

**City of Conway
2008 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation
Report
(CAPER)**



January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008

*Submitted to the public for review: April 14, 2009
Submitted to Little Rock HUD: April xxx, 2009*

City of Conway
Community Development Block Grant
2008 Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report (CAPER)

INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the activities undertaken by the City of Conway Community Development Department during the 2008 Program Year (January 1-December 31, 2008). Funds for these activities are provided by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") through the Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") Entitlement Cities Program. The overall purpose and goal of the CDBG program is to:

Develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities principally for low-to-moderate income persons. The primary means towards this goal is to extend and strengthen partnerships among all levels of government and the private sector, including for profit and not-for-profit organizations in the production and operation of affordable housing.

Decent housing includes assisting homeless persons to obtain appropriate housing and assisting persons at risk of becoming homeless; retention of affordable housing stock; and increasing the availability of permanent housing in standard condition and affordable cost for low-to-moderate income families, particularly to members of disadvantaged minorities, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familiar status, or disability. Decent housing also includes increasing the supply of supportive housing, which combines structural features and services needed to enable persons with special needs, including persons with HIV/AIDS and their families to live with dignity and independence; and providing housing affordable to low-income persons accessible to job opportunities.

A suitable living environment includes improving the safety and livability of neighborhoods; increasing access to quality public and private facilities and services; reducing the isolation of income groups within a community or geographical area through the spatial deconcentration of housing opportunities for persons of lower income and the revitalization of deteriorating or deteriorated neighborhoods; restoring and preserving properties of special historic, architectural, or aesthetic value; and conservation of energy resources.

Expanded economic opportunities include job creation and retention; establishment, stabilization and expansion of small businesses, the provision of public services concerned with employment; the provision of jobs involved in carrying out activities under programs and activities; availability of mortgage financing for low-income persons at reasonable rates using nondiscriminatory lending practices; access to

capital and credit for development activities that promote the long-term economic and social viability of the community; and empowerment and self-sufficiency opportunities for low-income persons to reduce generational poverty in federally assisted and public housing.

Each activity undertaken using CDBG funds must address one of the following three National objectives as described by the CDBG Program regulations:

- Benefit low-to-moderate income persons. A low-to-moderate income person is one whose household income does not exceed 80% of the area median income, adjusted for family size. Income limits for persons benefiting from CDBG programs are published annually by HUD.
- Activities, which aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight on an area basis, spot basis, or in an urban renewal area
- Activities designed to meet community development need having a particular urgency. The activity must address a recently occurring, existing condition that poses a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community.

The CAPER summary report is intended to inform the public how the funds administered by the City of Conway have been expended, and to describe the extent to which the purposes of the grant programs have been carried out. Further information may be obtained from the City of Conway's Community Development Office, attention Robin Scott, located at 1201 Oak Street, Conway, AR 72032. Telephone 501-513-3500, extension 124.

Interested or concerned citizens are encouraged to submit their comments or questions concerning the CAPER report to the office listed above.

ASSESSMENT OF GOALS

1. a. Assessment of Three to Five Year Goals and Objectives

The City of Conway submitted a new Consolidated Plan for the years 2005-2009. The City continues to expand the Community Development Program and create and implement other opportunities for funding in the low to moderate-income areas in Conway. The 2005-2009 Consolidated Plan includes the expanded scope of the Community Development Block Grant funds by funding for rehabilitation projects for the City of Conway, economic development projects, infrastructure work, and helping with the needs of the homeless. In addition, the City of Conway has supported and continues to support financially and through capacity building for the Community Housing Development Organization that is still in formation.

The Community Development department funds several non-profit organizations for both facilities and programs to benefit the homeless; victims of family violence, people with disabilities, senior citizens, and helped create jobs for low to moderate-income citizens.

Since September 11, 2001, Conway has suffered a higher unemployment rate due to the closing and downsizing of several large employers such as Carrier, VIRCO, ACXIOM Headquarters being moved to Little Rock along with the downsizing of the staff in Conway has affected the community. However, due to excellent economic development in 2008 the City of Conway has attracted a Hewlett-Packard operation to locate in Conway. Also, due to the Fayetteville Shale being able to be accessed and the ability to obtain natural gas through shale that have caused two major oil and gas companies to open offices and facilities here.

