

Goals and Outcomes

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

The City of Canton is an entitlement community under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and a Participating Jurisdiction (PJ) under the HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Program.

The City also receives an annual allocation of funding under the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program. The following activities were undertaken by the City of Canton during the 2015 program year.

Housing Accomplishments

HOME Housing Rehabilitation Program - Housing assistance to low/moderate income homeowners to rehabilitate their dwellings up to all code standards.

Accomplishments: 6 Completed. Two units are located in the NRSAs.

Housing Maintenance & Repair Program - Housing assistance to low/moderate income homeowners to repair and maintain their dwelling, eliminating specific problems through the City's in-house program.

Accomplishments: 7 Units Assisted, 4 Units Completed. Four units are located in the NRSAs.

Furnace Program - Housing assistance to low/moderate income homeowners for furnace replacement. Furnaces replaced during winter months are considered emergencies.

Accomplishments: 5 Units Completed through the City's in-house program and 12 completed through assistance the City provided to Stark County Community Action Agency. Eight of the units are in the NRSAs.

Emergency Repair Program - Funding was provided to perform repairs to relieve immediate health and safety issues.

Furnaces replaced during winter months are considered emergencies.

Accomplishments: 4 Units Assisted, 64 Units Completed. Twenty-nine units are in the NRSAs.

Construction of New Housing - Housing assistance to local non-profit agencies and developers to construct new affordable housing units for low/moderate income households.

Accomplishments: 5 Units Completed. Two units are located in the NRSAs.

Clearance & Demolition

Accomplishments - Forty (40) structures that were a blighting influence and a health & safety hazard have been demolished, or secured waiting for demolition.

Public Service Activities

Community Development Day - Over 1,500 low income households received food vouchers and bus passes at an event held by the Department of Development. This project will not be repeated in the future.

Canton Ex-Newsboys - 264 low income youth received emergency clothing

Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area - Funding was provided to undertake the following projects in the City of Canton's Eastside NRSA and Central NRSA:

Acquisition for Rehabilitation - Housing assistance to acquire and rehabilitate vacant housing units to provide affordable housing for low/moderate income households.

Accomplishments: Rehab work continued on 4 Units.

Hammer & Nails NRSA Project: 14 units rehabbed

Rebuilding Together: 11 units rehabbed

En-rich-ment - 86 youth received enrichment through a fine arts and music program

First Tee - 30 youth received enrichment golf instruction and lessons

Stark County Community Action Agency Summer Camp - Over 108 children received enrichment through a summer camp program

Stark County Community Action Agency - 20 high-school aged youth who participated in a Youth Development program learned job training and life skills to increase job placement possibilities.

Family Life Center - 41 high-school aged youth who participated in a Youth Development program learned job training and life skills to increase job placement possibilities in food service.

Simply Youth - 114 high-school and college aged youth who participated in a Youth Development program learned job training and life skills to increase job placement possibilities.

Assess how the jurisdiction's use of funds, particularly CDBG, addresses the priorities and specific objectives identified in the plan.

The City's HUD funded programs are making an impact in the community. The establishment of a Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area Program helped the City target the expenditure of HUD dollars to low income areas in need of comprehensive assistance.

The City focuses most of its funding on providing housing and social services for low- income residents. The economy, staffing complexities, and the deteriorated state of the housing stock slow the process of improving housing conditions in low income neighborhoods. Higher rehab costs limit the number of households the City can assist. Public services goals are best met by Community Based Development Organizations that have a positive presence in the neediest areas of the City. The City also partners with smaller non-profit agencies that are able to meet the needs of residents, especially youth, in the NRSAs. The RFP process has helped the City ensure funding is awarded to agencies that produce positive results. ARRA funds and state funds have allowed the City to demolish a large number of vacant, blighted properties, especially in areas that are already designated blighted areas. This has resulted in an abundance of vacant lots that are not owned by the City but present problem areas, continuous blight because of absentee landlords, trash, debris and lack of grass mowing. Funding has been utilized for the prevention and elimination of these blighting influences.

Creating specialized divisions within the Development Department has allowed staff members to focus

more closely on their assigned responsibilities. Teams have been developed for each program area with a defined lead person and appropriate support staff. Regular team meetings result in better staff communication through all phases of projects.

