking population, but the Idaho Press has translation capabilities on its website. In an effort to reach Spanish-speaking residents that may be reading a physical copy of the newspaper, the city posts the following at the top of its legal notice:

This Notice can be provided in a format accessible to persons with limited English proficiency upon request. Contact Crystal Campbell at ccampbell@meridiacity.org for assistance.

Se le puede proveer esta notificación en un formato accesible para las personas con conocimientos limitados del inglés a pedido. Comuníquese con Crystal Campbell en ccampbell@meridiancity.org para obtener ayuda.

Council meetings are held on a virtual platform where anyone can attend. There is also seating during the meetings at City Hall, which is a fully accessible building. Those with disabilities were encouraged to contact the City Clerk to make reasonable accommodations. Additionally, according to the City's Language Assistance Plan (LAP), all reports and communications will be made available in formats accessible to persons with disabilities and in languages other than English upon request. All documents related to the City's CDBG program can be found at: <https://meridiancity.org/cdbg>. Additionally, interpreter services are available through 7-1-1, (888) 791-3004, or TTY at (800) 377-3529.

CR-45 – Jurisdiction 91.520(d)

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.

No changes.

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

No

CR-58 – Section 3

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

Total Labor Hours	CDBG
Total Number of Activities	1
Total Labor Hours	72
Total Section 3 Worker Hours	0
Total Targeted Section 3 Worker Hours	0

Qualitative Efforts - Number of Activities by Program	CDBG
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.	1
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.	1
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.	

Narrative

The city promotes Section 3 business opportunities by advertising all CDBG Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to Section 3 business concerns through HUD's Section 3 Portal. During PY22, the completion of the Chateau Park Playground project was the sole instance triggering Section 3 requirements; however, it did not meet the specified threshold. The company awarded the bid specialized in playground equipment, necessitating certified employees for the project. No new hires were made for this project, as the company utilized existing certified employees to fulfill the requirements, aligning with the project's specifications and meeting the necessary certifications without hiring additional personnel.