Even though we continue to incur a significant growth rate, as reflected in the 2000 census the need for affordable housing are also increasing almost as quickly. However, in the year 2005 the City of Conway did a special census and found the population had increased by approximately 9000 people. The increasing growth rate of the community has increased the number of homes being built with the majority being for those with higher incomes. The rental property market is restricted simply because of the three colleges we have in the City of Conway. With the students willing and able to pay high rents it increases or raises the bar on the rental property within the City.

The small amount of affordable housing in the City of Conway is an issue that the low income residents face daily, however thanks to two new developments in the very recent past (each has been open approximately four years or so) the number of affordable rental units did increase. Yet, when the City of Conway absorbed the Katrina survivors who decided to stay here it has made the shortage of housing even worse within the City. However, one of those projects which is through Family Services Agency is increasing the size of their apartment complex and in Stage II of that affordable housing project.

The City of Conway hired another staff member in January 2009, whose main focus is revitalization projects in the low to moderate income areas. The first such project will be the Pine Street Revitalization Project which was just approved. Due to this new project and the stimulus package money recently awarded, the City of Conway will be submitting an amendment to its 2008 Annual Plan in the near future.

b. Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

The City of Conway will be hiring a consultant to complete a new Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing ("AI") very shortly as it needs to have the current one updated and done by an outside professional who can take a better look at the needs of the City of Conway. Plus the City of Conway will be writing a new five year consolidated plan for 2010 so this AI is absolutely necessary.

An AI was completed in 1997 and an updated one was written in 2005 and it was determined that many of the same issues still exist although the gap between those that can afford to buy a house and those that cannot has become wider.

The identified impediments to fair housing regard two major issues. The first issue is that of inaccessible design due to the significant number of older buildings in Conway which appear to be inaccessible to disabled individuals due to the design. However, great strides have been made over the past several years for a large number of the buildings to be made accessible.

The second issue was the cost of new housing construction. Due to the increasing demand for housing in Conway and relatively affluent condition of many of its citizens, new housing become very expensive over the last several years. This has resulted in a smaller percentage of

affordable housing being available in relation to the overall housing inventory.

a. The City of Conway continues to affirm further fair housing by serving as the local contact office for citizens with fair housing inquiries. The Community Development Department answers inquiries, makes referrals to other agencies, and assists persons who wish to file complaints. The CDBG Director received no fair housing inquiries or complaints in 2008. The Director also assures that the City of Conway does not allow any developers to disregard the fair housing laws.

b. The City of Conway continues to cooperate, nurture, and support the Pine Street Area Development Corporation (PSACDC). This neighborhood-based organization has received its non-profit status and now is working on becoming a CHDO in Conway. The organization has been through capacity building and is working on applying for HOME funds through ADFA.

c. The City of Conway participates in "Fair Housing Month" which is a joint effort between the City of Conway Community Development Department and the Realtors Association. A significant number of local real estate agents in the area attend this event ceremony.

d. The CDBG Director spoke to several realty agencies regarding the Fair Housing laws and the issues that face people so that it would build awareness of the Fair Housing Laws and regulations. She has spoken at several First Time Homeowner Classes regarding the Fair Housing Laws and the CDBG grant was used for those classes.

c. Affordable Housing

The City of Conway does need affordable housing. In the past, the City has spent the funds upgrading of streets and drainage infrastructure in the low-to-moderate income neighborhoods that has encouraged additional affordable housing construction.

However, with the support of the Pine Street Area Development Corporation ("PSACDC"), opportunities are being identified to provide more affordable housing within the City of Conway.

There is also the opportunity for other organizations, such as Habitat for Humanity which is supported by the City of Conway and the CDBG

funds, to increase the number of affordable houses within the City. The City funds the infrastructure work necessary in order for the houses to be built or helps with the actual purchase of property for Habitat. Independent Living Services is another organization which is currently in the process of building a 12 unit apartment complex especially for the developmentally disabled in order to provide affordable and safe housing for this section of the population. The Family Service Agency is beginning Stage 2 of its Donaghey Court affordable housing project in order to double the number of available units.

d. Continuum of Care Narrative

The ARVAN Continuum of Care split and become the Toad Suck Continuum of Care which consists of only three counties including the City of Conway. This was a decision of the entire Continuum to have a much stronger Exhibit 1 for the homelessness grants available. With the Toad Suck Continuum of Care breaking away, the homeless should be better served in Faulkner, Perry, and Conway Counties. These counties have historically been the most active counties in the Continuum of Care. The new Toad Suck Continuum of Care is stronger since the change and will work to insure that the needs of the homeless population in the community are met.