Racial and Ethnic composition of families assisted

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

	CDBG	HOME
White	954	3
Black or African American	1,508	8
Asian	3	0
American Indian or American Native	12	0
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	5	0
Total	2,482	11
Hispanic	36	0
Not Hispanic	2,446	44

Table 1 – Table of assistance to racial and ethnic populations by source of funds

Narrative

In addition to the information included above, the following families of multi-racial/ethnic status were assisted through CDBG programs:

American Indian or American Native and White – 9

Asian and White – 13

Black or African American and White - 78

American Indian or American Native and Black or African American and White – 22

Other Multi-Racial – 64

Resources and Investments

Identify the resources made available

Source of Funds	Amount Expended During Program Year
CDBG	2,791,899
HOME	525,727
ESG	186,124

Table 2 - Resources Made Available

Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Target Area	Planned Percentage of Allocation	Actual Percentage of Allocation
Central Neighborhood	19	15
City-Wide	19	21
Eastside Neighborhood	6	15
Target Area Census Tracts	56	49

Table 3 – Identify the geographic distribution and location of investments

Narrative

The City awards grants based on an RFP each program year. The City's planned allocation is based on its previous experiences with the RFP, however, each year the request for funds vary based on need. Most grants awarded through the RFP are in the two NRSA areas. Most other activities are carried out in the CDBG target areas.

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.

All applicants for CDBG, HOME and ESG grants must include information showing there are sufficient funds from other sources to fully fund their projects to be awarded funding from the City. The City's HOME dollars do not have a match requirement due to our designation as a distressed city. Habitat, however, provides funding for their project through volunteer labor and materials and funds through other sources.

Non-profits that service the homeless meet ESG match requirements through funding received from other sources. The City requires ESG recipients to provide proof of funds received from other sources to meet their match requirements.

HOME 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	76,124	1,537	0	74,587

Table 4 – Program Income

HOME MBE/WBE report

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	169,125	0	0	45,540	0	123,585
Number	10	0	0	3	0	7
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	169,125	600	169,125			
Number	0	1	0			
Sub-Contracts						
Number	0	0	0			
Dollar Amount	0	0	0			

Table 5 – Minority Business and Women Business Enterprises

Affordable Housing

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 Non-Homeless households to be provided affordable housing units	209	136

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of Special-Needs households to be provided affordable housing units	0	0
Total	209	136

Table 6 – Number of Households

	One-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through Rental Assistance	9	0
Number of households supported through The Production of New Units	6	7
Number of households supported through Rehab of Existing Units	194	129
Number of households supported through Acquisition of Existing Units	0	0
Total	209	136

Table 7 – Number of Households Supported

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

In carrying out its HUD-funded housing programs, the City of Canton primarily directs funds to existing and potential homeowners through emergency home repairs, housing maintenance, and whole house rehabilitation. Emergency repairs are vital and are performed when there is an immediate problem that could cause health and/or safety concerns for the homeowners. Housing maintenance and whole-house rehabilitation programs help preserve existing housing, eliminate blight conditions, prevent health and safety concerns, and stabilize neighborhoods. The aging housing stock creates numerous challenges. Many houses contain lead based-paint and require extensive renovation, the relocation of families, as well as considerable time and funding to bring them up to the City’s Code standards.

The City awarded funding to the Alliance for Children and Families to assist in the construction of 10 new HOME units that will house chronically homeless families with at least one minor child. The project met with delays, resulting in the City not meeting its goal of producing new units. The City of Canton utilizes HOME funds to assist low income renter households through the provision of tenant based rental assistance. The TBRA program was put on hold in 2014. The City is continuing discussions with SMHA to fund future TBRA programs through their agency.

Discuss how these outcomes will impact future annual action plans.

The aging housing stock creates numerous challenges. Many houses contain lead based-paint and require extensive renovation, the relocation of families, as well as considerable time and funding to bring them up to the City’s Code standards. The increased cost of lead abatement, higher than anticipated staff turnover and continued funding cuts greatly impacts the number of housing projects the City is able to produce.

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 Persons Served	CDBG Actual	HOME Actual
Extremely Low-income	56	1
Low-income	53	3
Moderate-income	20	2
Total	129	6

Table 8 – Number of Persons Served

Narrative Information

The City also utilizes HOME funding to assist projects designed to increase the supply of affordable housing in the community, including the construction of new housing and the acquisition/rehabilitation of existing, vacant dwelling units. These HUD funds are allocated via an RFP process in which the City solicits project proposals from local housing organizations, non-profit agencies and area developers. The City’s affordable housing programs for homeowners, in particular, including housing rehabilitation, housing repair & maintenance, new construction and homebuyer assistance programs, are successful in meeting local housing needs. The City is assisting rental tenant households through tenant based rental assistance. Plans are underway to partner with the local housing authority to increase outreach to low income households.

