City of Las Cruces

Five Year Consolidated Plan

2016 – 2020

May 2, 2016

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 07/31/2015)

Executive Summary

ES-05 Executive Summary - 24 CFR 91.200(c), 91.220(b)

1. Introduction

The City of Las Cruces New Mexico is submitting its 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan. This Plan has been prepared according to HUD requirements. The Plan will govern the City's investment of federal funds for persons experiencing homelessness, housing and non-housing community development activities for the next five year period. This plan will be updated annually through preparation of the Annual Action Plan.

2. Summary of the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan Needs Assessment Overview

High priority needs identified in the Las Cruces Five-Year Consolidated Plan include both housing and non-housing community development, infrastructure, persons experiencing homelessness and special population needs. Las Cruces has developed and managed a robust Citizen Participation process to solicit resident input on priority needs. The City has integrated that Citizen Participation process with substantial research efforts to acquire hard data on the scope of those needs.

3. Evaluation of past performance

Overall, during the last five-year reporting period for Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Reports (CAPERs) the City has received satisfactory reviews regarding its performance in meeting goals set forth in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan and each year's Annual Action Plan. Additionally, HUD continues to conclude that the City of Las Cruces is administering its programs in a manner consistent with the applicable regulatory requirements. Review and conclusions are based solely on information available to HUD, and do not constitute a comprehensive evaluation or approval of specific activities. The City of Las Cruces has responded to all technical assistance provided as a part of any HUD review and evaluation.

4. Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process

Citizen and stakeholder participation components are a critical process in the development of the Consolidated Plan and are a priority for the City of Las Cruces. The Housing and Neighborhood Services section of Community Development encouraged meaningful public participation in the Consolidated Plan process, especially by low- and moderate-income residents, as well as those in legally protected classes. The department conducted a broad consultation process with public and private agencies that provide affordable/subsidized housing, homelessness prevention and intervention efforts, and health and public/human services.

Input from a broad range of citizens and citizen groups were collected during the development of the Five-Year Consolidated Plan. The public was encouraged to participate through multiple modes, including an online and paper Citizen Survey (mailed to over 7,800 households living in low and moderate income census tracts); multiple Public Hearings and Public Meetings; submittal of written

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comments regarding the draft Five-Year Plan; and the City Council Public Hearing to adopt the plan. The Housing and Neighborhood Services section of Community Development notified the public about opportunities to participate in the process on the City website, through direct mailing to households in low and moderate income census tracts (in English and Spanish), through publications in local newspapers, through an interagency list serv, through non-profit and service providers, and through other means. Input from citizens was used when determining high priority needs and five-year goals to meet needs.

5. Summary of public comments

Public comments were received at meetings held to gather input into community needs, were emailed to staff during the process of developing the Consolidated Plan, and at public hearings held to discuss the draft Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing. Comments were focused primarily on the need for more affordable housing, especially for extremely low income households, persons with disabilities, and the homeless. The City also received comments about the needs of children and homeless children and the funding needs of agencies who serve these children.

Las Cruces residents were also able to provide their comments and prioritization of needs through the local resident survey. Please see the Consolidated Plan Attachments for a detailed summary of survey results.

6. Summary of comments or views not accepted and the reasons for not accepting them

All comments were reviewed and considered as the Consolidated Plan was written and edits. The only comments not included in this document were those that were submitted with Citizen Surveys that included profane language.

7. Summary

The City of Las Cruces provided a variety of avenues for citizen comment and participation in Consolidated Plan development. Citizens participated in Housing Needs public meetings, where data was reviewed and input was gathered about high priority needs. Multiple meetings were held at various locations, and at different times of day to provide all citizens the opportunity to attend. Citizens living in low income census tracts were sent flyers about these meetings and the three public hearings held to review the draft Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing. Over 600 residents completed the Citizen Survey, both on paper and online, in English and in Spanish. All input was reviewed and used to develop the Priority Needs and Goals within the Consolidated Plan.

The Process

PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies 24 CFR 91.200(b)

1. Describe agency/entity responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source

The following are the agencies/entities responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source.

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
Lead Agency	LAS CRUCES	Community Development

CDBG Administrator	LAS CRUCES	Community Development
HOPWA Administrator		
HOME Administrator	LAS CRUCES	Community Development
HOPWA-C Administrator		

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative

The Housing and Neighborhood Services section in the Community Development Department is responsible for administering both the CDBG and the HOME programs.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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PR-10 Consultation - 91.100, 91.200(b), 91.215(l)

1. Introduction

Provide a concise summary of the jurisdiction's activities to enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers and private and governmental health, mental health and service agencies (91.215(l)).

The City of Las Cruces coordinates city funded housing activities through the Affordable Housing Land Bank and Trust Fund Advisory Committee, and public service activities through the Health and Human Services Advisory Committee. The City will provide public service funding over the next five years to local non-profit agencies that serve special needs populations, primarily to the homeless, victims of domestic violence, and the disabled. Additionally, the City will provide HOME funds to private and non-profit housing providers for the development of single-family and multi-family housing, and affordable rental housing assistance.

The City will continue to coordinate efforts in the areas of homeless services and ending homelessness, including chronic homelessness, veteran homelessness for the Mesilla Valley Community of Hope campus and other homeless providers working in the City.

The City will continue to participate in meetings with outside partners in efforts to improve overall delivery of CDBG and HOME-funded projects, as well as public service and homeless providers on a regular basis.

Describe coordination with the Continuum of Care and efforts to address the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth) and persons at risk of homelessness.

The City falls under the jurisdiction of the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness (NMCEH), the New Mexico Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC). The City participates with staff representation in the regular NMCEH meetings held as well as the NMCEH CoC Board meetings. Governmental and non-profit agencies in the Balance of State cities and counties can apply annually for HUD Continuum of Care grants through the NMCEH.

Consultation with the CoC takes place with the NMCEH for the City's jurisdiction.

Describe consultation with the Continuum(s) of Care that serves the jurisdiction's area in determining how to allocate ESG funds, develop performance standards and evaluate outcomes, and develop funding, policies and procedures for the administration of HMIS

The City currently does not receive ESG funding. The City receives one CoC Permanent Supportive Housing Shelter Plus Care grant. CoC funds are also provided directly to our outside partnering agencies. The NMCEH administers the operations of the HMIS system.

2. Describe Agencies, groups, organizations and others who participated in the process and describe the jurisdiction's consultations with housing, social service agencies and other entities

Table 1 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	**Agency / Group / Organization**	Las Cruces Economic Development Office
	Agency / Group / Organization Type	Other Government - Local
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The City of Las Cruces Economic Development Director was a key informant providing information and insights into the economy in Las Cruces and economic development needs.
2	**Agency / Group / Organization**	La Casa, Inc.
	Agency / Group / Organization Type	Services - Victims of Domestic Violence
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Families with Children

	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	La Casa staff were key informants providing information about the needs of victims of domestic violence in Las Cruces. La Casa coordinates with the City of Las Cruces and other providers of services.
3	**Agency / Group / Organization**	Mesilla Valley Community of Hope
	Agency / Group / Organization Type	Services - Homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically Homeless Homeless Needs - Families with Children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied Youth
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Staff from the Mesilla Valley Community of Hope (MVCH) were key informants, providing insights and data related to the needs of homeless citizens in Las Cruces. MVCH coordinates with all other homeless service agencies and the City through the Continuum of Care and to ensure coordinated homeless service provision.
4	**Agency / Group / Organization**	Veterans Administration
	Agency / Group / Organization Type	Services - Homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Needs - Veterans

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	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The VA VASH staff participated as key informants and coordinate with other homeless services providers, the City, and the Mesilla Valley Housing Authority to provide coordinated services to homeless veterans in Las Cruces.
5	**Agency / Group / Organization**	Casa de Peregrinos
	Agency / Group / Organization Type	Services - Homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically Homeless Homeless Needs - Families with Children Non-Homeless Special Needs
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Casa de Peregrinos staff provided information about food insecurity in Las Cruces and the high priority needs of low and very low-income households. The agency coordinates with other service providers in Las Cruces and with the City.
6	**Agency / Group / Organization**	JL Gray
	Agency / Group / Organization Type	Housing Business Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	JL Gray property management and development staff were key informants who provided information and insights into the need for affordable housing.

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7	**Agency / Group / Organization**	NMSU Economics Department
	Agency / Group / Organization Type	Business Leaders University
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	A representative from the NMSU Economics Department was a key informant discussing the employment needs in Las Cruces and the economic climate.
8	**Agency / Group / Organization**	Affordable Housing Land Bank and Trust Fund Advisory Committee
	Agency / Group / Organization Type	Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Members of the Affordable Housing Committee provided insights into the housing market and housing needs in Las Cruces.
9	**Agency / Group / Organization**	Families and Youth, Inc.
	Agency / Group / Organization Type	Services - Children Services - Homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically Homeless Homeless Needs - Families with Children Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied Youth

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	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Staff from FYI were key informants, and provided information about the needs of homeless youth, homeless youth programs, and programs for at-risk youth.
10	**Agency / Group / Organization**	Tresco, Inc.
	Agency / Group / Organization Type	Housing Services - Persons with Disabilities
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Staff from Tresco were key informants providing information about persons with disabilities, and their needs for housing and services in Las Cruces.
11	**Agency / Group / Organization**	El Caldito Soup Kitchen
	Agency / Group / Organization Type	Services - Children Services - Elderly Persons Services - Persons with Disabilities Services - Homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Families with children Non-Homeless Special Needs

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	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The staff and board of El Caldito provided insights into the need for food and meals for homeless and low-income persons and households in in Las Cruces. The agency works with other homeless and service providers to coordinate services in Las Cruces.
12	**Agency / Group / Organization**	Health and Human Services Advisory Committee
	Agency / Group / Organization Type	Services - Victims of Domestic Violence Services - Homeless Services - Health Services - Education Services - Employment Service - Fair Housing Services - Victims
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The HHSAC Committee met to provide insights into high priority public services needs within Las Cruces. The committee helps the city coordinate and prioritize funding requests for public services dollars.
13	**Agency / Group / Organization**	International AIDS Empowerment, NM
	Agency / Group / Organization Type	Services - Persons with HIV/AIDS
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs

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	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Staff from International AIDS Empowerment provided information and insights into the challenges faced by persons with HIV/AIDS in Las Cruces and coordination for service delivery for this population.
14	**Agency / Group / Organization**	Memorial Medical Center Las Cruces
	Agency / Group / Organization Type	Health Agency Business Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs Economic Development
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Director of the hospital provided information about gaps in the healthcare system for low-income residents of Las Cruces, and the challenges of bringing high quality care to the community.
15	**Agency / Group / Organization**	Jardin de los Ninos
	Agency / Group / Organization Type	Services - Children Services - Homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Families with Children
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Jardin de los Ninos staff were key informants providing information regarding homeless children and families that they serve, and their services. The agency coordinates with other homeless providers and the City to ensure that families are accessing all services available to them.

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16	**Agency / Group / Organization**	League of Women Voters
	Agency / Group / Organization Type	Civic Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The League of Women's Voters provided a Housing Needs report that they prepared and observations about housing needs throughout Las Cruces.
17	**Agency / Group / Organization**	. St. Luke's Health Care Clinic, Inc.
	Agency / Group / Organization Type	Health Agency
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically Homeless Homeless Needs - Families with Children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied Youth Non-Homeless Special Needs
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Staff from St. Luke's Health Care Clinic were key informants providing information related to homeless health needs and programs available at the clinic. The agency coordinates services with other homeless providers and the city.
18	**Agency / Group / Organization**	La Pinon
	Agency / Group / Organization Type	Services - Victims

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	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Families with children Non-Homeless Special Needs
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Staff from La Pinon were key informants providing information about the needs of victims of sexual assault and housing and service needs and challenged faced by the agency clients. La Pinon coordinates with other service and housing providers.
19	**Agency / Group / Organization**	Tierra del Sol Housing Corp
	Agency / Group / Organization Type	Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Tierra del Sol, as a nonprofit housing developer, provided insights into housing needs, the housing market, and development challenges in Las Cruces. Tierra del Sol coordinates with other housing and service providers and the City to construct new housing units.
20	**Agency / Group / Organization**	First American Bank
	Agency / Group / Organization Type	Business Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Economic Development Market Analysis

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	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Staff from First American Bank was a key informant providing information related to the housing market and economic conditions in Las Cruces.
21	**Agency / Group / Organization**	Mesilla Valley Public Housing Authority
	Agency / Group / Organization Type	Housing PHA
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	The Mesilla Valley Housing Authority provided data related to residents, properties and waiting lists and needs for affordable housing in Las Cruces.
22	**Agency / Group / Organization**	Las Cruces Home Builders Association
	Agency / Group / Organization Type	Housing Business Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Staff from the Las Cruces Home Builders Association provided insights into the housing development market and challenges related to building housing in Las Cruces.

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23	**Agency / Group / Organization**	Bank 34
	Agency / Group / Organization Type	Business Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development Market Analysis
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Bank 34 provided information about lending and housing finance in Las Cruces.
24	**Agency / Group / Organization**	Pioneer Bank
	Agency / Group / Organization Type	Business Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development Market Analysis
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Pioneer Bank staff were a key informant providing information about lending practices in Las Cruces.
25	**Agency / Group / Organization**	Mesilla Valley Habitat for Humanity
	Agency / Group / Organization Type	Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis

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	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Habitat for Humanity staff were key informants to provide insights into the housing needs of residents, construction of housing units, and the development challenges in Las Cruces. Habitat coordinates with other housing and service agencies and the City to provide housing.
26	**Agency / Group / Organization**	City of Las Cruces
	Agency / Group / Organization Type	Housing Services - Elderly Persons Other government - Local Planning organization Grantee Department
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Lead-based Paint Strategy Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs - Chronically Homeless Homeless Needs - Families with Children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied Youth Non-Homeless Special Needs HOPWA Strategy Economic Development Market Analysis Anti-poverty Strategy
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Staff from many City departments in Las Cruces, including Planning, Public Works, Housing, Community Development, Senior Programs, Land Management, the City Council, Mayor's Office, and Metropolitan Planning Organization provided data, insights, programmatic information, and priorities for development of the Consolidated Plan.
27	**Agency / Group / Organization**	Mesilla Valley Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Inc.
	Agency / Group / Organization Type	Services - Children Services - Victims

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	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Non-Homeless Special Needs
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Mesilla Valley CASA staff was a key informant providing information related to children in need and in the court system in Las Cruces.
28	**Agency / Group / Organization**	New Mexico CAFE
	Agency / Group / Organization Type	Housing
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Non-Homeless Special Needs
	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Staff was a key information related to the housing and service needs of the Spanish speaking community in Las Cruces. The agency has also worked to provide foreclosure prevention assistance in the past, are proponents of economic development and minimum wage increases in Las Cruces
29	**Agency / Group / Organization**	Gary Sandler Realty Inc.
	Agency / Group / Organization Type	Housing Business Leaders
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis

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	How was the Agency / Group / Organization consulted and what are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Gary Sandler Realty provided information related to the homeownership market in Las Cruces and availability of land for development.