With the new Toad Suck Continuum of Care and through the work with the State Continuum, the Continuum plans to be able to write a better Exhibit 1, which really shows how the Continuum is working. The members do a monthly point in time count of all the facilities in order to keep up with the number of homeless being served in the three county areas. Through our work over the past several years we now have a healthy and viable working Continuum of Care.

Conway is very fortunate to have three organizations in the City of Conway that provide supportive housing. Bethlehem House is a true transitional housing shelter that provides for the needs of the homeless in Conway. Bethlehem House was awarded grant money from the McKinney-Vento Grant for the fourth year in a row which is a positive step to hopefully achieving the goals of the group. Other supportive housing agencies are HAVEN, which provides supportive housing for abused and neglected females under the age of 18. HAVEN is under the umbrella of Counseling Associates Inc. that provides transitional and supportive housing to people with mental illness. Counseling Associates also acted as the leader in the Continuum until the past couple of years. The Central Arkansas Women's Shelter provides supportive housing to women and children that are in abusive environments. Conway is home

to a state run human development facility and home to both group homes and individual homes for people with developmental disabilities.

One of the goals of the Continuum of Care is to be able to provide a new permanent housing project to the three-county area over the next couple of years due to the lack of affordable housing in the area. With all the different agencies working together, the plan is to apply for those funds in 2009 in order to build a new facility.

e. Other Actions

1. The year 2008 marked the seventh year of housing rehabilitation for the City's low-income citizens. The City of Conway collaborated again with the Community Action Program of Central Arkansas ("CAPCA") to provide emergency grants for rehabilitation to the low-income residents of Conway. The City has also provided the forming CHDO with a capacity and planning grant for 2003, which was used in 2004 in order to help the group gain the ability to start applying for HOME funds on their own. In 2004, CAPCA continued to mentor the Pine Street Area Community Development Association and targeted part of the funds in their allocation to the Pine Street area for emergency rehabilitation.

The City of Conway assessed its own needs for the writing of a new five year Consolidated Plan and will be concentrating on affordable housing, homelessness issues, infrastructure, and economic development over the next five years. The City of Conway completed a special census and results showed that the city's population had increased by 9,100 people in five years.

The new Consolidated Plan in place made the year 2008 easier for decisions to be made regarding the projects funded by the Community Development Program. This past year has seen incredible victories for the Community Development Block Grant program in the City of Conway. The focus of the CDBG has changed with the City listening to the needs of the community and focused on those needs. Contracts are written and signed by all sub recipients along with the Mayor, City Attorney, and City Clerk. An Advisory Board appointed by the Mayor continues to make recommendations to the City Council regarding funding for each grant cycle. The advisory board is actively involved in the allocation process of the Community Development Department through grant applications and presentations by the agencies who met the needs of the community.

2. The City of Conway is committed to establishing and maintaining facilitative relationships with organizations and institutions who are service providers in an attempt to lessen the gaps in the institutional structure. Non-profit, private, and public entities are encouraged to provide housing opportunities.

The City of Conway will continue to engage in and support collaborative efforts combing local government, non-profit organizations and private section enterprise and resources to low and moderate income residents. The City will preserve and protect existing housing units as a means of stabilizing neighborhoods and enhancing property values.

3. The City of Conway Housing Authority has an excellent relationship with the both the Mayor, The CDBG Director for Community Development, and the City Council. The City of Conway City Council must approve the appointment of any Conway Housing Authority Commissioner and the City oversees and assists the Housing Authority in every way possible.