Homeless Needs

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

The City addresses the needs of homeless persons by working with various agencies to fund operating expenses as well as continuum of care needs with Emergency Solutions Grants. The development of permanent supportive housing is a proven, cost-effective approach to ending homelessness. The City uses HOME funds to develop permanent supportive housing, and ESG funds to pay costs associated with providing support services to homeless residents.

The Homeless Continuum of Care of Stark County (HCCSC) is the entity responsible for the Continuum of Care homeless assistance grant application process in Stark County. In the most recent funding round, SCHC was awarded over \$2.57 million in CoC funding to assist homeless assistance programs. A breakdown of those programs is attached.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City's strategy for helping homeless persons make the transition to permanent housing and independent living is to collaborate with community partners. Although not all of these agencies receive HUD funding from the City, these partners include:

Refuge of Hope – Refuge of Hope assists in providing meals for local men and women and a transitional shelter for men only to shift into independent living by providing case management.

Salvation Army - Canton Corps supplies assistance for those in emergency or temporary situations. Rent, mortgage, and utility assistance as funds are available; Working Women's Closet; case management for homeless men. A year-round food assistance program is offered through its soup kitchen and food pantry programs providing meals for needy individuals.

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

Community Services of Stark County, Inc. provides support, advocacy, training, and counseling; Samaritan's Table (hot meal program); emergency assistance (rent, utilities, transportation, etc.); emergency prescription/dental services; homeless prevention program; HOPWA (housing assistance for people with AIDS); anger management; substance abuse education, youth advisory council, case management; School-Based Services - licensed counselors and social workers provide on-site consultation, counseling, groups, and supportive services to area schools both during the school day and in the after-school hours; provides 24-hour hot line for information and emotional support; Housing

Program - Family Living Center (homeless shelter), transitional housing, supportive services for the homeless, substance education, life skills, and case coordination to homeless persons in Stark County as well as Gateway residents; Pyramid Training Services - micro business loans/small business incubation, transitional learning center.

P.A.L. Mission provides stable, secure housing for young adult women, particularly those raised in foster care and provides counseling; life skills and self-sufficiency training; job readiness and nurturing through the Canton PAL House - for adolescent girls in foster care and young adult women to age 22 through the Genesis Program, G.I.F.T. (Going Into Final Transition) Program, and P.L.U.S. Program (People Learning Useful Skills).

ICAN, Inc., works to eliminate homelessness among people with severe and persistent psychiatric illnesses through street outreach, help with enrolling in treatment programs, and permanent supportive housing. All services are directed toward increasing housing stability as a key component for customers to achieve recovery. Outreach employees engage homeless people on the streets and through referrals. Eligible customers obtain service-enriched housing that is safe, decent, and affordable. On-going support provides customers training in complying with their leases and independent living skills. Employment programs include rent assistance during educational or job search activities. ICAN also provides transportation to jobs for customers with no other reliable means to get to and from work.

Y.W.C.A. – Y.W.C.A.'s Homeless Prevention programs include Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Rapid Re-housing and Permanent Supportive housing which provides housing for all family components except single males. Along with basic housing needs, the YWCA works with agencies throughout the community to provide a holistic approach to uncovering the problems within the family that brought them to this point by providing case management and helping to identify and locate resources. Each family works with a social workers to help them connect with community resources to address their issues.

Other Actions

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

The City of Canton prepared and submitted a Substantial Amendment to the FY 2015 Annual Action Plan to include Fair Housing (FH) as a Public Service Activity allotting \$35,000 or approximately 1.5% of the budget. The City hired a Fair Housing Manager, a Fair Housing Investigator and a Fair Housing Intake/Outreach Specialist.

Public Sector Impediment A: The Southeast area of the City, which consists nearly exclusively of areas of Black concentration, is becoming increasingly isolated from amenities and services.

- Recommended Action Step #1: The City should continue to invest in its neighborhoods.
 - The Invest Health grant will target the Southeast area of the City.
 - Approximately \$1 million of CDBG funding was provided to undertake projects in the NRSA. Roughly half was expended in each area.
 - The City has ran a series of advertisements on the protected classes in the Canton Repository in October and November 2015, which has a daily readership (Monday-Friday) circulation number of 42,000 and a Sunday circulation number of 55,000. The City has also distributed fair housing flyers to 40,000 households distributed in city utility bills during the months of November and December 2015.
- Recommended Action Step #2: The City should increase efforts to provide Black residents of Southeast Canton with access to fair housing within the City.