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting

Efforts were made to include all agency types. No specific agencies were excluded from this process.

Other local / regional / state / federal planning efforts considered when preparing the Plan

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
New Mexico Continuum of Care	NM Coalition to End Homelessness	The efforts to end homelessness including chronic homelessness overlap. Providing Affordable Housing to Homeless Persons and special needs populations also overlap

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Describe cooperation and coordination with other public entities, including the State and any adjacent units of general local government, in the implementation of the Consolidated Plan (91.215(l))

The City benefits from having a small group of established non-profit organizations specializing in serving homeless, special needs, and other low-income populations.

The City has worked diligently to foster and develop strong relationships with the organizations that provide housing and supportive services to low-income and special needs populations. City staff are accessible to housing and social service providers and continue to make the CDBG and HOME application processes straightforward and transparent. In recent years, the City has been very proactive in implementing policies and programs that remove barriers and support the provision of needed housing and services, such as the establishment of a land bank, an affordable housing trust fund, streamlining the development process and implementing fee waivers for affordable housing development. These efforts will continue during the five year Consolidated Plan period.

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PR-15 Citizen Participation

1. Summary of citizen participation process / Efforts made to broaden citizen participation Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal-setting

Input from a broad range of citizens and citizen groups were collected during the development of the Five-Year Consolidated Plan. The public was encouraged to participate through multiple modes, including an online and paper Community Survey sent to 7,800 residents in low-income census tracts (in Spanish and English); Public Hearings and Meetings; submittal of written comments regarding the draft Five-Year Plan; and the City Council Public Hearing to adopt the plan. The Housing and Neighborhood Services Division notified the public about opportunities to participate in the process on the City website, through mailings (in English and Spanish) to 7,800 residents in low-income census tracts, through publications in local newspapers, through non-profit and service providers, and through other means. Input from citizens and key informants was used along with data to determine high priority needs and five year goals to meet needs.

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Citizen Participation Outreach

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/ attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Citizen Survey	Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Persons with disabilities Non-targeted / broad community	Over 650 resident surveys were received and used as resident feedback for priorities. 7,800 surveys were mailed in English and Spanish to residents in low-income census tracts. An online version of the survey was available on the City website and through outreach in English and Spanish.	The survey solicited comments and opinions about housing, community development, economic development, supportive services and homelessness needs in Las Cruces. Respondents provided a wide range of opinions on multiple issues. Respondents stated they believe there is a significant need for increasing inventory of affordable rentals and accessible homes in Las Cruces. Increasing bike and pedestrian friendly areas was suggested. Creating volunteer opportunities for people who are homeless was also suggested. One respondent noted a perception of a no growth attitude at the local level and high fees as a disincentive. Job creation, expansion of transportation services and increasing resources for seniors were suggested activities. See the attachments to the Consolidated Plan for a summary of all survey responses.	Profanity was not included in the written summary of surveys.	

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Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/ attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
2	Public Meetings	Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Persons with disabilities Non-targeted / broad community Residents of Public and Assisted Housing	The City of Las Cruces held three public meetings to gather input into high priority needs for housing, public services, economic development and infrastructure. 7,800 invitations were sent to residents in low-income census tracts in English and Spanish, the meetings were advertised through the local newspaper, on the City website and to partner organizations and grantees. Meetings were held in various places throughout the City during the day and in the evening. 37 residents attended and provided input into high priority needs and goals after a presentation of data included in this plan. Please see the attachments to the Consolidated Plan for a summary of input.	Attendees were concerned about homeless assistance, supportive services to vulnerable households, career pathways to employment, and increasing the supply of affordable rental and for-sale housing.	None	

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Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/ attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
3	Key Informant Interviews	Representatives of service agencies, housing providers, government programs and the business community	Over 30 key informants gave input related to housing needs, public service and special needs population needs, homeless needs, the need for jobs and economic activity programs, and infrastructure needs.	Data, comments, priorities and information gathered from this input was used to develop various sections of the Consolidated Plan and is reflected in Consolidated Plan narratives.		
4	Public Hearing	Minorities Non-English Speaking - Specify other language: Spanish Persons with disabilities Non-targeted / broad community	The City of Las Cruces held public hearings to review the draft Consolidated Plan, Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, 2016 Action plan and gather input into the Draft Plans.	No comments were received.		

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Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/ attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
5	City Website	Non-targeted / broad community	The City of Las Cruces posted notices of all public meetings and draft documents on the City website	See the League of Women's Voters of Greater Las Cruces letter dated April 21. Some modifications were made to the final plan to address concerns of the League.	NA	http://www.las-cruces.org/en/departments/community-development/housing-and-family-services/2016-2020-consolidated-plan

Table 2 – Citizen Participation Outreach

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Needs Assessment

NA-05 Overview

Needs Assessment Overview

The City of Las Cruces gathered information to determine priority needs from many sources. The City has undertaken demographic and housing market research using US Census, Multiple Listing Service (MLS), rent survey, and other data sources. The Housing Needs and Markets sections of the Plan were completed to provide a detailed analysis of affordable housing needs in Las Cruces, including housing gaps for owners and renters. Public meetings were held during the development of the Housing Needs Assessment. The City also conducted a series of Consolidated Plan Key Informant Interviews with City leaders, industry specialists, City staff, nonprofit organizations involved with serving low-income and special needs populations, and the housing development and lending community. A resident survey was made available to all Las Cruces residents on the City's website, and was mailed to residents in low-income census tracts, asking citizens to provide their insights into housing, homeless, special needs and community development needs within the community. Multiple community forums were held, and attendees were asked to rank priority needs and action. All information has been considered in the drafting of this plan, and in the prioritization of needs and actions to meet needs.

NA-10 Housing Needs Assessment - 24 CFR 91.205 (a,b,c)

Summary of Housing Needs

Between the year 2000 and 2011, the population and number of households in Las Cruces rose 28%. Median incomes rose 27% during this time period.

Demographics	Base Year: 2000	Most Recent Year: 2011	% Change
Population	74,267	95,233	28%
Households	29,101	37,355	28%
Median Income	$30,375.00	$38,701.00	27%

Table 5 - Housing Needs Assessment Demographics

Data Source: 2000 Census (Base Year), 2007-2011 ACS (Most Recent Year)

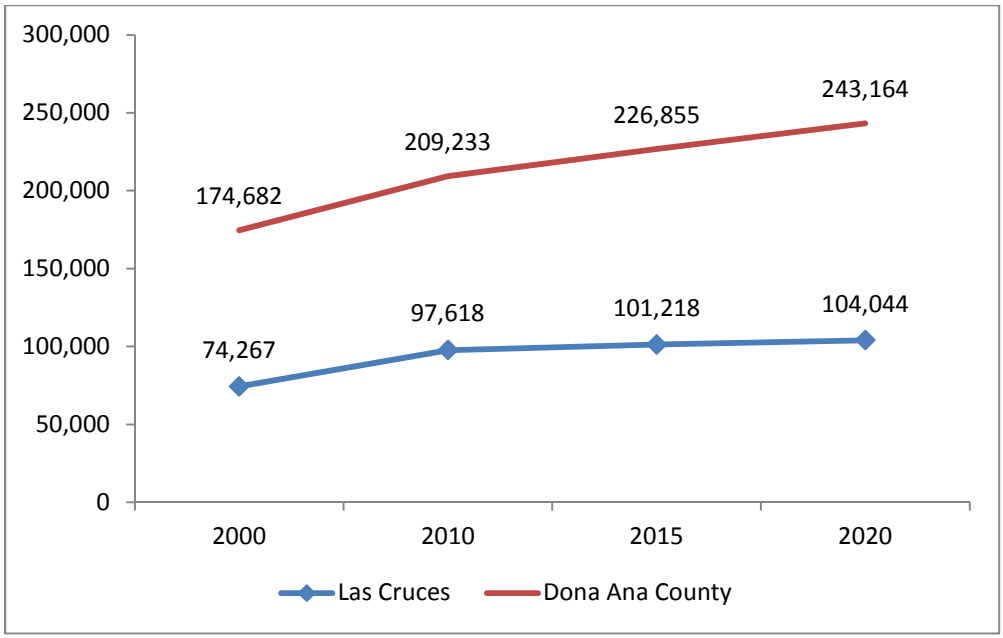
The population of Las Cruces is expected to increase over the next four years, though the rate of change is not expected to be as great as it was during the decade between 2000 and 2010, and not as high as the growth rate throughout Dona Ana County or New Mexico.

Total Population, 2000 - 2020

Measure	Las Cruces	Dona Ana County	New Mexico
2000	74,267	174,682	1,819,046
2010	97,618	209,233	2,059,179
Total Change	31.4%	19.8%	13.2%
Average Annual Change	3.1%	2.0%	1.3%
2015	101,218	226,855	2,208,450
Total Change ('10 – '15)	3.7%	8.4%	7.2%
Average Annual Change	0.7%	1.7%	1.4%
2020	104,044	243,164	2,351,724
Total Change ('15 – '20)	2.8%	7.2%	6.5%
Average Annual Change	0.6%	1.4%	1.3%

Source: US Census Bureau (2000 and 2010), UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research (State and County projections 2015 and 2020) and Claritas (Las Cruces 2015 and 2020)

Population Growth Over Time



Source: US Census Bureau (2000 and 2010), UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research (State and County projections 2015 and 2020) and Claritas (Las Cruces 2015 and 2020)

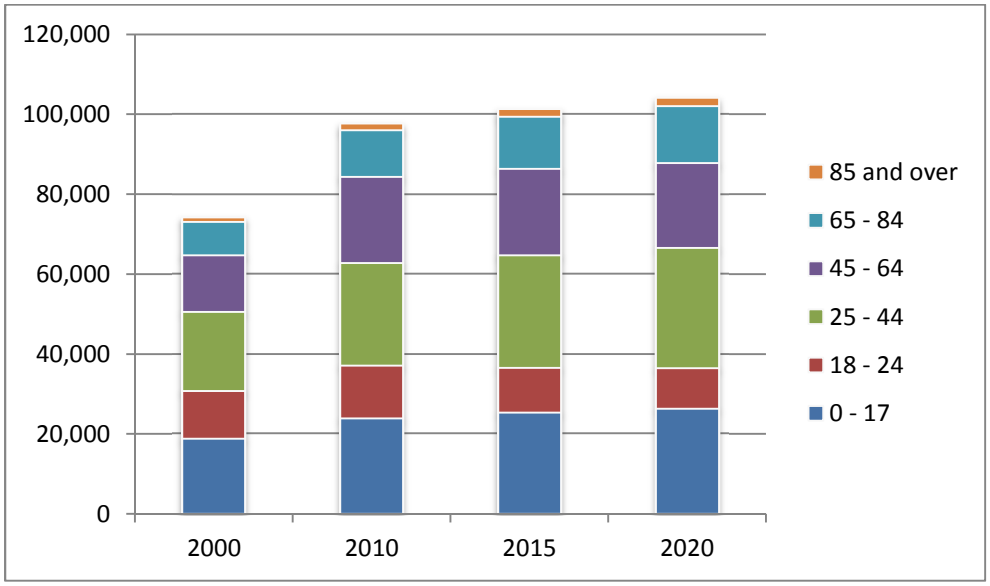
The following table shows the number of residents in Las Cruces by age range. The largest shifts in population between 2015 and 2020 will be in the 18 -24 age range, which will decline by over 1,000 persons, the rise in the 25 – 44 population by over 1,900 persons, and the shift of baby boomers into the 65 – 84 age range.

Population by Age, 2000 - 2020

Age	2000	2010	2015	2020	Change 2015 - 2020	Percent Change '15 - '20
0 - 17	18,649	23,757	25,194	26,156	962	3.8%
18 - 24	11,866	13,372	11,316	10,293	-1,023	-9.0%
25 - 44	19,957	25,468	28,007	29,926	1,919	6.9%
45 - 64	14,074	21,704	21,786	21,406	-380	-1.7%
65 - 84	8,586	11,624	12,981	14,179	1,198	9.2%
85 and over	1,135	1,693	1,934	2,084	150	7.8%

Source: University of New Mexico BBER, Claritas Demographics, American Community Survey, CSI

Population by Age, 2000 – 2020



Source: University of New Mexico BBER, Claritas Demographics, American Community Survey, CSI

As 2013 American Community Survey data below shows that almost 90% of all Las Cruces residents identify their race as white, and 57% consider themselves Hispanic/Latino. The percent of population who identify themselves as non-white is higher than throughout Dona Ana County, though the percentage of Hispanic/Latino population is lower than throughout the County.

Population by Race and Ethnicity, 2013

Race	Doña Ana County			Las Cruces		
	Total Population	% by Race	% Hispanic / Latino	Total Population	% by Race	% Hispanic / Latino
White	188,621	89.3%	66.7%	87,208	87.9 %	57.8%
Black or African American	3,306	1.6%	7.4%	2,082	2.1%	6.9%
American Indian and Alaska Native	2,452	1.2%	30.6%	1,601	1.6%	28.9%
Asian	2,378	1.1%	2.7%	1,521	1.5%	2.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	19	0.0%	21.1%	1	0.0%	0.0%
Some other race alone	10,485	5.0%	98.2%	4,354	4.4%	96.5%
Two or more races	3,914	1.9%	55.9%	2,419	2.4%	60.5%
Total	211,175		66.0%	99,186		57.2%

Source: 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

The fastest growing racial group in Las Cruces from 2000-2013 were whites, and those of Hispanic ethnic origin. The largest positive percentage change in a population group was Asian (76.3%), and decline was in the those identifying as some other race (-72.8%). The "some other race" decline may be in part to the way households are reporting themselves to the Census.