4. The City has the benefit of a generally young housing stock. The hazards of lead based paint and effects of childhood lead poisoning are essentially new topics of concern for the City of Conway. With the beginning of home rehabilitation through the CAPCA organization, the strategy for addressing lead based paint includes:

- Education of household members
- Incorporation of lead based paint regulations in contracts
- No lead based paint to be used in new construction or rehab
- All structures built prior to 1978 are assumed to involve lead based paint
- Requiring all surfaces to be covered with materials such as hardboard, plywood, drywall, or plaster before any repair or repainting

5. The CDBG Director in concert with the Finance Department administers the CDBG program. The CDBG Director attends training on a regular basis in order to keep current on regulatory requirements.

The CDBG Director for Community Development plans each year in conjunction with the Advisory Board, the public, the agencies and the City Council to identify the needs of the City and to develop strategies to meet those needs. Citizen input is obtained through public hearings. There are also two public hearings/mandatory training sessions for anyone who wishes to submit a project application.

The Advisory Board and the CDBG Director review all applications and make their recommendations to the City Council. The City Council makes the final approval of all projects.

6. In the fall of 2006, the CDBG Director relocated to the Pine Street Neighborhood Outreach Center located at 1270 Factory Street. This is a building that was built with CDBG funds in order to replace a police substation for the neighborhood and to act as a neighborhood center for the community. It is located in the heart of the low to moderate income area of the City of Conway and in a historically African-American neighborhood. The Community Policing force has been housed there since it was built in 2004 along with one of the offices being used by the Pine Street Community Development Corporation.

Since the Community Development office moved into the building along with two new code enforcement officers it has been a wonderful experience to be in one of the neighborhoods that are currently one of the target areas for revitalization. The building itself has a community room which is used for everything from community meetings, public hearings, city meetings, anniversary celebrations, family reunions, and other community activities including the neighborhood watch group.

It has truly become a Neighborhood Outreach Center now that the Community Development office is located in the building and more and more organizations are using the building on a regular basis for meetings and gatherings.

With the addition of a Project Coordinator in January 2009 for the Community Development Department, neighborhood revitalization will be able to begin and be lead by the City of Conway and this department. The main focus will be to first revitalize the Pine Street Neighborhood through the concept of New Urbanism.

f. Leveraging Resources

The funds allocated to local non-profit agencies (sub recipients) has been used to match other grant funds in order to provide improved facilities and better services along with helping to provide more affordable housing for the citizens of Conway. The City of Conway is constantly updating and changing and shaping its Community Development program and is constantly looking for ways to enhance and broaden the program including new ways to leverage resources. The City of Conway specifically designed their program to fund non-

profit agencies which are meeting the needs of the community along with the fulfilling the mission of the CDBG program as a way of leveraging money. Instead using more money to create and administering its own programs, this is a win-win situation for everyone. Many of the agencies use the CDBG money as a match for other grant monies. The agencies are already providing many of the services and programs that CDBG would create and they have the advantage of being aware of the clients having previously worked with the population. This approach utilizes the expertise that exists at the agency level.

Another way of leveraging the resources is the City of Conway's involvement with the local fundraising events for area non-profits. An example is because an event took place in a City of Conway park, the City of Conway sponsored the event and helped raise awareness of the homeless. This helped to increase the amount raised and contributed to the success of the event. The City of Conway's CDBG Director is involved with agencies and helps them with trainings, fundraising tips, grant research, and writing.

The City of Conway also leverages resources by being involved in the Arkansas Community Development Association ("ACDA"). The ACDA membership includes all Directors for Community Developments from the entitlement cities in Arkansas and it is a wonderful way to share information with each other and leverage all the knowledge resources in Arkansas. The City of Conway is also active with NCDCA and with NAHRO on a local level. There is an excellent relationship between the Conway Housing Authority's Executive Director and City of Conway personnel and they often share information and resources.

With the new revitalization project, the City of Conway will be applying for HOME funds in order to help fund the project so CDBG funds will be leveraged with those from ADFA in order to begin the project. Application for funds from ADFA will be made as soon as the projects are identified and selected. In the meantime, the Project Coordinator is being trained in both CDBG and HOME/ADFA regulations.

g. Citizen Comments

The City of Conway encourages Citizen participating in the Consolidated Plan process. The City not only advertises its meetings for the Action Plans in the local newspaper and the local cable access station but also sends out press releases, which generate stories regarding the program with the local newspaper. The City of Conway keeps a list a people who have attended earlier meetings and notifies them by a letter

encouraging them to attend the next meeting. Requests for comments on this year's CAPER were made through notices placed in area locations such as the local library, City Hall, Pine Street Neighborhood Outreach Center. Also, there will be an advertisement placed in the local newspaper regarding the CAPER and where to pick it up.