We will work with SMHA to re-establish the TBRA Program. The DOD will continue to collaborate with SMHA to be better informed about Housing Choice Vouchers, Section 8 Programs and fair housing training. We have established monthly meetings to work with SMHA to create more housing opportunities.

 - In 2015, the City of Canton leveraged HOME dollars to build new housing units in non-concentrated areas and improve the conditions of existing homeowner housing in impacted areas.
- Recommended Action Step #3: The City continued to work with SARTA to evaluate the adequacy of public transit service for residents of Canton's Southeast area and advise SARTA on improvements that would more fully connect residents to opportunities in other neighborhoods.
 - SARTA provides a multitude of services for everyone in the county including students, employees, seniors, veterans, individuals with disabilities and many more. For the last two years, they have set record highs in the amount of people that they serve in Stark County and continue to look for ways to improve their services.

Some of SARTA's key services include:

 - * Travel Training
 - * Proline

- * MedLine
- * Medicaid Services
- * Veteran Services
- * Student Services
- * SARTA has two routes that service residents in Southeast, Canton:
 - * Route 114 * Services residents from 2nd Street SE to 14th Street SE and Cherry Avenue SE. The Cornerstone Transfer Center provides access to other routes throughout the City and County.
 - * Route 110 * Services the remaining Southeast quadrant from East Tuscarawas Street to 17th Street SE. The Corner Stone Transfer Center provides access to other routes throughout the City and County.

Public Sector Impediment B: It is unclear whether the City currently provides adequate access of information and services to its growing foreign-language populations.

- Recommended Action Step #1: The City should conduct the four-factor analysis outlined at www.lep.gov to determine the extent to which the translation of vital documents is necessary to assist persons with limited English proficiency (LEP) in accessing County programs and services.
 - Since Canton has a growing population of Spanish-speaking residents, we have begun outreach efforts which include language assistance, such as oral interpretation and written translation services, as well as notices to staff and recipients of the availability of LEP services and referrals to community liaisons proficient in the language of LEP persons.
 - Since applications for housing are considered to be “vital” documents, the City entered into an agreement with the Latino Business Group in October of 2014 and these documents have been translated. As a part of the Language Access Plan (LAP), the City will continue to determine over time and across its various activities, which documents are vital to the meaningful access of the LEP populations they serve, and implement the translations. Activities undertaken by the Latino Business Group on behalf of the City of Canton included:
 - Review of materials that are written in Spanish and determine if they are written in a manner that is easily understood by Latino populations. The Department of Development (DOD) will provide materials to be reviewed.
 - Corrections to existing documents written in Spanish and/or create/convert documents into Spanish. Provided revised documents and explained changes that were made.
 - Provide outreach, such as meetings, pamphlets, flyers, etc., to Latino populations to advise them of the City of Canton, and DOD programs, including housing, emergency solutions, public services and also job opportunities through our rehab programs and various MBE, WBE and Section 3 requirements. Also, the City will provide an abbreviated version of its Annual Action Plan and the CAPER in Spanish upon request.
 - Provide interpreting services for DOD when needed, such as assisting non-English speaking Latino residents to fill out applications during the CD Day event .
 - The City will develop and implement a complete Language Access Plan (LAP) by June 30, 2016,

which will include:

- Identifying LEP persons who need language assistance and the specific language assistance that is needed;
 - Identifying the types of contact the agency/staff has with LEP persons;
 - Outreaching effectively to the LEP community and training staff;* determining which documents and materials are vital;
 - Translating informational materials in identified language(s) that detail services and activities provided to beneficiaries;
 - Providing appropriately translated notices to LEP persons;
 - Providing interpreters for large and small one-on-one meetings;
 - Developing community resources, partnerships, and other relationships to help with the provision of language services; and
 - Making provisions for monitoring and updating the LAP, including seeking input from beneficiaries and the community on how it is working and on what other actions should be taken.
- The City has identified groups and individuals who can supply services for hearing impaired residents.

Public Sector Impediment C: The City's Affirmative Marketing Policy (AMP) could be broadened to further ensure that City-supported affordable housing opportunities are made available to members of the protected classes.