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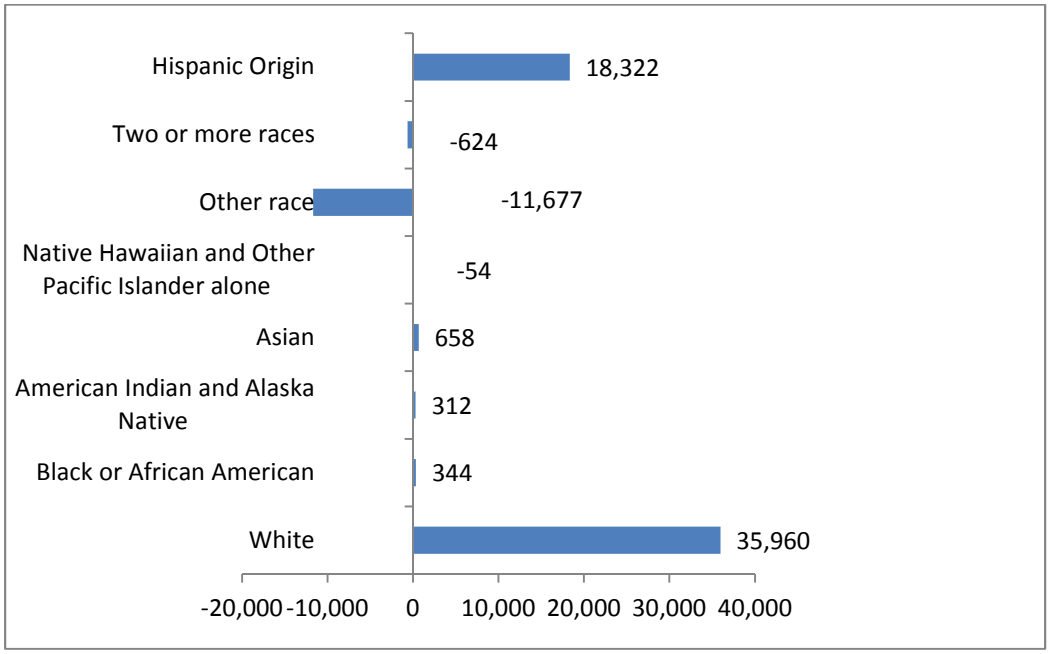
Change in Population by Race and Ethnicity, 2010 – 2013, Las Cruces



Source: 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

In 2014, the median household income of Asians and Whites were highest of any racial or ethnic group in the City. Hispanic households had a median income that was 49% of the non-Hispanic White median income.

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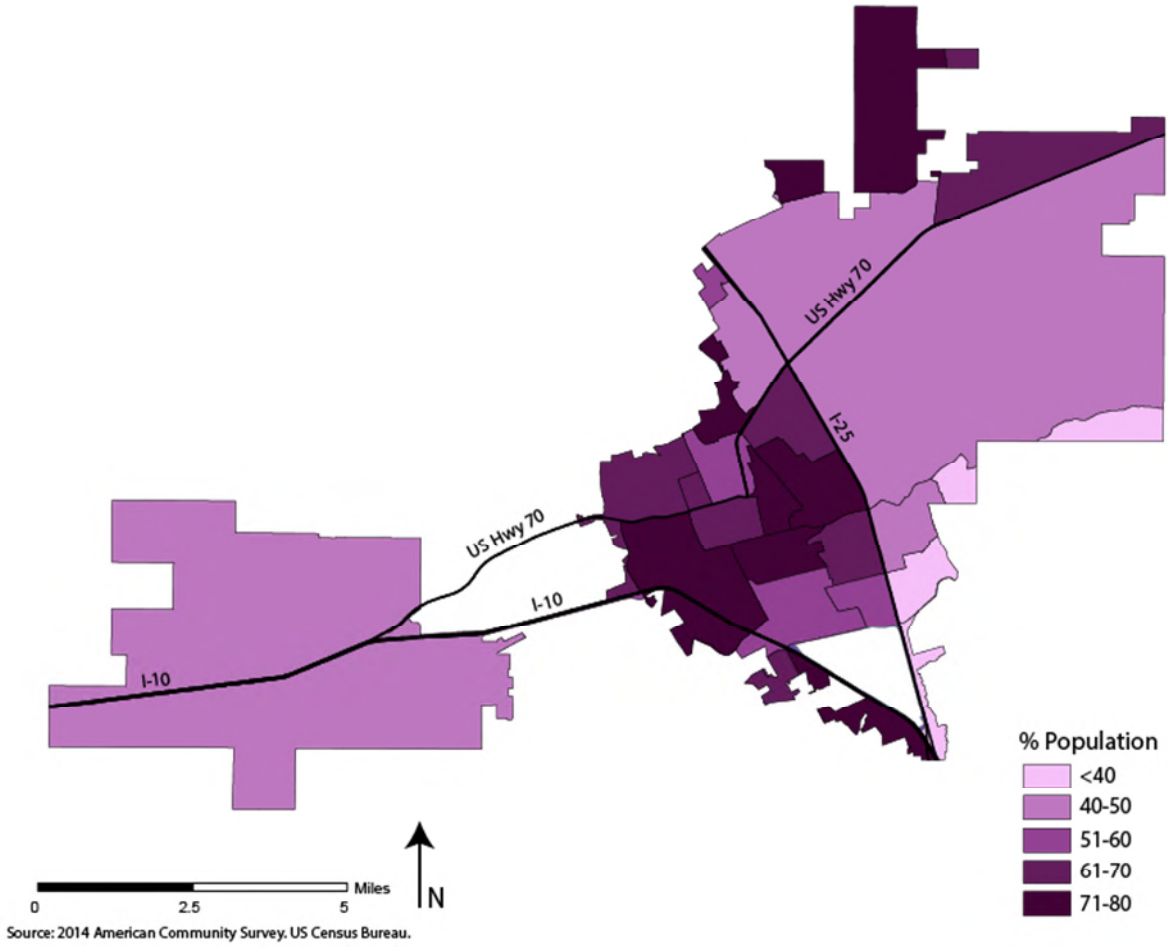
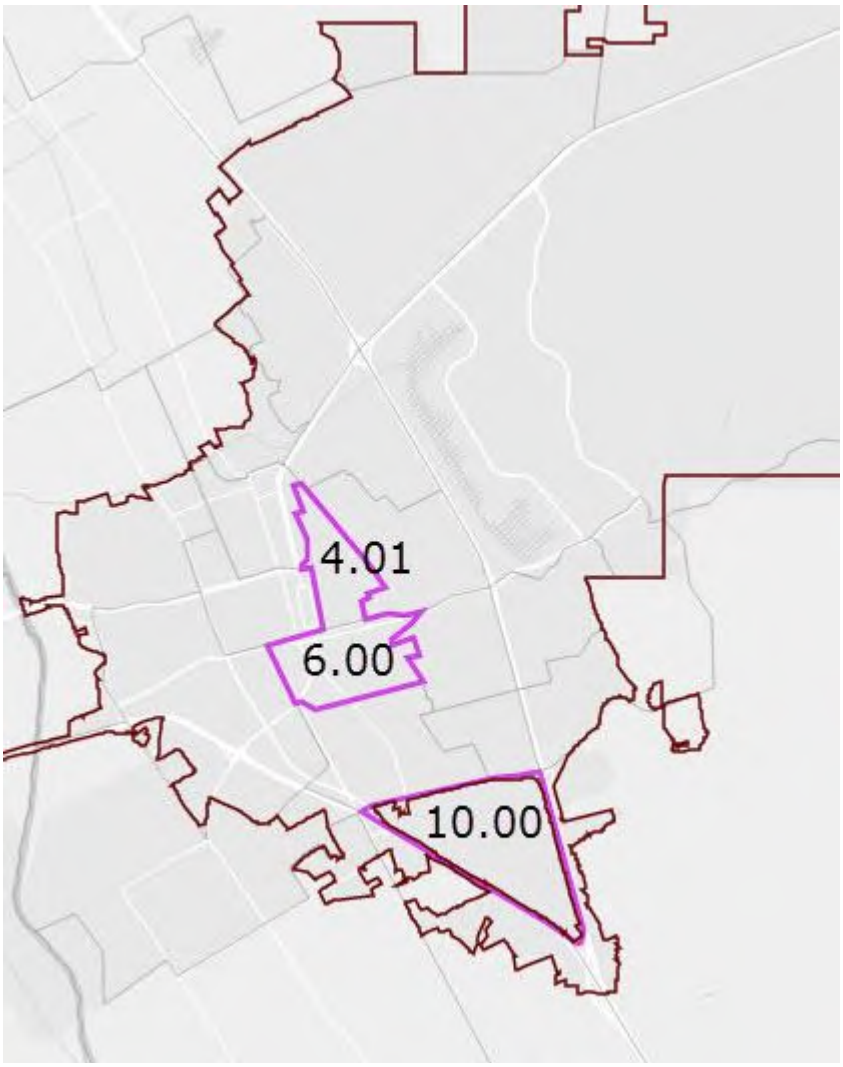
The following map shows the concentrations of Hispanic households in Las Cruces. City-wide, 57% of households are Hispanic or Latino. It is not surprising, then, to see that in 65% of census tracts within the City (17 of 26), more than 50% of residents are Hispanic or Latino. Las Cruces considers there to be a "concentration" of racial or ethnic minorities if there is more than 50% of one group in a census group. This is also consistent with the definition found in the new AFFH analysis of poverty concentrations for racially/ethnically-concentrated areas of poverty (R/ECAPs).



While many census tracts have more than 50% Hispanic population, there are just two that meet the R/ECAP threshold of 50% non-white and having a poverty rate of 40% or more, or three times or more the average tract poverty rate for the Las Cruces MSA. HUD has recently developed a data and mapping tool that identifies these "R/ECAP" census tracts based on 2010 census data. In Las Cruces, there are two R/ECAP tracts – 4.01, 6.00. Tract 10.00 is also a R/ECAP tract, but is outside the City limits and owned by New Mexico State University.



HUD AFFHT Mapping System R/ECAP Census Tract Map

According to the HUD AFFHT data system, 60.4% of households in these tracts were Hispanic in 2010, and 48% were families with children. Tracts 4.01 and 6.00 are near downtown, and in older Las Cruces neighborhoods. 2014 American Community Survey data shows that in tract 4.01, 80%, in 6.00 and in 6.00 76% are Hispanic/Latino.

The following table provides information about persons in poverty living in Las Cruces from 2000–2013. The number of persons in poverty has grown during this time period, from a total of 16,793 in 2000 to 23,345 in 2013, according to the US Census Bureau American Community Survey. The poverty rate, or percent of persons in poverty, has also grown slightly from 23.3% of the total population to 23.9%. The poverty rate for children in Las Cruces has risen from 29.2% to 32.0% from 2000 to 2013, and by a total of 1,952 children. The number of seniors age 65 and older who are living in poverty has risen by 265 persons, to a rate of 19.2% of all seniors.

In 2000 there were an estimated 1,591 single female parents in poverty, and the poverty rate for these parents (51.2%) was over twice that of the general population. The poverty rate for single female parents has declined slightly since 2000, though the number of single female parents in poverty rose by a total of 348. Another group with high poverty rates are Black or African American households. In 2013, the American Community Survey estimated that 43.5% of Black households in Last Cruces lived in poverty, while 23.1% of whites lived in poverty.

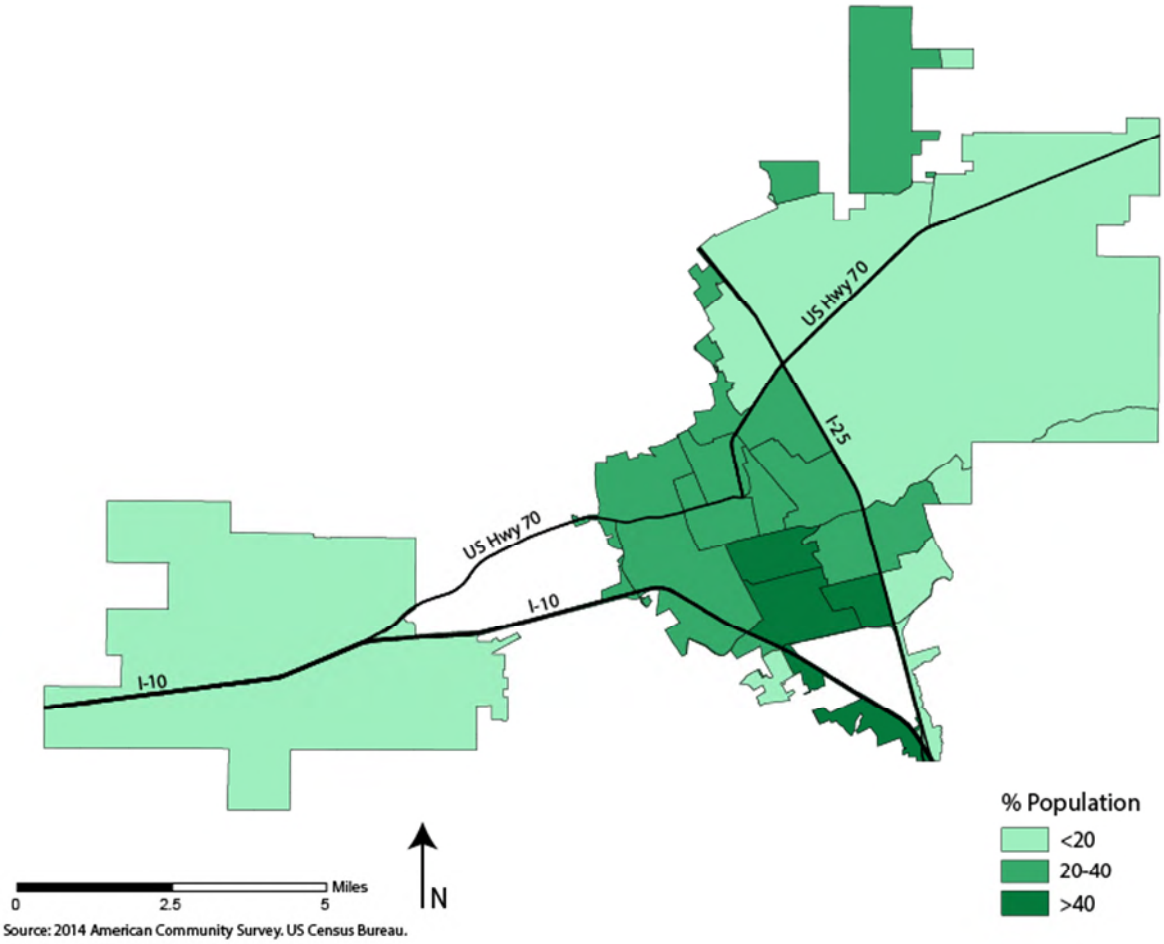
Although employed persons are less likely to be in poverty than the entire population, in 2013, working persons in Las Cruces had a poverty rate of 15.9%, illustrating that there are many working poor in Las Cruces.