The City of Conway has a Community Development Advisory Board, a diverse group of citizens who make recommendations to both the Community Development department and to the City Council regarding funding issues, goals, and objectives. The Advisory Board has been the driving force behind the change in focus of the Community Development program. Another benefit of the Advisory Board is that it removes much of the "politics" from the process because the public does not elect the board members. City Council members are encouraged to participate in the process however; they respect the recommendations of the Advisory Board.

Whenever members have rotated off the Advisory Board, the City announces the vacancies through newspaper articles and by advertising in the legal section. The City of Conway for the first time held several public hearings in different areas including the Conway Housing Authority, and conducted a complete survey that was given to as many people as possible in the community so that the City of Conway could have a true picture of what was needed in the City for the next five years. The City of Conway requires that people only sit on one major board at a time in order to get more people involved in their local City government.

(Waiting on comments regarding the CAPER)

h. Self-Evaluation

The program has changed drastically over the past four years and especially since the writing of the 2005 Consolidated Plan. The City is working hard to achieve its goals. The City of Conway continues to work with a local neighborhood group to create a CHDO in order to have an avenue for applying for HOME funds and rebuilding some of the low-income neighborhoods and has supported Habitat for Humanity in that agency's building of homes for low income people. The City continues to reinvest in the low-income neighborhoods through the rehabilitation program.

All the programs are being provided but running later than anticipated due to the lateness in actual funding over the past several years by Congress.

The 2008 Annual Plan will require amendment due to two recent changes: the stimulus package has provided additional funding of approximately \$113,000 and City Council just approved and appropriated \$260,000 from the 2008 funds for the Pine Street Revitalization Project

In 2009 the City of Conway will also be writing its 2010 Consolidated Plan which will more graphically illustrate the progress that has been made over the past five years in the area of community development.

Staffing changes within the CDBG Department will better position the City to administer and monitor CDBG funds and address the community development needs of the City of Conway.

2. Program Performance

a. Assessment of relationship of the use of CDBG funds to the priorities, needs, goals and objectives identified in the Consolidated Plan.

Since the City of Conway's new consolidated plan has been in effect, the focus has changed immensely. The City of Conway is distributing funds to high priorities such as housing rehab. The City of Conway is more educated regarding the needs of the community and better at reflecting those needs in the yearly Action Plans. All activities that have become involved with several sub recipients who are comprised of several non-profit organizations that provides services to low-moderate income residents. Now that the priorities are limited to a smaller amount, it makes it easier to meet the priorities, goals, needs, and objectives of the Consolidated Plan.

b. Nature and reasons for any changes in program objectives and indicate how the City would change its programs because of its experiences:

The City of Conway would change its programs to react to an emergency or urgent need in the community or if a sub recipient was unable to complete an approved project.

c. Assessment of efforts in carrying out planned activities described in the action plan as part of the City certifications that it is following a current HUD approved Consolidated Plan.

The City of Conway has actively sought to implement the amended Consolidated Plan of 2005. Based on the information provided in this report, the City of Conway continued to make progress in carrying out the goals and objectives of Consolidated Plan.

Physical development activities often take years to complete (i.e. construction projects). The City of Conway began the first funding of rehabilitation of housing stock in late 2003 due to late funding but great progress has been made towards that goal. The City provided certifications of consistency for HUD programs in a fair and impartial manner, and did not hinder the Consolidated Plan implementation by action or willful inaction. Another activity (the drainage project that was planned for 2004) was unable to be completed due to lack of consent from Union Pacific Railroad, however that funding was reallocated to the Halter Building Project, which is an economic development project. Another issue arose after the Independent Living Services was allocated \$100,000 and found themselves unable to spend the money during the year 2005 due to the project running late. However, it was due to a good reason regarding infrastructure and they were able to use \$30,000. Consequently, the remaining funds were used for the 2006 allocations (not the 15% cap for services) to fund another economic development project.

d. National Objective Compliance:

During 2008, the City met its overall 80% low to moderate national objective. All CDBG monies funded programs that qualify exclusively for the three national objectives

e. Acquisition, Rehabilitation, or Demolition of Real Occupied Property:

The housing rehabilitation programs were available to the elderly and/or disabled and/or low to moderate-income homeowners in the form of \$5,000 grants. CAPCA, a local non-profit agency with experience in weatherization, housing rehabilitation, and housing development, administers the City of Conway's rehab program. In 2008 they utilized the residual of their allocations from 2006 and 2007. The Pine Street Neighborhood Outreach Corporation purchased property to begin rehabilitation efforts in 2008.