- Recommended Action Step #1: The City should revise its Affirmative Marketing Policy (AMP) to apply to all City-supported housing with 5 or more units and also address outreach to persons with limited English proficiency (LEP).
- The AMP has been revised to make it clear that ALL housing units offered for sale or rent that are federally-funded will follow the AMP. The City will propose changes to include projects with 5 or more units that are City-supported (non-federally funded) to follow the AMP.

Public Sector Impediment D: The amount of land available and zoned for the development of multi-family housing in Canton is limited.

- Recommended Action Step #1: The City should amend the zoning ordinance and map for the City's future land use plans to ensure that opportunities are provided for the development and redevelopment of affordable housing, particularly multi-family rental units.
- The Fair Housing Office and the DOD have provided input in the development of the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Canton, which includes changes to the zoning ordinance. There are also additional matters regarding the Comprehensive Plan that will be addressed, specifically relating to affirmatively furthering fair housing. The DOD Director has explained the needed changes. The City Administration, Planning Commission and City Council will work together to establish additional opportunities for the development and redevelopment of multi-unit affordable housing. This is a major undertaking which will involve a survey of the City to determine the best areas for multi-unit housing. The goal is to open housing

opportunities throughout the City. The City has set a target date of June 2017.

Public Sector Impediment E: The zoning ordinance places undue restrictions on the location of group homes for persons with disabilities, a policy that is inconsistent with the provisions of the Fair Housing Act.

- Recommended Action Step #1: The City should amend the zoning ordinance to allow group family unit for persons with disabilities to function under single-family housing rules. Also, outdated terminology should be replaced.

- The Fair Housing Office and the DOD have provided input in the development of the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Canton, which includes changes to the zoning ordinance. The City has proposed the following definition of “family,” which will resolve the concerns of this impediment:

- “Family” means: (a) one (1) or more persons related to each other by birth, marriage, or law, occupying a dwelling unit and living as a single family unit; (b) four (4) or fewer people unrelated by birth, marriage, or law and living in a dwelling unit as a single housekeeping unit; (c) eight (8) or fewer unrelated persons with disabilities (“disability” as defined by the Federal Fair Housing Act [as amended], and incorporated herein) living in a dwelling unit as a single housekeeping unit. This is to be distinguished from other types of group living arrangements, such as homes for juvenile or released offenders.

- The Fair Housing Office and the DOD will correct and replace any improper or discriminatory terminology in the fair housing ordinance and zoning ordinance by December, 2016. A review of all other ordinances will be substantially made over the next year or two to ensure that outdated or discriminatory terms are replaced in all City of Canton ordinances. Additionally, all contracts involving federal funds will be updated regarding Section 504, with revisions for updated language on new design and construction requirements. The revisions will be below as follows:

Section 504.

The sub-recipient agrees to comply with all Federal regulations issued pursuant to compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation, Comprehensive Services, and Developmental Disabilities Amendments of 1978 (PL 95-602, November 6, 1978), which states that no otherwise qualified disabled or handicapped individual in the United States, shall, solely by reason of his disability or handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance or under any program or activity conducted by any Executive agency or by the United States Postal Service.

Design and Construction Requirements.

The sub-recipient agrees to comply with all Federal regulations issued pursuant to compliance with 42 U.S.C. Section 3604(f)(3)(C), providing that all covered multifamily dwellings built for first occupancy after March 13, 1991 include certain basic features of accessibility and adaptive design.

Public Sector Impediment F: Some improvements could be made to City documents, from a Fair Housing perspective.

- Recommended Action Step #1: The City should amend the Consolidated Plan to include a definition of areas of minority concentration. Carry the definition through each Annual Action Plan, using it as a frame of reference for balancing entitlement spending between the revitalization of impacted areas and the creation of new housing opportunities in non-impacted areas.
 - The City followed the guidance given by HUD regarding a substantial amendment of the Consolidated Annual Action Plan which includes a definition of areas of minority concentration that was passed by City Council on March 21, 2016 and will be carried through all future annual action plans. The City allocated \$35,000 in CDBG funds for fair housing administration and public service activities.
- Recommended Action Step #2: The City should identify fair housing actions undertaken during the program year in the context of addressing impediments identified in the A.I. in future CAPERs.
 - The Department of Development and the Fair Housing Office work together in the preparation of the annual CAPERs to ensure the impediments stated in the Fair Housing Action plan are identified in the CAPERs and are addressed by the department for all federally-funded housing.