Poverty in Las Cruces, 2000-2013

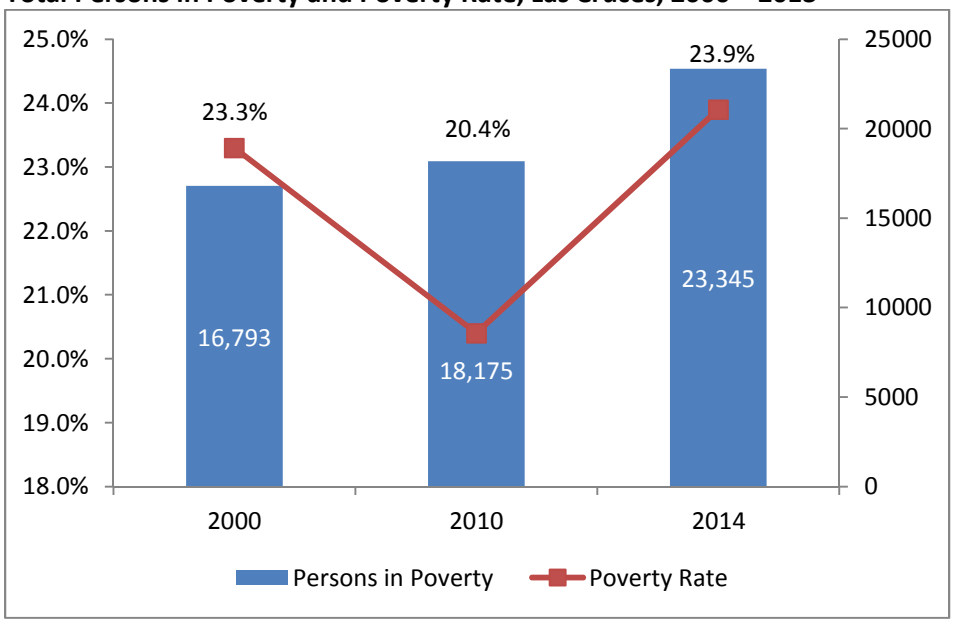
	2000	2010	2013
Persons in Poverty	16,793	18,175	23,345
Poverty Rate	23.3%	20.4%	23.9%
Children in Poverty	5,693	6,184	7,645
Poverty Rate	29.2%	27.2%	32.0%
Over 65 in Poverty	917	877	1,182
Poverty Rate	9.70%	7.30%	19.20%
Single Female Parents in Poverty	1,591	1,935	1,939
Poverty Rate	51.2%	50.0%	47.6%

Source: US Census Bureau, Census and American Community Survey 2000, 2010, 2013

The following map shows census tract concentrations of poverty. Areas with concentrations of 40% or more households in poverty tend to be in older, central neighborhoods near downtown, and near the university campus.



Total Persons in Poverty and Poverty Rate, Las Cruces, 2000 – 2013



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Source: US Census Bureau, Census and American Community Survey 2000, 2010, 2013

The number of households has grown as the population in Las Cruces has grown. Households have grown at a slightly higher rate than the population, indicating that young Las Cruces residents may be moving out of larger family households to form their own smaller household, or that new to Las Cruces households have fewer household members.

Total Households, Las Cruces, 2000 – 2020

	Dona Ana County	Las Cruces
2000	59,556	29,184
2010	75,532	39,433
Avg Annual Change	2.7%	3.5%
2015	80,405	41,050
Avg Annual Change	1.3%	0.8%
2020	86,314	42,294
Avg Annual Change	1.5%	0.6%

Source: US Census Bureau for 2000 and 2010 households; Claritas for Las Cruces 2015 and 2020; UNM BBER and CSI for State and County projections

HUD provides the following table showing the estimated number of households by household type and Area Median Income (AMI) level in 2011. The highest concentrations of any household type are in the greater than 100% AMI income range. Small family households have the highest number of households in all income ranges.

Number of Households Table

	0-30% HAMFI	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	>80-100% HAMFI	>100% HAMFI
Total Households *	4,020	4,715	6,264	3,250	19,105
Small Family Households *	1,215	1,655	2,435	1,270	8,800
Large Family Households *	165	420	355	230	1,205
Household contains at least one person 62-74 years of age	520	880	924	315	4,085
Household contains at least one person age 75 or older	285	565	940	570	1,835
Households with one or more children 6 years old or younger *	804	1,080	1,145	530	2,115

* the highest income category for these family types is >80% HAMFI

Table 6 - Total Households Table
Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

The following table estimated the number of households in Las Cruces by tenure (renter vs. owner) and by percent of HUD median income in 2015. HUD estimated a median income for communities, and this table uses the median income in the Las Cruces MSA. Half of renter households in Las Cruces have incomes at 50% of the AMI or less, while half of owner households have incomes at 80% of the AMI or above.

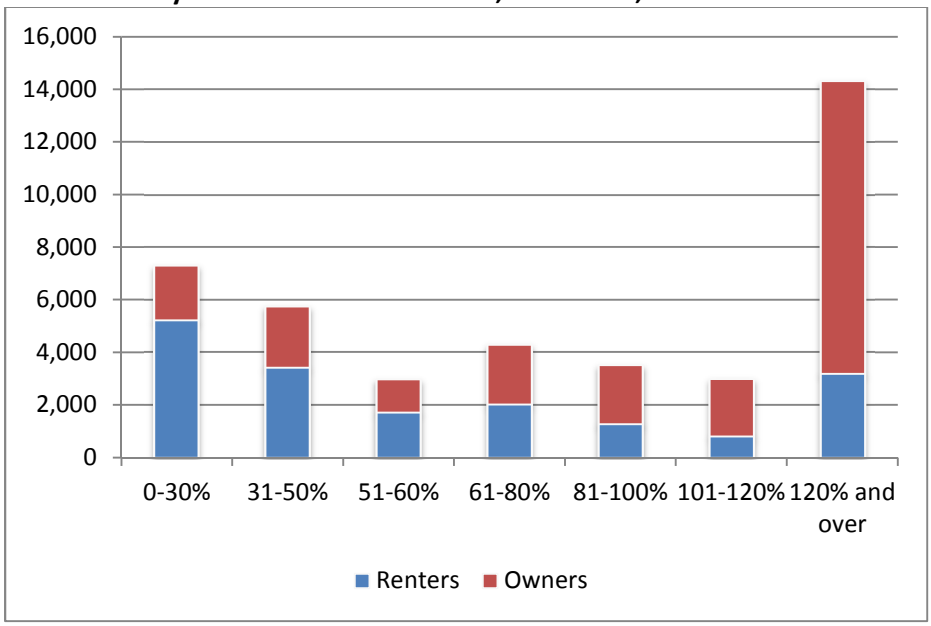
Households by Tenure and Income Level, Las Cruces, 2015

	Renter Households	Owner Households	Total Households
0-30%	5,228	2,061	7,289
31-50%	3,407	2,347	5,754
51-60%	1,710	1,251	2,962
61-80%	2,012	2,256	4,267
81-100%	1,269	2,233	3,502
101-120%	808	2,163	2,971
120% and over	3,176	11,129	14,305
Total	17,611	23,439	41,050

Source: Ribbon Demographics and CSI

The following charts show the distribution of households by AMI level and tenure (owner vs. renter).

Households by Tenure and Income Level, Las Cruces, 2015



Source: Ribbon Demographics and CSI

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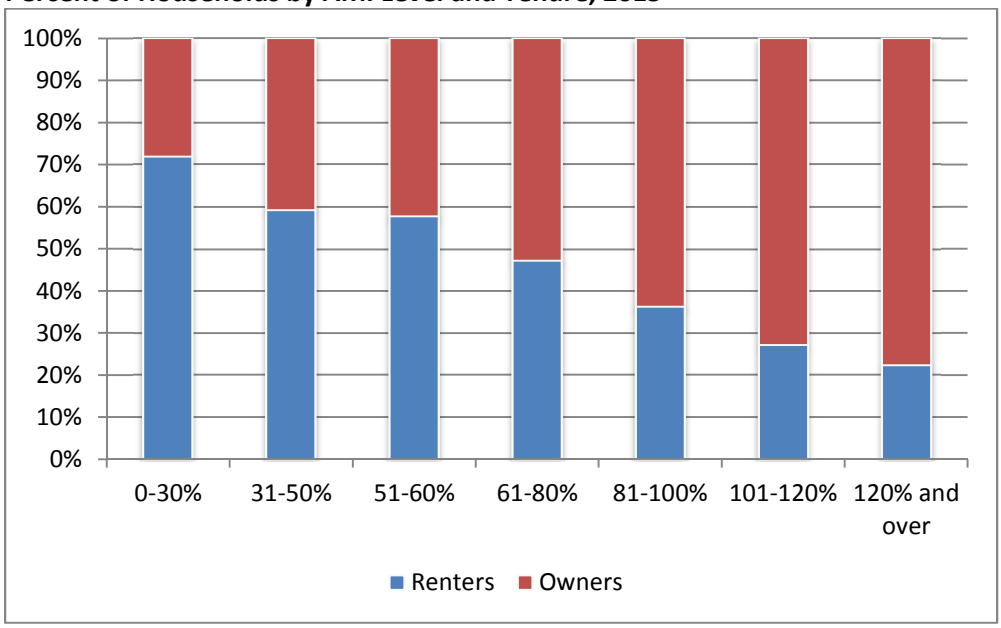
Percent of Households by AMI Level and Tenure, 2015



Source: Ribbon Demographics and CSI

HUD provides the following tables which show households with Housing Problems by tenure and income range. These tables are created using US Census Bureau 2007-2011 American Community Survey (ACS) data. Housing problems are defined by HUD for the Consolidated Plan as:

1. Housing unit lacks complete kitchen facilities
2. Housing unit lacks complete plumbing facilities
3. Overcrowding (1.01–1.5 persons per room)
4. Severe overcrowding (greater than 1.5 persons per room)
5. Cost burden (households paying between 30% and 50% of their income for housing)
6. Severe cost burden (household pays 50% or more of their income for housing)

In Las Cruces, HUD estimates there were 125 rental units and 30 owner occupied units without complete plumbing or kitchen facilities in 2011. Of these, over half were rentals serving households at 0-50% AMI. There were few severely overcrowded households in Las Cruces, though 285 renters and 195 owners were overcrowded in 2011.

By far the largest housing problem experienced by households at 100% of the AMI or less in Las Cruces was cost burden and severe cost burden. Renter households were more likely to be both severely cost burdened and cost burdened than owners. HUD estimates there were over 2,555 renter households at 0–30% AMI that were severely cost burdened. Over 4,810 renters earning 30–50% of the AMI were cost burdened or severely cost burdened. There were also 3,720 owners earning below 100% AMI who are cost burdened or severely.

Housing Needs Summary Tables

1. Housing Problems (Households with one of the listed needs)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Substandard Housing - Lacking complete plumbing or kitchen facilities	20	50	0	65	135	20	0	10	0	30
Severely Overcrowded - With >1.51 people per room (and complete kitchen and plumbing)	4	4	0	0	8	0	0	30	0	30
Overcrowded - With 1.01-1.5 people per room (and none of the above problems)	110	85	65	25	285	10	35	75	75	195
Housing cost burden greater than 50% of income (and none of the above problems)	2,285	1,195	435	15	3,930	380	755	480	180	1,795
Housing cost burden greater than 30% of income (and none of the above problems)	270	1,060	2,015	295	3,640	140	225	1,115	445	1,925
Zero/negative Income (and none of the above problems)	315	0	0	0	315	55	0	0	0	55

Table 7 – Housing Problems Table
Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

The next HUD-provided table shows the number of households with one of the four housing problems, or none of the four housing problems, by tenure and AMI income range in 2011. There are more renters with housing problems than owners. Housing problems are experienced by many more extremely low (0–30% AMI) and low-income (31–50% AMI) renters and owner than by moderate income households or those with incomes above 80% AMI.

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2. Housing Problems 2 (Households with one or more Severe Housing Problems: Lacks kitchen or complete plumbing, severe overcrowding, severe cost burden)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	**>30-50% AMI**	**>50-80% AMI**	**>80-100% AMI**	**Total**	**0-30% AMI**	**>30-50% AMI**	**>50-80% AMI**	**>80-100% AMI**	**Total**
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Having 1 or more of four housing problems	2,425	1,335	500	105	4,365	405	790	600	250	2,045
Having none of four housing problems	570	1,715	2,810	1,555	6,650	255	880	2,354	1,335	4,824
Household has negative income, but none of the other housing problems	315	0	0	0	315	55	0	0	0	55

Table 8 – Housing Problems 2
Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

HUD data shows that "small related" (two to four related persons) households have the highest number of cost burdened households in Las Cruces. "Other" nonfamily or elderly households also have high numbers of cost burdened households.

3. Cost Burden > 30%

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	**>30-50% AMI**	**>50-80% AMI**	**Total**	**0-30% AMI**	**>30-50% AMI**	**>50-80% AMI**	**Total**
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS								
Small Related	915	860	1,015	2,790	145	340	695	1,180
Large Related	95	270	105	470	35	60	155	250
Elderly	465	330	494	1,289	180	455	360	995
Other	1,215	925	840	2,980	185	130	480	795
Total need by income	2,690	2,385	2,454	7,529	545	985	1,690	3,220

Table 9 – Cost Burden > 30%
Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

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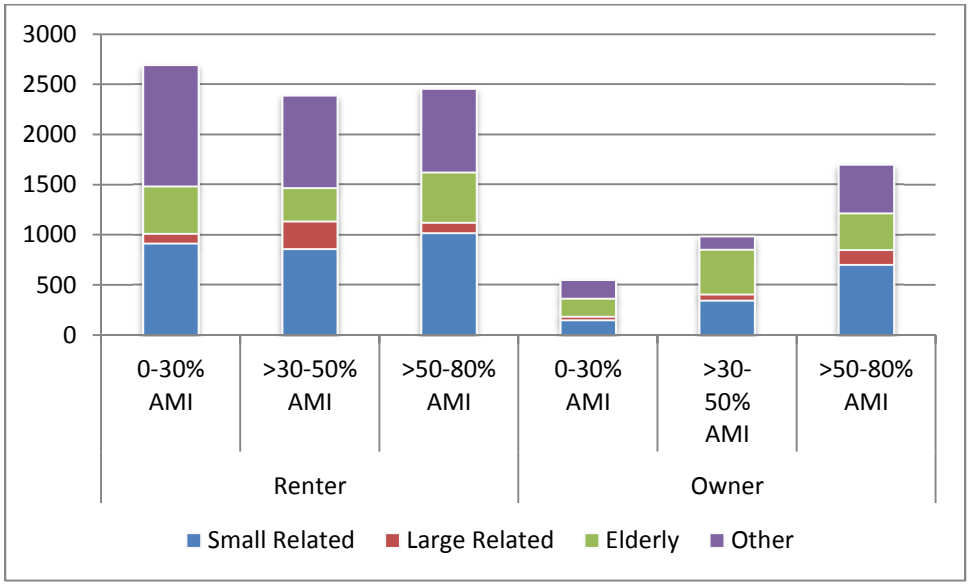
Cost Burdened Households



Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

The highest number of severely cost-burdened households are renters with incomes at 0–30% AMI. Most are "other" households, and many are small related households. The highest number of severely cost-burdened owner households are those at 31–50% AMI, and elderly households.