Additional staffing authorized by the City of Conway for FY2009 will allow the City to increase its efforts in the area of rehabilitation.

f. Economic Development Jobs:

The Halter Building Project, a contract between Seayco Group and the City of Conway, was completed in late 2007 with excellent results. The total number of jobs created was 83.

In 2008 it was announced that Hewlett-Packard would be building a facility in Conway and would bring approximately 1,000 new jobs to the community. The success of attracting this company to Conway can be attributed in part to recent economic development projects. The vibrant downtown area was one the things that most impressed this company and why it is growing its business here.

g. Limited Clientele Activities:

The presumed limited clientele activities undertaken were those that were funded in the 15% services cap such as transportation for people with developmental disabilities to jobs and to job training; or providing transportation services to senior citizens; and there were other projects awarded that were to agencies that serve a somewhat limited clientele but were for infrastructure needs.

h. Revolving Loan Program Income:

The City of Conway does not have a revolving loan program.

3. Home Program Performance

The City of Conway does not receive HOME funds.

4. HOPWA Program Performance

The City of Conway does not receive HOPWA funds.

5. ESG Program Performance

The City of Conway does not receive ESG funds.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

a. Funding

Conway's CDBG efforts continue to be funded solely by the annual grant from HUD. No money was utilized in the program other than the federal funds. The initial grant award for 2008 was \$417,525. This was a cut in funding of approximately \$10,000 from the previous year's grant. However, due to the Stimulus Package money, CDBG has received an additional funding totaling \$113,389 for the year 2008.

b. Description of the Projects

The City of Conway identified a number of high priority projects that vary from rehabilitation grants for low-income residents to providing the funding the infrastructure for a new permanent housing project for people with disabilities. All agencies serve citizens with low to moderate-income levels and the majority are located in eligible areas of the City of Conway.

At least 87% of the total grant either benefited or will benefit people that are low to moderate income which includes the Pine Street Revitalization Program. This total does not include the administration part of the City of Conway's CDBG program that was budgeted at 13% of the grant.

CDBG funds were not available until late in the year and only at that point was the CDBG Director able to draw up the contracts and agreements with all the sub recipients. The contracts had to be approved by the City Council, signed by the Mayor, City Clerk, City Attorney, Board Presidents, and Executive Directors. That often takes several weeks and sometimes delays the process for a few weeks. In 2005, the City of Conway went over the 15% for services and was able to make the right amount of adjustments for the new 2006 Action Plan. In subsequent years, efforts have been made to ensure that the 15% cap is followed.

1. Community Action Program for Central Arkansas in conjunction with the City of Conway has continued the City's rehabilitation program paid for with CDBG funds. In 2005, 27 households saw improvements through CDBG funds. In 2006, 12 households were given rehabilitation through this program. This rehabilitation program targets low and very low income residents that need improvements to their homes such as new roofs and roof repair, installation of windows and doors, siding, ADA improvements and

various other construction measures. In some rehabilitation, interior work is performed such as hanging and finishing sheetrock, painting and trim work. Lead-Safe work practice is performed on houses where it is applicable. Applications are accepted and are rated by DOE point system guidelines to determine which households are accepted first into the program. Contractors must be licensed and the lowest bid is accepted on each project. In many of the projects, additional measures are applied to the households through the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) funded by the State of Arkansas. The WAP assesses each home and provides energy-saving measures such as insulation, caulking and air sealing, installation of exterior doors, replacement of broken windows, and other weatherization measures. By leveraging these two programs, the City of Conway residents can receive even more improvements and energy savings to their homes.

A limit of \$5,000 was originally placed on each grant, but as work has progressed over the past couple of years, it has become apparent that there are some homes in need of much more rehabilitation. Therefore, in certain circumstances, two grants have been awarded to the same property.