Private Sector Impediment A: Patterns of mortgage lending discrimination evidently endure in Canton.

- Recommended Action Step #1: The City should arrange housing counselors to provide credit repair advice on a public basis in order to ensure to the extent possible that members of the protected classes have access to means of improving their ability to obtain and maintain decent, affordable housing.
 - The City continued educational and outreach efforts to broaden awareness of rights and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act. A complete copy of the Plan is located at: <https://cantonohio.gov/development/>
 - The City attempted to partner with Community Building Partnerships and Fifth Third Bank to create a comprehensive home buying class and credit repair training program that will assist individuals who otherwise would not be able to finance a home. This project was unsuccessful, however, the City has met with Legal Aid and discussed the possibility of partnering on this project. The City will also reach out to other agencies in order to collaborate. The goal is for this program to be in place by October 2016.
- The City should continue educational and outreach efforts to broaden awareness of rights and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act.
 - To accomplish educational and outreach efforts, the City has hired a total of three positions in the Fair Housing Office. The Fair Housing Manager will be responsible for the day-to-day operations, which will be overseen by the Department of Development. The Fair Housing Office will also have a Fair Housing Investigator and an Intake/Education Outreach Specialist.

- The City has developed a tracker that illustrates the new and/or increased number of complaints which will be submitted to HUD in final report form.
- The City has discussed proposals and is currently exploring three different local agencies to partner with, the Stark County Fair Housing, the Fair Housing Advocacy Association, and the Akron Fair Housing Contact. The goal is for the City of Canton to partner with one of these local agencies to initiate a tester program. The City will work together with the agency, identify specific complexes to be tested, and utilize testing services.
- The City is committed to furthering fair housing by running an ad in the local newspaper at least quarterly and participating in public service broadcasts describing why Fair Housing is important and what constitutes housing discrimination. The City has ran ads in 2015 and 2016 in the Canton Repository as mentioned on page 4. The City also ran a series of ads in The Reporter, a local minority newspaper for fair housing awareness. The City has been on the Michaela Madison Radio Show on 1480 WHBC and discussed the importance of fair housing and its role in the community. The City will continue advertising in local newspapers and on various media outlets for 2016.
- The City is partnering with Domestic Violence Project, Inc. to reduce disparities in women, and has conducted a training session for staff members of the organization, as well as provided organizational materials to victims of domestic violence. The City has held one training session during March 2016 with Domestic Violence Project, Inc. to teach on protections against domestic violence, and meetings will be held quarterly.
- The City is partnering with a local Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender (LGBT) organization to reduce disparities in those whom identify as LGBT. The City has undertaken one training session on LGBTQI Intimate Partner Violence, "Hurricanes within Rainbows," to present service care providers with definitions of LBGTQI and the societal impact of homophobia and transphobia. The City's ordinance adopted in 2012 now includes sexual orientation and gender identity as a protected class. Pamphlets specific to LGBT have been printed and distributed to various local agencies and posted on the City's website. These pamphlets have also been translated into Spanish and distributed to the public and posted on the City's website. The City is currently meeting and partnering with a local LGBT group at Kent State University and will be holding a training session for the public in April 2016. Meetings will be held quarterly at various locations throughout 2016.
- The City is currently partnering with the Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities and has agreed to work together for various training sessions and public meetings. The City has held one training session in March 2016 for Stark County's Board of DD providers at Aultman Clinic. The City will continue training sessions and collaborative efforts quarterly.
- The City has already translated housing program information into Spanish and has partnered with Latino Business Group to help disseminate this information. ALL Fair Housing pamphlets have been translated into Spanish and are currently on the City's website. The City is currently exploring other agencies to contract with. Meetings will be held quarterly at the local library.

- The City met with Legal Aid in February 2016 in efforts to collaborate and possibly implement a fair lending program and look at other ways to partner in an effort to educate and inform the public.
- The City will work to extend its outreach to solicit input from citizens from the southeast quadrant of the City through direct mailings or pamphlets that will be delivered to residents of that area. The City will require our partners to provide pamphlets and surveys to the people that they serve.
- The City will work with its IT Department to develop surveys that can be completed on the City's website. The target date of completion will be December 2016.
- The City launched a Fair Housing Facebook page in September 2015 and continues educational and informational outreach to the public on a daily basis. There are currently over 1,240 viewers.