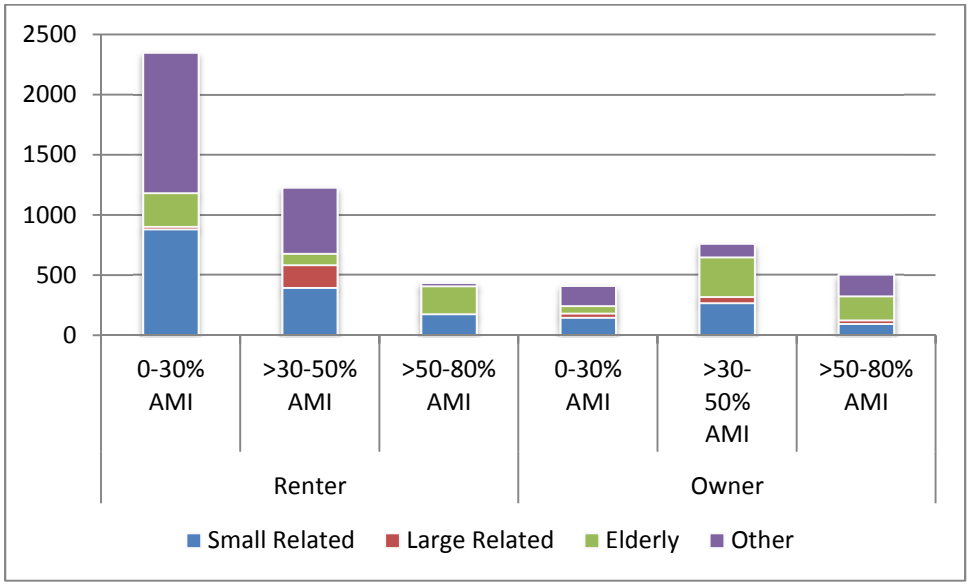
4. Cost Burden > 50%

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	**>30-50% AMI**	**>50-80% AMI**	**Total**	**0-30% AMI**	**>30-50% AMI**	**>50-80% AMI**	**Total**
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS								
Small Related	880	390	175	1,445	145	265	95	505
Large Related	20	185	0	205	35	50	30	115
Elderly	280	95	229	604	60	325	195	580
Other	1,165	555	25	1,745	165	120	180	465
Total need by income	2,345	1,225	429	3,999	405	760	500	1,665

Table 10 – Cost Burden > 50%
Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 07/31/2015)

Severely Cost Burdened Households



Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

Overcrowding is also most prevalent in renter households with lower incomes. More often than for multiple unrelated person households—or households made up of non-family members—overcrowding occurs in single family households (one family living alone). Overcrowding often occurs when a low-income household must rent or own a home smaller than they need because the price is lower than larger units.

5. Crowding (More than one person per room)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	**>30-50% AMI**	**>50-80% AMI**	**>80-100% AMI**	**Total**	**0-30% AMI**	**>30-50% AMI**	**>50-80% AMI**	**>80-100% AMI**	**Total**
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Single family households	104	59	65	25	253	10	35	80	55	180
Multiple, unrelated family households	0	30	0	0	30	0	0	25	20	45
Other, non-family households	10	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0
Total need by income	114	89	65	25	293	10	35	105	75	225

Table 11 – Crowding Information – 1/2
Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

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HUD requires grantees to estimate the number of households with children living in the household by tenure and AMI income range. This data has been provided through the HUD CPD Maps data system. The data shows that there are 2,230 renter households and 795 owner households at or below 80% AMI with children living in the household in Las Cruces. Many of these households may also be cost burdened or overcrowded due to rising housing prices.

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	**>30-50% AMI**	**>50-80% AMI**	**Total**	**0-30% AMI**	**>30-50% AMI**	**>50-80% AMI**	**Total**
Households with Children Present	745	815	670	3,285	59	265	470	2,914

Table 12 – Crowding Information – 2/2

Describe the number and type of single person households in need of housing assistance.

While it is difficult to estimate the total number of single person households in need of housing assistance in Las Cruces because many students are included in census and HUD tabulations, not all of the "other" households that have cost burden and severe cost burden are students. There are also many seniors and individuals experiencing housing cost burden that comprise single person households. According to HUD eCon Planning Suite data, there are 10,939 households made up of one individual in Las Cruces. Key informants working in service and housing agencies report that the single persons most in need of housing assistance are persons with disabilities (especially those with mental health disabilities), homeless individuals, persons with substance abuse issues, persons with criminal records, and extremely low-income individuals earning 0 – 30% of the AMI. These households have difficulties finding an affordable place to live, and often can't find the funds needed to pay application fees and deposits once units are found. Many also need supported housing, either with case management and healthcare for chronic health and mental health issues, or with assistance with activities of daily living. Vacancy rates for units with one bedroom are low, leaving few units for those trying to find an affordable and available unit.

Estimate the number and type of families in need of housing assistance who are disabled or victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

Households with disabled household members will be discussed in further detail in NA-40, Non-Homeless Special Needs Assessment. CHAS data analyzed for preparation of the Las Cruces Consolidated Plan provides the estimated number of households at or below 80% AMI with household members with various disabilities. This data source does not break down which households are families, which are individuals, and which are seniors. Households could have more than one disability within their household. CHAS data (please see NA-40 for more detail), concludes the following in 2012:

- 1,765 households with a hearing or visually impaired household member
- 2,400 households with a member who has an ambulatory limitation
- 1,560 households with a member who has a cognitive limitation
- 1800 households with a member who has a self-care or independent living limitation

The most common assistance needed for households with a disabled household member are housing accessibility modifications, access to public transportation, and rent restrictions to reduce household housing costs.
The New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs tracks Domestic Violence trends by New Mexico county. In Dona Ana County, there were 742 adults and children served in 2014. Many of these victims need safe shelter, counseling and other services, and often also need job training, housing placement and an affordable rental unit when ready to leave a shelter.

What are the most common housing problems?

The most common housing problems experienced by Las Cruces households are cost burden and severe cost burden. Housing costs in Las Cruces and the surrounding area are higher than the price affordable to many low, very low and extremely low-income households, and many low and extremely low households are getting priced out of rental and for-sale units. Low vacancy rates make it difficult for renters to find housing, especially with lower rents. Households with moderate, low, and extremely low-incomes are less able to pay for current housing prices than those with higher incomes. Please see the Housing Markets section for more information on the cost of housing in Las Cruces.

Are any populations/household types more affected than others by these problems?

Small related households, and "other" households have the highest incidence of cost burden, as do those at 0 – 30% AMI incomes. Renters have a much higher incidence of cost burden than owner households. Persons living on fixed incomes, especially those with disabilities, are also more affected by rising housing costs and less inventory of affordable rental units.

Describe the characteristics and needs of low-income individuals and families with children (especially extremely low-income) who are currently housed but are at imminent risk of either residing in shelters or becoming unsheltered 91.205(c)/91.305(c)). Also discuss the needs of formerly homeless families and individuals who are receiving rapid re-housing assistance and are nearing the termination of that assistance

Households with severe cost burden and those with more than one family living in a unit are most in danger of becoming unsheltered and homeless. This is especially true for extremely low-income households. In 2011, there were a total of 2,345 renter households at 0–30% AMI and 1,225 renter households at 31–50% AMI with extreme cost burden in Las Cruces. While some low-income students are included in these numbers, not all students respond to the census where they reside for school, and not all are low-income. Many severely cost-burdened households are low and very low-income families, elderly, and individuals. Las Cruces has a very low vacancy rate for most rental housing types, and most price restricted rental properties have waiting lists, as does the Las Cruces Housing Authority Section 8 voucher program. Households who fall behind in rent payments will find it difficult to find a less costly rental unit within Las Cruces.

Homeless providers and housing providers interviewed during the preparation of the Consolidated Plan indicated the biggest hurdle for their clients is finding an affordable rental when they are ready to leave a shelter or homeless program. This is also true for families and individuals with bad credit or a criminal record. Households will struggle to avoid the homeless cycle without housing that costs 30% or less of their income.

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Formerly homeless families and individuals nearing the termination of rapid re-housing assistance need extended case management or supportive services to ensure once financial assistance is no longer needed that they will have the support, resources, and skills required to retain their housing permanently.

If a jurisdiction provides estimates of the at-risk population(s), it should also include a description of the operational definition of the at-risk group and the methodology used to generate the estimates:

The City of Las Cruces does not provide estimates of any specific at-risk populations.

Specify particular housing characteristics that have been linked with instability and an increased risk of homelessness

Housing cost and housing availability are the two housing characteristics most linked to housing instability in Las Cruces. The Las Cruces rental housing market and the gap between low wages and prevailing rents is causing many households to be priced out of the rental market. These households experience cost burdens of 30-50% or more, and some households are forced to double up. Homelessness intervention providers report a rise in the number of households requesting emergency rental assistance. The Housing Authority and other housing providers have long waiting lists of renter households trying to find and secure affordable rental units or rental assistance.

Discussion

Please refer to the MA-15 Cost of Housing section of the Consolidated Plan to read more about housing costs, and the gap in prices and unit availability for households in Las Cruces.

NA-15 Disproportionately Greater Need: Housing Problems – 91.205 (b)(2)

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

Introduction

A disproportionately greater need exists when the members of racial or ethnic groups at an income level experience housing problems at a greater rate (10% or more) than the income level as a whole. The following data has been provided by HUD to conduct an analysis of disproportionate needs in Las Cruces.

The four housing problems* identified by HUD and included in this analysis are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities
2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities
3. More than one person per room
4. Cost burden greater than 30%

Asian and American Indian / Alaska Native households with incomes at 0–30% of the AMI have a 100% prevalence of housing problems, according to HUD provided data. This rate is more than 10% higher than the jurisdiction as a whole, where 81% of all households have one of the four housing problems.

0%-30% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	3,245	410	370
White	990	180	125
Black / African American	40	30	45
Asian	20	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	10	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	2,145	190	180

Table 13 - Disproportionally Greater Need 0 - 30% AMI
Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

*The four housing problems are:
1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than one person per room, 4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

The same is true for Asian households in the 30 – 50% AMI range. 100% of these households have one or more of the four housing problems, while 73% of all households have a housing problem.

30%-50% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	3,415	1,295	0
White	1,345	420	0
Black / African American	70	55	0
Asian	10	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	10	15	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	1,985	800	0

Table 14 - Disproportionally Greater Need 30 - 50% AMI
Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

*The four housing problems are:
1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than one person per room, 4.Cost Burden greater than 30%

No racial or ethnic group in the 50 – 80% AMI range has a disproportionately higher rate of housing problems than within the jurisdiction as a whole.

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 07/31/2015)

50%-80% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	4,230	2,029	0
White	1,540	809	0
Black / African American	50	15	0
Asian	0	45	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	75	40	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	2,530	1,110	0

Table 15 - Disproportionally Greater Need 50 - 80% AMI
Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

Asian households in the 80 – 100% AMI range have a 100% prevalence of housing problems, while only 34% of household in the jurisdiction as a whole do. While Hispanic households do not have a higher prevalence of housing problems in this income range, they do have a large number of households with one of the four housing problems.

80%-100% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	1,095	2,160	0
White	490	730	0
Black / African American	20	140	0
Asian	25	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	35	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0

Hispanic	565	1,255	0

Table 16 - Disproportionally Greater Need 80 - 100% AMI
Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

Discussion

The data above shows that in many income ranges, Asian households have disproportionate housing needs. Native American/Alaska Native households in the 0 – 30% AMI range also have disproportionate housing needs.

NA-20 Disproportionately Greater Need: Severe Housing Problems – 91.205 (b)(2)

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

Introduction

Only Asian and American Indian/Alaska Native households in the 0 – 30% AMI income range have disproportionate severe cost burden. There is no disproportion within the other income ranges.

0%-30% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	2,830	825	370
White	910	260	125
Black / African American	40	30	45
Asian	20	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	10	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	1,815	520	180

Table 17 – Severe Housing Problems 0 - 30% AMI
Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

*The four severe housing problems are:
1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4.Cost Burden over 50%

30%-50% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	2,130	2,590	0
White	835	930	0
Black / African American	30	95	0
Asian	0	10	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	25	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	1,265	1,515	0

Table 18 – Severe Housing Problems 30 - 50% AMI
Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

50%-80% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	1,100	5,159	0
White	535	1,814	0
Black / African American	10	55	0
Asian	0	45	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	120	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	555	3,085	0

Table 19 – Severe Housing Problems 50 - 80% AMI
Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

80%-100% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	355	2,890	0
White	170	1,050	0
Black / African American	20	140	0
Asian	0	25	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	35	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	170	1,645	0

Table 20 – Severe Housing Problems 80 - 100% AMI
Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

*The four severe housing problems are:
1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4.Cost Burden over 50%

NA-25 Disproportionately Greater Need: Housing Cost Burdens – 91.205 (b)(2)

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

Introduction:

No racial or ethnic group has a disproportionately greater cost burden or severe cost burden than for all Las Cruces households.

Housing Cost Burden

Housing Cost Burden	<=30%	30-50%	>50%	No / negative income (not computed)
Jurisdiction as a whole	6,114	5,850	5,915	370
White	11,479	2,870	2,470	125
Black / African American	460	115	115	45
Asian	415	115	20	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	180	95	10	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0
Hispanic	10,465	4,430	3,460	174

Table 21 – Greater Need: Housing Cost Burdens AMI
Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

NA-30 Disproportionately Greater Need: Discussion – 91.205(b)(2)

Are there any Income categories in which a racial or ethnic group has disproportionately greater need than the needs of that income category as a whole?

Yes, households in the 0 – 30% AMI range are more likely to have a disproportionate housing need than in other ranges. Asian and Native American/Alaska Native households in this income range have disproportionate housing needs.

If they have needs not identified above, what are those needs?

It is unclear what these needs are. The cost burden needs assessment does not indicate that these households have higher cost burden. These households most likely are overcrowded. There are few households that lack complete kitchen or plumbing facilities in Las Cruces.

Are any of those racial or ethnic groups located in specific areas or neighborhoods in your community?

No, there are no concentrations of either Asian or Native American/Alaska Native households in any census tracts in Las Cruces.

NA-35 Public Housing – 91.205(b)

Introduction

The Mesilla Valley Housing Authority operates a variety of programs for residents of Las Cruces and throughout Dona Ana County, including Section 8 choice vouchers, public housing, and elderly price restricted rental units. The Housing Authority administers 1,183 housing choice vouchers within the City of Las Cruces and throughout Dona Ana County. The also own 248 public housing units located in Las Cruces, and 40 Section 8 new construction units, which are located within the City and throughout Dona Ana County. The following table is populated by the HUD IDIS system and may not necessarily match local PHA records.

Totals in Use

Program Type									
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers					
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
# of units vouchers in use	0	0	243	1,215	0	1,185	10	0	0

Table 22 - Public Housing by Program Type
***includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition**

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 07/31/2015)

The following tables are also prepared by HUD using the PIC system. Many residents are families requesting accessibility features in units.