Because homelessness is one of our main priorities for the next five years, we have also done repairs on the local homeless shelter, Bethlehem House, that housed up to 15 to 25 residents per day.

Of the 26 homes receiving rehabilitation grants the statistics are as follows:

- 66% have a female head of household
- 75% of the participants are either minority households or seniors over the age of 60
- Household average income is \$17,096 which is between the 30% and the very low income median income for the area.
- Average age is 63
- 50% are disabled
- 13 children have benefited

2. **Faulkner County Council on Aging:** In conjunction with the City of Conway's CDBG funds, the Faulkner County Council on Aging received \$10,000 to be used for transportation services to senior adults within the City of Conway. The senior received transportation to and from medical/dental appointments, grocery stores, banks, Department of Human Services, and the Senior Citizens Center. All services were

provided in the year 2008. All the 1,739 trips provided were at \$5.75 per trip.

Of the total transportation budget CDBG provided 13% of the budget; and of the total 252 individuals served by the organization the total number of trips provided were 13,861 and CDBG funds provided 12.5% of the total trips.

Individuals and Terms of Trips or Units of Service

1,739 trips were provided to 221 individuals
75% females
10% were minorities
100% were low to moderate income levels and have presumed benefit
33% were extremely low income level
57% were in the low-income range

3. Women’s Shelter of Central Arkansas: The City of Conway allocated services money to the Women’s Shelter of Central Arkansas to fund a collaborative transportation program with My House, Inc. This collaborative effort provides transportation to the Women’s Shelter clients while eliminating duplication of services and cutting program costs. Seventy-nine percent of WSCA clients did not have access to a car. Without reliable transportation to community services such as the Victim’s Service Center, court proceedings, medical appointments, DHS appointments and without transportation to get children to daycare and school, to search for employment and housing, domestic violence victims’ survival rate in the community is reduced and recidivism increases.

The goal of this program is to ensure that clients of the agency get to their jobs, appointments, and mandatory meetings without duplication of services. For victims of domestic violence having transportation to access every community option available to them increases their chance of survival. Eliminating duplication of services increases the agency’s operating efficiency and reduces their reliance on taxpayer monies.

WSCA funds the transportation advocates salary with CDBG funds and United Way funds. My House pays for the 16 passenger van and operation costs such as fuel and insurance. Conway does not currently

have a public transportation program and this is a major barrier to the financial self-sufficiency of the agency's clients. To be eligible for the transportation program you must be a WSCA client without access to a car, a client of My House and the location to which the client is going must be relevant to the WSCA or My House mission. The WSCA utilizes a trained direct service provider transportation advocate to assist clients in assessing and scheduling their transportation needs. WSCA is the only agency in Faulkner County that assists victims of domestic violence. Both transportation and family violence were in the top ten needs of Faulkner County in the last United Way of Faulkner County needs assessment.

The WSCA was allocated \$5,000 for their transportation program and of the 61 clients served by CDBG funding in 2008, 100% of their income levels were low-to-moderate income levels. The demographics of the clients served by the WSCA in 2008 are as follows:

Demographics of those using transportation provided by Women's Shelter

Total Clients Served	61	
Total Female Head of Household	61	100%
Asian	1	2%
African-American	13	21%
Caucasian	44	72%
Hispanic	1	2%
Native American	2	3%
Ages of Clients Served		
18-19 years of age	3	5%
20-29 years of age	21	34.4%
30-31 years of age	18	29.5%
40-49 years of age	15	24.5%
51-59 years of age	3	5%
60 years of age and above	1	1.6%

4. Faulkner County Council on Developmental Disabilities (Supported Work):

In conjunction with the City of Conway, Faulkner County Council on Development Disabilities (“FCCDD”) provided transportation to the developmentally disabled and disadvantaged citizens of Conway. Transportation was provided to medical appointments, to and from places of employment, job interviews, to and from recreation activities, and to and from educational opportunities. The total cost for this service was \$69,235 of which CDBG funded \$20,000 or 29%. The total passenger pick-ups were 5,120. Of those given transportation, 25% were minorities and 95% were disabled. All services were provided in the year 2008.