Characteristics of Residents

Program Type								
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers				
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Special Purpose Voucher	
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program
# Homeless at admission	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of Elderly Program Participants (>62)	0	0	69	204	0	192	5	0
# of Disabled Families	0	0	75	254	0	241	5	0
# of Families requesting accessibility features	0	0	243	1,215	0	1,185	10	0
# of HIV/AIDS program participants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of DV victims	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 23 – Characteristics of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 07/31/2015)

The Mesilla Valley Housing Authority has provided information from the agency's own resident characteristics report. Public Housing tenants served by the Housing Authority are 46% households with children, 28% elderly and 21% households with a disabled household member. Forty percent (40%) of public housing and 39% of voucher households are female headed households with children.

Distribution of Family Type

	Public Housing	Vouchers
Elderly, No Children, Non-Disabled	12%	5%
Elderly, with Children, Non-Disabled	0%	0%
Non-Elderly, No Children, Non-Disabled	10%	9%
Non-Elderly, with Children, Non-Disabled	40%	33%
Elderly, No Children, Disabled	16%	17%
Elderly, with Children, Disabled	1%	1%
Non-Elderly, No Children, Disabled	16%	25%
Non-Elderly, with Children, Disabled	5%	9%
Female Headed Household with Children	40%	39%

Source: Mesilla Valley Housing Authority

Children make up 45% of public housing unit tenants and 43% of Voucher unit tenants. Elderly persons age 62 and over make up 14% of Public Housing residents and 12% of Voucher tenants.

Age of Residents

	Public Housing	Vouchers
0 - 5	15%	12%
6 - 17	30%	31%
18 - 50	33%	34%
51 - 61	9%	12%
62 - 82	12%	11%
83+	2%	1%

Source: Mesilla Valley Housing Authority

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 07/31/2015)

The majority of clients served by the Housing Authority are White and Hispanic. Just 4.6% of Public Housing tenants and 4.0% of Section Voucher holders are a race other than white.

Race of Residents

Program Type									
Race	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers					
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
White	0	0	230	1,143	0	1,114	9	0	0
Black/African American	0	0	8	61	0	60	1	0	0
Asian	0	0	2	5	0	5	0	0	0
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	0	3	5	0	5	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 07/31/2015)

*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition

Table 25 – Race of Public Housing Residents by Program Type
Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Ethnicity of Residents

Program Type									
Ethnicity	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers					
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
Hispanic	0	0	205	959	0	942	4	0	0
Not Hispanic	0	0	38	256	0	243	6	0	0

*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition

Table 26 – Ethnicity of Public Housing Residents by Program Type
Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

While 35% of Public Housing tenants and 48% of voucher holders have been with their programs for five or more years, the majority of tenants have either lived in their Public Housing unit or used their Section 8 Voucher for less than five years. A third of Public Housing residents have been in their units for less than a year.

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 07/31/2015)

Length of Stay

	Public Housing	Vouchers
Less than 1 Year	31%	23%
1 - 2 Years	11%	8%
2 - 5 Years	24%	20%
5 - 10 Years	18%	24%
10 - 20 Years	11%	20%
Over 20 Years	6%	4%

Source: Mesilla Valley Housing Authority

Half of public housing residents make 30% of the AMI or less, and just over a quarter of Voucher holders have incomes in this range. The majority of households assisted through these programs have incomes at 50% AMI or less.

Tenant Incomes

	Public Housing	Vouchers
0 - 30% AMI	50.0%	26.0%
31 - 50% AMI	29.0%	9.0%
51 - 80% AMI	12.0%	1.0%
81% and above	5.0%	0.0%
$0	4%	3%
$1 - $5,000	12%	11%
$5,001 - $10,000	37%	39%
$10,001 - $15,000	22%	23%
$15,001 - $20,000	11%	13%
$20,001 - $25,000	6%	6%
Above $25,000	8%	5%

Source: Mesilla Valley Housing Authority

Approximately one third of all Housing Authority residents have some income from working. More than half have income from social security, disability income or pensions. While only 16% of Public Housing residents have TANF income, 44% of Voucher holders rely upon TANF for their income.

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 07/31/2015)

Source of Tenant Income

	Public Housing	Vouchers
With any Wages	27%	29%
With any TANF	16%	44%
With any SSI/SS/Pension	55%	63%
With other income	11%	18%
No income	0%	2%

Section 504 Needs Assessment: Describe the needs of public housing tenants and applicants on the waiting list for accessible units:

The Housing Authority does not keep waiting list demographics of those waiting for accessible units. However, the current tenant profiles show that many residents are disabled or rely upon disability income. It can be assumed that many of these tenants need accessible units or accessibility features in their units.

Most immediate needs of residents of Public Housing and Housing Choice voucher holders

The most immediate needs of Public Housing and Choice Voucher residents are to continue having a rent subsidized housing unit. Many low-income residents of Las Cruces also note that finding employment at a livable wage is a challenge.

How do these needs compare to the housing needs of the population at large

These needs are the same as for other low, very low and extremely low-income residents of Las Cruces.

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 07/31/2015)

NA-40 Homeless Needs Assessment – 91.205(c)

Introduction:

Homelessness in Las Cruces affects a variety of populations and differs from many other parts of the country. In urban areas cars and vacant buildings may be utilized by some people experiencing homelessness. In New Mexico people who are homeless often camp out in open areas that may be harder to identify and outreach. Special populations such as migrant workers and other new Americans are more likely to be homeless, underserved or at-risk according to the City of Las Cruces 10-year Plan to End Homelessness. And, according to the same study, each year about 17,000 New Mexicans are homeless for at least part of the year. This includes single adults, youth on their own and families with children.

The Continuum of Care (CoC), is the coordinated approach that addresses physical, economic and social needs of the homeless population. Services organized within the Continuum of Care include emergency shelter, transitional and permanent housing and supportive services. The New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness (NMCEH), is the leader of this process. NMCEH convenes, manages and leads the Balance of State Continuum of Care Coalition. The Mesilla Valley Community of Hope is the local lead in providing an array of services for the homeless population in Las Cruces.

While there are no estimates of the number of persons becoming and exiting homelessness each year and/or the number of days that persons experience homelessness in Las Cruces, other relevant data has been obtained by population type using the 2015 annual Point in Time count. There were 25 chronically homeless individuals in shelter at the time of the 2015 PIT count and 72 unsheltered chronically homeless persons. There were 15 sheltered chronically homeless families and 1 unsheltered family. The La Casa Program for victims of domestic violence assisted one youth parent and her children during the PIT and two additional youth in need of safety between the ages of 18-24. Families and Youth Inc. served two youth parents and 4 youth between the ages of 18-24. Of those four youth, 3 did not have a parent present. Providers interviewed stated that youth who are justice involved or have been in foster care are facing increasing barriers to housing and mental health services in Las Cruces. In addition, families and youth exiting transitional housing often have no quality next step options. All providers interviewed discussed the need for increased supportive housing options in Las Cruces.

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 07/31/2015)

	Estimate the # of persons experiencing Homelessness on a given night		Estimate the # experiencing homelessness each year	Estimate the # becoming homeless each year	Estimate the # exiting homelessness each year	Estimate the # of days persons experiencing homelessness
	Sheltered	Unsheltered				
Persons in households with adult(s) and children	135	5				
Persons in households with only children	3	0				
Persons in Households with only adults	70	100				
Chronically homeless Individuals	25	72				
Chronically homeless families	15	1				
Veterans	2	25				
Unaccompanied Child	0	0				
Person with HIV	0	1				

If data is not available for the categories "number of persons becoming and exiting homelessness each year," and "number of days that persons experience homelessness," describe these categories for each homeless population type (including chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth):

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 07/31/2015)

The table below shows the results of the 2015 Point in Time (PIT) Count in Dona Ana County. There were 333 total homeless persons counted on that day. Of those, 117 were unsheltered and 141 were utilizing emergency shelter. There were 75 people in transitional (temporary) housing during the survey.

Point in Time Homeless Results January 2015

Dona Ana County	
Total Homeless 2015	333
Total Sheltered 2015	216
Total Unsheltered 2015	117
Total Individuals 2015	167
Total Individuals Sheltered 2015	78
Total Individuals Unsheltered 2015	89
Total Persons in Families 2015	161
Total Persons in Families Sheltered 2015	135
Total Persons in Families Unsheltered 2015	37
Total Family Households 2015	94
Total Family Households Sheltered 2015	78
Total Family Households Unsheltered 2015	16
Total Chronically Homeless 2015	112
Chronically Homeless Sheltered 2015	53
Chronically Homeless Unsheltered 2015	72
Chronically Homeless Individuals 2015	94
Chronically Homeless Persons in Families 2015	54
Total Veterans 2015	27
Total Veterans Sheltered 2015	2
Total Veterans Unsheltered 2015	25

Source: New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness 2015

There were 27 veterans identified during the PIT. Of those, two were sheltered and 25 were unsheltered. Many veterans and veterans with families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness utilize the Supportive Services for Homeless Veteran's Program (SSVF), the HUD VASH program and, its partner, Mesilla Valley Community of Hope. This significant focus on veterans at the local and federal level and flexible financial and service based resources are helping veterans in Las Cruces obtain and maintain permanent housing. Interviews of representatives of homeless programs and services in Las Cruces were conducted to prepare an analysis of homeless needs.

Of the 333 total identified homeless people counted on this day, 87 were children. There were 16 chronically homeless families counted with 54 family members. Many persons have severe mental illness or chronic substance abuse.

Point in Time Homeless Subpopulations January 2015

	Number
Households with children	94
Persons (under 18)	90
Persons (18-24)	27
Persons (over 24)	177
Households without Children	177
Persons (18-24)	16
Persons (over 24)	176
Total # of persons	333
Chronically Homeless Individuals	94
Chronically homeless Families	16
Chronically homeless Family Members	54
Severely Mentally Ill	65
Chronic Substance Abuse	53

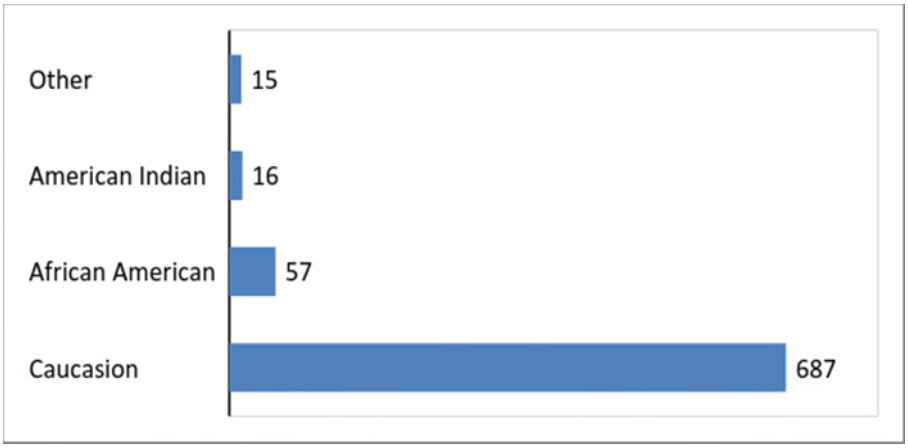
Source: New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness 2015

Nature and Extent of Homelessness: (Optional)

The Mesilla Valley Community of Hope (MCVH) is the entry point for many of the homeless persons served by agencies in Las Cruces. The agency operates on a campus owned by the City, which includes a health clinic, soup kitchen and childcare center for homeless children. While not the only entry point for homeless persons in Las Cruces, the MVCH is often the first stop for homeless individuals and families in Las Cruces, and coordinates services with partners on campus and off campus, including La Casa, the domestic violence shelter serving Las Cruces, FYI, serving homeless youth, and the Gospel Rescue Mission shelter. The table and charts below provide demographics of the 775 case managed clients served by MVCH during FY 2014-15. The majority of clients were Caucasian (687), followed by African-American (57).

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 07/31/2015)

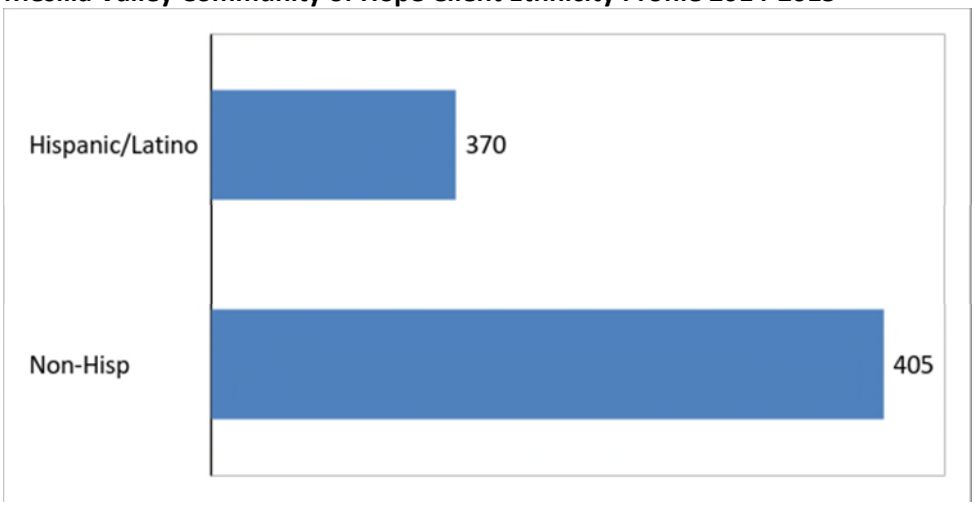
Mesilla Valley Community of Hope Client Race Profile 2014-2015



Source: Mesilla Valley Community of Hope 2015

There were 370 clients who identified as Hispanic/ Latino and 405 who identified as Non-Hispanic.

Mesilla Valley Community of Hope Client Ethnicity Profile 2014-2015

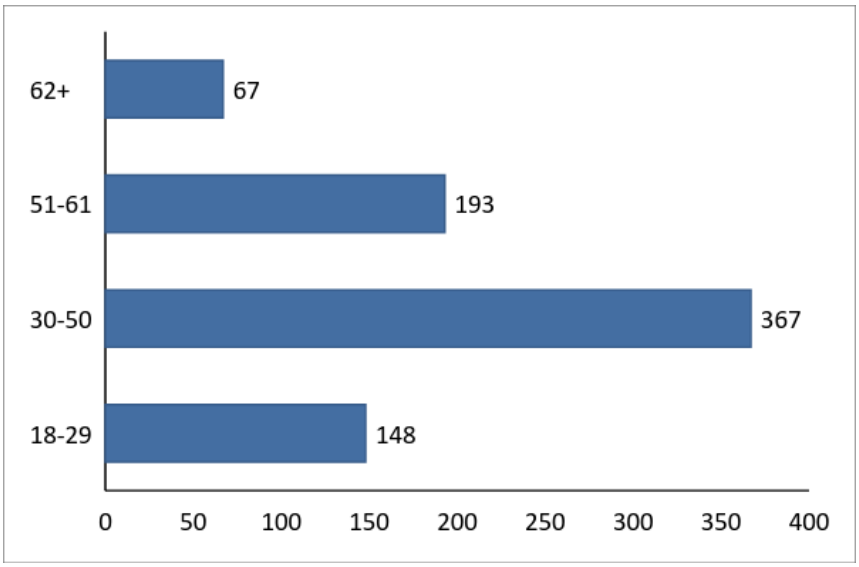


Source: Mesilla Valley Community of Hope 2015

The majority of homeless persons served through MVCH were age 30 and older. The age group with the largest number served was those age 30 – 50.