Expenses

Drivers Salaries/Fringe/Administration	\$51,554
Fuel/Tires/Insurance	\$13,173
Maintenance/Repairs	\$ 4,508
Total Expenses	\$69,523
Percent funded by CDBG	\$20,000 (29%)

5. Pine Street Free Clinic: The City of Conway provided \$10,000 for a medications and lab work for the Pine Street Free Clinic who do not have medical insurance of any type including those over 65 or under 18 years of age, Veterans those who have Medicaid, and those that can afford medical insurance. All of the people served by the Pine Street Free Clinic are low-income residents of Conway. The Pine Street Free Clinic is open every Tuesday at 4:00 and begins seeing patients at 5:00. The first Tuesday of the month patients with orthopedic problems are seen and the second Tuesday is the diabetic clinic which is the biggest clinic of the month. In 2008 231 patients were seen, 68 (30%) males; 160 (70%) females. Of the patients seen 68 (30%) were African-American, 138 (60%) were Caucasian; and 18 (10%) were other nationalities such as Hispanic. The total number of visits to the clinic was 683 for the year and there were six dental referrals at a cost of \$1,080.00 for emergency dental care for pain are offered.

Medication Expenses for 2008

Baker Drug Store	Medications	\$6,991.28
Conway Regional Lab	Lab Work	\$569.22
Invacare Diabetic Supplies	Diabetic supplies	\$1,525.39
Flu Vaccine	Flu Shots	\$935.25
Prescription Pads	To write prescriptions	\$189.00
TOTAL		\$10,209.75

6. Bethlehem House: CDBG funding in the amount of \$15,000 was given to Bethlehem House to increase the hours of operation of the homeless shelter and allow a third shift of staffing. In 2008 the homeless shelter served 52 individuals, including 11 children. Non-resident services were provided to the following people: They served 1,702 individuals.

Race:

- Not Given – 128
- American Indian or Alaska Native – 13
- Black/African American – 321
- Native Hawaiian – 1
- Other – 52
- Other Multi-Racial – 18
- White – 1,167
- Hispanic -- 77

7. Faulkner County Boys and Girls Club Transportation Program: The Faulkner County Boys and Girls Club was awarded \$4,000 in order to provide transportation services to the Boys & Girls Club for children from Sallie Cone Elementary where 80% of the children are in low to moderate-income families. The goal is to provide a safe, positive place for children to learn and grow to be caring adults by developing self-esteem through relationships with trained professionals, life-enhancing programs and character development experiences.

Number of Trips	CDBG Amount	Total Program Cost
Daily during school year	\$4,000.00	\$6,400.00

8. Program Administration: The administration funds were used for salaries and fringe benefits of The CDBG Director; including training, travel, supplies, etc. Total amount budgeted was \$59,128.00 which is below the allowable 20%. In 2008 the duties of the CDBG Director consisted of administration of the CDBG program. Because the grant monies were received so late in the program year, not all the monies have been drawn yet from IDIS. The CDBG Director is responsible for planning community development for the entire City of Conway.
ATTACHMENT

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY INFORMATION
GRANTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT
FOR PERIOD 01/01/08-12/31/08**

A. Program Income Received

No program income was received during this reporting period.

B. Prior Period Adjustments

No prior period adjustments were made during this reporting period.

C. Loans and Other receivables

There were no loans or receivables during this reporting period.

CDBG Entitlement Population Served Information

A) Low to Moderate Income Benefit:

- Pine Street Free Clinic
- Drainage improvements
- Conway Interfaith Clinic
- Faulkner County Boys and Girls Club
- Reallocated money to Economic Development projects

B) Low to Moderate Income Benefit Housing:

- Habitat for Humanity
- CAPCA Housing Rehabilitation Program
- Pine Street Area Development Corporation
- Bethlehem House
- Independent Living Services

C) Limited Clientele Activities: There are many of the activities of the CDBG program that are designated "Limited Clientele." Limited Clientele Activities are those, which, according to program regulations, "exclusively serve a group of persons who are generally presumed to be low or moderate income." The following agencies were allocated funds or on which CDBG funds were expended which meet the needs of limited clientele:

- Faulkner County Senior Citizens and Council on Aging
- Faulkner County Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Women's Shelter of Central Arkansas