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 07/31/2015)

MVCH Client Age 2014-2015



Source: Mesilla Valley Community of Hope 2015

Clients at MVCH are coming from a variety prior living situations. Almost one quarter were in their own rental, 32% were living on the streets, and 22% were in some sort of emergency shelter.

MVCH Prior Living Situation

	#	%
Street	245	32%
Emergency shelter	171	22%
Domestic violence Situation	3	0.4%
Transitional Housing	18	2%
Substance Abuse Facility	1	0.1%
Unknown	23	3%
Rental	187	24%
Jail/Prison	63	8%
Friend/Family	58	7%
Psych Facility	6	1%

Source: Mesilla Valley Community of Hope 2015

Of those served by MVCH in 2014/2015, over 50% had no income. Only 10.5% had income from work, and 28% had income from public sources such as SSI, veteran's benefits, social security, or TANF (temporary assistance to needy families).

Estimate the number and type of families in need of housing assistance for families with children and the families of veterans.

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 07/31/2015)

There were 27 veterans counted as homeless on the night of the January 2015 PIT Count in Dona Ana County. Of these 25 were unsheltered and two were sheltered. There are currently 55 VA Supportive Housing (VASH) Vouchers in Las Cruces. The interest list for VASH Vouchers continues to grow with 8 veterans currently on the waiting list for this program. Some veterans, in order to utilize their vouchers, have moved into less desirable areas due to the increasing competition for private market rental units. Some homeless veterans live at the tent city though it is only a temporary (12-month) solution. The Housing Authority owns an apartment complex where Community of Hope can place homeless veterans. There are 22 dedicated units and an on-site HUD VASH Representative and a Community of Hope Case Manager present to serve those veterans.

There were 94 family households counted during the PIT with 161 family members. Most were sheltered (135), but there were 37 people in families who were unsheltered on this day. CSI estimates that 1,484 people were living in a doubled-up situation in 2014, 1,013 living with family members, and 471 living with friends or non-relatives. The estimate is formulated using national research and accepted methods for calculating doubled up numbers. The estimate is made using 2014 American Community Survey census data that details the relationship of persons living in each housing unit. These arrangements are usually temporary and often the party who is a guest must seek other housing options including shelter space. The "hidden homeless" can either find new housing on their own or can end up as one of the homeless without a place to stay, depending upon their individual situation. Often, if members of this group are able to gain better employment or get some economic assistance with medical bills or other expenses, they will find a way to obtain a new housing arrangement on their own.

Providers indicate that it is difficult for families to find appropriate housing as the rental market has become more competitive. This impacts low-income families' abilities to find and keep quality, safe housing for themselves and their children. Providers of services for at-risk children discussed a pressing need for larger public housing units to accommodate families and a need for increased inventory of assisted housing for this population. Children in foster care who are awaiting being reunited with parents can face delays due to family homelessness. The tables below show the numbers of students by age group who were identified as homeless during the 2015-2016 school year by the Las Cruces School District. There were 252 elementary aged students who were on the list of homeless students CSI received.

Age range of homeless students in Las Cruces School District

Ages	Number homeless
Under age 5	31
Elementary	252
Middle School	68
High School	70
Totals	**421**

Source: Homeless Families Program Las Cruces School District 2015

The majority of homeless students are in doubled up living conditions which can create significant stressors for young children. The numbers listed here only include identified homeless students. Those who work with these families believe there may be more who do not seek services or identify as homeless with their school.

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 07/31/2015)

OMB Control No: 2506-0117 (exp. 07/31/2015)

Location/Situation of Homeless Students by age group during 2015-2016 School Year

	Under 5 years' old	Elementary age	Middle school	High School
Doubled up	27	204	51	44
Shelter	3	34	14	23
Motel/ Hotel	1	13	1	1
Unsheltered	0	0	1	1
Car/ RV	0	1	1	1
	31	252	68	70

Source: Las Cruces School District Homeless Families Program 2015

Describe the Nature and Extent of Homelessness by Racial and Ethnic Group.

The Mesilla Valley Community of Hope (MVCH) served 405 non-Hispanic individuals in FY 2014-2015. There were 370 persons served who identified as Hispanic during this time period. The majority of people served identified themselves as Caucasian (687). There were 57 people served who identified as African American and 16 who identified as American Indian during this time period.

Describe the Nature and Extent of Unsheltered and Sheltered Homelessness.

Of the 333 homeless people identified in the PIT Count, 216 were sheltered and 117 were unsheltered. There were 53 chronically homeless people in shelter and 72 who were not in shelter during this count. In addition to the PIT data, Mesilla Valley Community of Hope (MMVCH) saw 2,679 people in crisis in FY 2014-2015 over multiple visits (19,821). Of those visitors, 52% were homeless, 31% were living on the street and 22% were in shelter. The remaining visitors to MVCH were people leaving domestic violence, existing transitional housing and other facilities and in need of permanent housing solutions.

Providers of homeless programs and services, legal advocates for children and almost all other providers interviewed indicated that mental health services for parents, children and individuals is lacking. Support groups for children with acute needs and access to transportation are often lacking for lower income people. These gaps create additional barriers for homeless people and those in crisis in Las Cruces.

Discussion:

All providers of services reported a significant need for mental health and substance abuse treatment options and an increased need for service enriched affordable housing in Las Cruces. A lack of appropriate sized affordable units for larger families contributes to family homelessness in Las Cruces. Progress been made in addressing veteran homelessness with the availability of case management, housing vouchers, and more flexible financial resources to prevent homelessness. Other barriers for homeless persons identified by homeless service provides are a lack of jobs and employment opportunities, reliable public transportation, coordination of services between the City of Las Cruces and Dona Ana County, funding for existing program expansion, and Fair Housing practices by local landlords.

NA-45 Non-Homeless Special Needs Assessment - 91.205 (b,d)

Introduction:

The City of Las Cruces identifies several special needs groups that are served in a variety of settings. These populations include persons with physical disabilities, intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), mental health disabilities, substance use disorders (SUDS), elderly, frail elderly, people with HIV/AIDS, victims of domestic violence, veterans, at-risk youth, migrant/seasonal workers and their families, and immigrant populations. Special needs communities often encounter financial barriers and access/availability of appropriate housing and services.

Describe the characteristics of special needs populations in your community:

Seniors

The number of seniors in Las Cruces has grown over the past decade and is expected to continue to grow through 2020. There is a clear need for gerontology based medical services in the community. Local providers report an increase in the number of seniors with medical issues, including mental health and increasing need for home based services. The CHAS table below shows the numbers of elderly households in Las Cruces in 2012 with one or more housing problem as defined by HUD. There were 455 senior households at 30% or below of the area median income (AMI) and 560 households between 31-50% of the AMI with one or more HUD defined housing problem. A large percentage of low and moderate income senior households in Las Cruces had at least one of the four housing problems, the most common being cost burden. HUD defines "elderly" as those aged 62 to 74 and "extra elderly as those aged 75 and above.

HUD CHAS Senior Households with One or More Housing Problems, 2012

	Total	0-30% AMI	31- 50% AMI	51- 80% AMI	81-100 % AMI	> 100 % AMI
All Households	2,215	455	560	630	160	410
Elderly	1,280	180	240	420	175	265
Extra Elderly	10,880	2,790	2,420	3,265	660	1,745
Renters						
Elderly	1,075	140	345	370	110	110
Extra Elderly	685	80	150	215	75	165
Owners						
Elderly	1,140	315	215	260	50	300
Extra Elderly	595	100	90	205	100	100

Source: HUD CHAS Data 2012

The HUD CHAS table below shows the cost burden of seniors by income range. The data shows that a significant number of seniors in the two lowest income ranges (0-30% and 30-50% AMI), who are paying over 30% of their adjusted income toward housing expenses.

HUD CHAS Senior Households by Cost Burden, Tenure and Income Range, 2012

	Total	0-30% AMI	31-50% AMI	51-80% AMI	81-100 % AMI	> 100 % AMI
All Households						
housing cost burden is less than or equal to 30%	6,605	170	450	945	545	4,495
housing cost burden is greater than 30% but less than or equal to 50%	1,860	330	340	480	260	450
housing cost burden is greater than 50%	1,260	310	395	385	55	115
All households	9,725	820	1,185	1,805	860	5,055
Renters						
housing cost burden is less than or equal to 30%	815	110	85	230	30	360
housing cost burden is greater than 30% but less than or equal to 50%	845	205	150	290	120	80
housing cost burden is greater than 50%	605	210	105	175	15	100
All	2,280	540	340	695	165	540
Owners						
housing cost burden is less than or equal to 30%	5,790	60	365	715	515	4,135
housing cost burden is greater than 30% but less than or equal to 50%	1,015	125	190	190	140	370
housing cost burden is greater than 50%	655	100	290	210	40	15
housing cost burden not computed (household has no/negative income)	0	0	0	0	0	0
All	7,445	280	845	1,110	695	4,515

Source: HUD CHAS Data 2012

Domestic Violence

According to the New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, Dona Ana County had a domestic violence rate of 9 per 1,000 persons in 2014. This makes Dona Ana County the 7th highest county in the state for rates of domestic violence. There were 475 adults and 267 children served by responders to domestic violence in 2014 and 261 crisis calls were received. Women and men with or without children experiencing domestic violence often need immediate emergency shelter, counseling and other support services as a family unit or individually. In Las Cruces, the domestic violence shelter (La Casa) estimates that it is at its maximum capacity 80% of the time. The wait for families to obtain transitional housing averages 90 days and demand for housing and services regularly exceeds availability. In 2014, law enforcement in Dona Ana County reported 1,913 domestic violence incidents, 566 harassment incidents and 15 stalking incidents. In 40% of cases reported by law enforcement, an injury was sustained by the victim. La Casa expanded its shelter by 15 rooms in 2009 in response to the need and continues to press for increased housing inventory for this population. In 2014, Dona Ana County had the second highest number of domestic violence charges filed in District Court, second only to Bernalillo County. The chart below shows the numbers by year of the adult DV victims served and the types of services received within the county.

Services Provided for Adult Victims of Domestic Violence

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Adult Victims Served	438	324	501	312	475
Counseling	280	297	414	199	147
Emergency Services	205	94	250	110	239
Transportation	203	65	173	15	0
Financial Support	0	0	3	0	0
Housing	12	7	45	6	0
Protection Orders	46	23	30	22	24
Legal Advocacy	69	41	22	7	31
Psycho-Education Classes	82	71	144	0	0
Case Management	191	141	223	29	10
Crisis Intervention	207	96	154	26	113
Other	0	0	5	0	4

Source: New Mexico Interpersonal Violence Data Central Registry, 2010-2014

The table below indicates the types of services received by children who have witnessed or been a victim of violence in their homes in Dona Ana County from 2010-2014. In 2014, children were most likely served with emergency shelter, counseling, and daycare.

Number of Children Served and Number Receiving Each Type of Service in Dona Ana County, 2010-2014

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of Children Victim-Witnesses	445	287	354	323	267
Counseling	212	120	119	121	125
Emergency Shelter	355	240	296	246	199
Day Care	151	75	85	147	42
School	56	17	38	19	9
Case Management	51	0	0	17	23
Other Services	107	0	0	0	0

Source: New Mexico Interpersonal Violence Data Central Registry, 2010-2014

Mental Illness

The prevalence of mental illness for adults in Las Cruces was determined by using the Congressional Research Services 2015 Prevalence of Mental Illness in the US Data Sources and Estimates. In Las Cruces, the number of adults with some type of mental illness is estimated to be 18,854. It is also estimated that there are 4,409 adults with a more serious mental illness. The prevalence of mental illness among adolescents in Las Cruces is estimated at 1,687. There are an estimated 335 adolescents with serious mental illness.

While it is likely that most people with mental illness do not require specialized housing or services, some with serious mental illness are unable to obtain and maintain employment and may need significant support, medication monitoring as well as subsidized housing. Key provider interviews indicated need for expanded mental health care for all ages within the community. There are financial barriers to acquiring community

based psychiatrists and other challenges in obtaining and transferring care to providers outside of the community. Creating conditions that increase availability would benefit the homeless and non-homeless special needs populations in Las Cruces and Dona Ana County significantly.

Substance Use Disorders

According to the New Mexico Department of Health, Epidemiology Profile on Substance Abuse 2014, there were 131 drug overdose deaths from 2008-2012 in Dona Ada County. This translates to 13.8 drug overdose deaths per 100,000 persons. During this same time period, there were 184 alcohol related injuries and deaths (or 18.7 per 100,000 persons). In 2014 in Dona Ana County, law enforcement reported that 29% of all domestic violence cases involved alcohol or drug use. A lack of substance abuse treatment options in Las Cruces is a well-known gap in local services. Medical providers cite a shortage of doctors locally and difficulty finding treatment centers that will accept patients due to low reimbursement rates and lack of space.

At-risk Youth

Families and Youth, Inc. served youth, disadvantaged youth, system involved youth, and homeless youth with a variety of programs including transitional housing and supportive housing. Agency staff indicate that there is a need for permanent housing units for youth once they leave the transitional program. A lack of reliable public transportation after 6 pm is also a gap for youth, who often are working jobs on weekends and in the evenings, and who depend upon public transportation instead of cars.

Staff from La Casa Court Appointed Special Advocates for children note that mental health services for children and their parents are lacking in Las Cruces. The agency also noted the lack of affordable housing and transportation barriers pointed out by Families and Youth, Inc. Other gaps identified by La Casa are a limited number of support groups for youth, better coordination of services between the City of Las Cruces and Dona Ana County, and a lack of jobs that pay a living wage in Las Cruces.

Migrant Farm Workers/ Immigrant Communities

According to staff from the agency Café, needs for the migrant farm worker and immigrant communities in Las Cruces include safe, decent, affordable housing units, reliable public transportation, and affordable mental health serves. These are the same needs identified by providers to other low-income communities in Las Cruces.

Disabilities

The US census American Community Survey collects data related to disability status. From 2009-2013 there were an estimated 5,375 adults age 18 to 64 with a disability in Las Cruces. Those adults may have more than one disability. There were 5,265 seniors over the age of 65 with disabilities and 657 children with disabilities between the ages of 5-17. The most common disability for seniors and disabled adults was an ambulatory difficulty. For adults the second most common disability was cognitive difficulty and for seniors it was a hearing difficulty. These disabilities all can require service enriched or modified housing.

Persons with Disabilities in Las Cruces, 2013

Disability Type	Under 5		5 to 17		18 to 64		65 and over	
	Number With a disability	Percent with a disability	Number With a disability	Percent with a disability	Number With a disability	Percent with a disability	Number With a disability	Percent with a disability
With a hearing difficulty	0	0.0%	121	0.7%	1,045	1.8%	2,462	18.6%
With a vision difficulty	11	0.1%	202	1.2%	851	1.4%	1,182	8.9%
With a cognitive difficulty	NA		460	2.8%	2,426	4.1%	1,299	9.8%
With an ambulatory difficulty	NA		71	0.4%	2,920	4.9%	3,292	24.9%
With a self-care difficulty	NA		95	0.6%	997	1.7%	1,094	8.3%
With an independent living difficulty	NA		NA		2,105	3.6%	2,405	18.2%
Total	11	0.1%	657	4.0%	5,375	9.1%	5,265	39.8%

Source: American Community Survey 2013

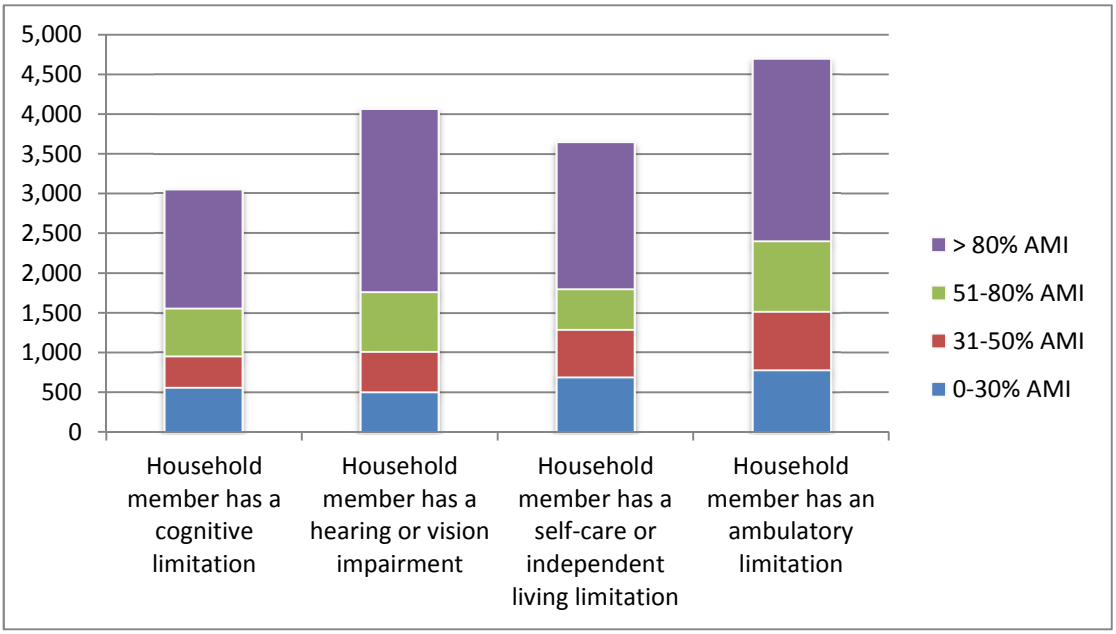
The following table shows households with a disabled household member by tenure and income range**.** The most common disabilities were ambulatory and vision or hearing impairment. In the lowest income category (0-30% AMI), there were a significant number of households with an ambulatory and self-care limitation. There were more low-income renter households with a disabled household member than owners.

HUD CHAS Disability Status by Tenure and Income Range, Las Cruces, 2012

	Total	0-30% AMI	31-50% AMI	51-80% AMI	> 80% AMI
All Households					
Household member has a cognitive limitation	3,050	560	390	610	1,490
Household member has a hearing or vision impairment	4,070	505	505	755	2,305
Household member has a self-care or independent living limitation	3,655	690	590	520	1,855
Household member has an ambulatory limitation	4,695	780	740	880	2,295
Renters					
Household member has a cognitive limitation	1,315	440	205	285	385
Household member has a hearing or vision impairment	1,355	390	215	260	490
Household member has a self-care or independent living limitation	1,495	505	285	205	500
Household member has an ambulatory limitation	1,870	595	320	360	595
Owners					
Household member has a hearing or vision impairment	1,735	120	185	325	1,105
Household member has an ambulatory limitation	2,715	115	290	495	1,815
Household member has a cognitive limitation	2,160	185	305	315	1,355
Household member has a self-care or independent living limitation	2,825	185	420	520	1,700

Source: HUD CHAS Data 2012

HUD CHAS Disability Status by Income Range, Las Cruces, 2012



Source: Source: HUD CHAS Data 2012

The next table shows the number of households with one of the four housing problems, and a disabled household member. There are more renter than owner households with disabled household members and housing problems, according to CHAS data from 2012. There are more households with ambulatory limitations

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with housing problems than households with other limitations. Households at 80% AMI or less with a disabled household member may need a price restricted housing unit or a housing unit with accessibility features.

HUD CHAS Household with Housing Problems with Disabled Household Member

	Total	0-30% AMI	31-50% AMI	51-80% AMI	> 80% AMI
All Households					
Household member has a cognitive limitation	1,360	330	295	430	305
Household member has a hearing or vision impairment	1,460	360	365	310	425
Household member has a self-care or independent living limitation	1,560	520	395	285	360
Household member has an ambulatory limitation	2,120	585	485	520	530
Renters					
Household member has a cognitive limitation	805	275	175	190	165
Household member has a hearing or vision impairment	790	265	205	125	195
Household member has a self-care or independent living limitation	1,005	400	250	140	215
Household member has an ambulatory limitation	1,245	455	290	275	225
Owners					
Household member has a hearing or vision impairment	555	55	120	240	140
Household member has an ambulatory limitation	670	95	160	185	230
Household member has a cognitive limitation	555	120	145	145	145
Household member has a self-care or independent living limitation	875	130	195	245	305

Source: HUD CHAS Data 2012

The table below shows the percent of people with a disability by race and Hispanic origin. Nearly 20% of the Black or African American population in Las Cruces has a disability, the highest rate in Las Cruces other than those who are some other race alone. Hispanic households have a lower rate of disability than the white alone population.

Population by Disability by Race and Hispanic Origin Las Cruces, 2013

	Number With a disability	Percent with a disability
White	9,670	11.4%
Black or African American	373	19.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native	93	6.2%
Asian	95	6.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	-
Some other race alone	886	20.4%
Two or more races	191	7.9%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	5,291	14.6%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	**5,470**	**10.0%**

Source: American Community Survey

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Discuss the size and characteristics of the population with HIV/AIDS and their families within the Eligible Metropolitan Statistical Area:

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) AIDSVu HIV Surveillance Data, there were approximately 169 persons living with HIV infection in Dona Ana County in 2012. Persons living in poverty and those without a high school education have a rate of HIV infection twice as high as other populations. This same source also shows that Hispanic and Black households' have higher rates than Caucasian people. Providers interviewed believe there are between 600 and 700 people with HIV/AIDS in Southwest New Mexico. Providers of assistance to people with HIV/AIDS find that most of their clients are at or below 80% of the area median income and often need financial assistance related to rent and utilities and/or mortgage arrears. Housing needs for persons with HIV/AIDS often include subsidized housing units and medical and mental health case management services.

What are the housing and supportive service needs of these populations and how are these needs determined?

See discussion above

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NA-50 Non-Housing Community Development Needs – 91.215 (f)

Describe the jurisdiction's need:

Public Facilities:

The social safety net in Las Cruces is composed of a combination of City agencies and community based organizations that supply emergency services as well as long term supportive services. Often the charitable groups do not have the resources to secure and maintain adequate facilities for their service activities. Critical health and safety improvements to community based facilities is an ongoing challenge. The City partners with charitable agencies in ensuring that the facilities used by the public meet a minimum standard of safety and functionality.

How were these needs determined?

Making sure that the Community Safety Net has a minimally functional platform from which to deliver services is an important component of this plan. Both through the needs assessment section of this plan and the public participation process including the key informant interviews, community survey, and community meetings, there is a clear consensus that the need to maintain and upgrade community facilities in order to meet growing demand is an important component for non-housing community development needs.

Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Improvements:

There are several low-income neighborhoods that lack basic infrastructure improvements such as sidewalks, curb and gutter, drainage and water and sewer improvements. There are also mobile homes that are not connected to City public improvements. Some of these units do not have adequate service lines to connect to central utilities. The City maintains a Capital Improvements Plan and through its budget process identifies areas of need for investment in public improvements.

How were these needs determined?

Both through the needs assessment section of this plan and the public participation process including the key informant interviews, community survey, community meetings and City Public Works assessments and plans, residents and City officials believe that increased resources need to be applied to upgrading public improvements. The City performs an annual evaluation and updates to its Capital Improvements Plan.

Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Services:

Many households in Las Cruces are priced out of the appreciating housing market. This economic stress on individuals and families is further exacerbated by the lack of other services that also contribute to a positive living situation. Many households which are at the lower end of the income spectrum are also dealing with other challenges that make it more difficult to maintain stable housing. Medical challenges, substance abuse challenges, domestic violence, nutritional needs, mental health issues, needs of children, and support for elderly residents in poverty all contribute to conditions that tear at the fabric of independence. The City, through its general fund and federal allocations, partners with local agencies and charitable groups to provide

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a level of basic services to assist those households in maintaining greater independence and stability. An essential aspect of this support system also involves making people aware they can obtain help when the need arises. Las Cruces is served by a strong supportive service system that can assist people challenged by poverty in getting the necessary help they need to overcome a range of challenging situations.

How were these needs determined?

The challenges of living in poverty in Las Cruces have been quantified and documented through community surveys, community input meetings, key informant interviews, the reporting documents provided by service agencies and the needs assessment section of this plan. Stagnant wage and declines in employment have influenced the number of households that do not have the income to provide for basic necessities in addition to any needed support services, such as child care, medical care, early education, elderly support services, support for victims of domestic violence, supportive services for those with special needs, nutrition assistance, and homeless support and prevention.

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Housing Market Analysis

MA-05 Overview

Housing Market Analysis Overview:

The Las Cruces housing market is recovering from the recession that started in 2008. Rental vacancy rates have declined and rents are on the rise, and prices of units for sale have stabilized. Realtors interviewed for this study indicate a lack of affordable units for sale within the City. There are gaps in the inventory of housing units to meet existing and growing demand, especially in the price ranges affordable at 80% AMI or less.

Almost 40% of all housing units in Las Cruces were constructed prior to 1980, and deferred maintenance and disrepair are an issue for some of the housing stock. A Home Rehabilitation Program for low and moderate income owners is offered by the City of Las Cruces and is important for ensuring that the existing housing stock is maintained. Older rental housing properties in some areas of Las Cruces are in need of upgrades and repairs.

The most significant HUD "housing condition" experienced in Las Cruces is cost burden, the result of a lack of affordable units.

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MA-10 Number of Housing Units – 91.210(a)&(b)(2)

Introduction

Fifty-six percent (56%) of the housing stock in Las Cruces is single family homes, and another 5% is attached townhomes and condos. Only 21% of units are within rental or owner occupied properties with five or more units. During consultations for the Consolidated Plan, key informants noted that to deal with the current rental housing shortage, denser, multi-unit properties or infill developments need to be constructed. Access to available buildable development sites and infrastructure costs are challenges to building additional dense housing within central Las Cruces. However, there are some redevelopment opportunities for new housing units in existing neighborhoods, and in newer areas of the City where developed lots are being sold.

All residential properties by number of units

Property Type	Number	%
1-unit detached structure	22,905	56%
1-unit, attached structure	1,983	5%
2-4 units	3,884	9%
5-19 units	5,328	13%
20 or more units	2,603	6%
Mobile Home, boat, RV, van, etc	4,309	11%
Total	***41,012***	***100%***

Table 31 – Residential Properties by Unit Number
Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

The US Census American Community Survey further refines this data by tenure. Over 80% of all owners live in detached single family homes, while renters are more evenly disbursed between single family homes, small attached properties, and larger rental properties.

Tenure by Units in Structure, 2009-2013

	Owner		Renter		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1-unit Detached	17,812	81.4%	4,500	27.8%	22,312	58.6%
1-unit Attached	1,130	5.2%	906	5.6%	2,036	5.3%
2 to 4 Units	294	1.3%	3,660	22.6%	3,954	10.4%
5 to 19 Units	51	0.2%	3,718	23.0%	3,769	9.9%
20 or More Units	14	0.1%	2,116	13.1%	2,130	5.6%
Other (mobile home, RV, etc.)	2,580	11.8%	1,287	8.0%	3,867	10.2%
Total	**21,881**		**16,187**		**38,068**	

Source: American Community Survey, 2009-2013 5 year average

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In 2011, most owners lived in homes with three or more bedrooms, while the majority of renters lived in units with one or two bedrooms. In 2014, the average household size for owners was 2.57 persons, while renter households had a smaller average household size of 2.48 persons.

Unit Size by Tenure

	Owners		Renters	
	Number	**%**	**Number**	**%**
No bedroom	52	0%	397	3%
1 bedroom	321	2%	3,744	24%
2 bedrooms	3,233	15%	6,245	39%
3 or more bedrooms	17,845	83%	5,518	35%
Total	***21,451***	***100%***	***15,904***	***101%***

Table 32 – Unit Size by Tenure
Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

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CSI has gathered a list of all price restricted rental units located in Las Cruces. The list includes public housing units, Section 8 financed units, LIHTC units and other price restricted units owned by the Mesilla Valley Housing Authority, Tierra del Sol, other nonprofits and private ownership interests. There are a total of 1,426 units included. Most units have income restrictions at 50%or 60% AMI.

Price Restricted Rental Units in Las Cruces

Property Name	Total Units	Price Restricted
Doña Ana Park Apartments	132	132
Highland Park Apartments	50	50
Montana Meadows Apartments	80	80
Desert Palms	100	100
Four Hills Apartments	72	60
Mesquite Village	48	48
Stone Mountain Place	84	72
Vista Montana	80	79
Casa de Corazones	15	14
Chaparral Senior Apartments	40	40
Mira Vista Senior Village	76	60
Montana Senior Village	49	48
St. Genevieve Village	42	41
Los Altos Apartments	72	60
Burley Court Apartments	40	40
Robledo Ridge Apartments	70	61
El Crucero	12	12
Cactus Gardens (Duplex)	2	2
Cactus Gardens (Duplex)	2	2
Alta Tierra	57	57
La Casa - NSP Rental Housing	5	5
MVCH - NSP Sue's House	1	1
Abode	15	15
Oak Street	20	20
Tres Arboles	64	64
San Pedro Place	38	38
Walnut Grove	100	100
Jardines Alegres	47	47
Jardines Verdes	40	40
Almedra Apartments	18	18
Pecos Apartments	20	20
Total	*1,491*	*1,426*

Source: CSI

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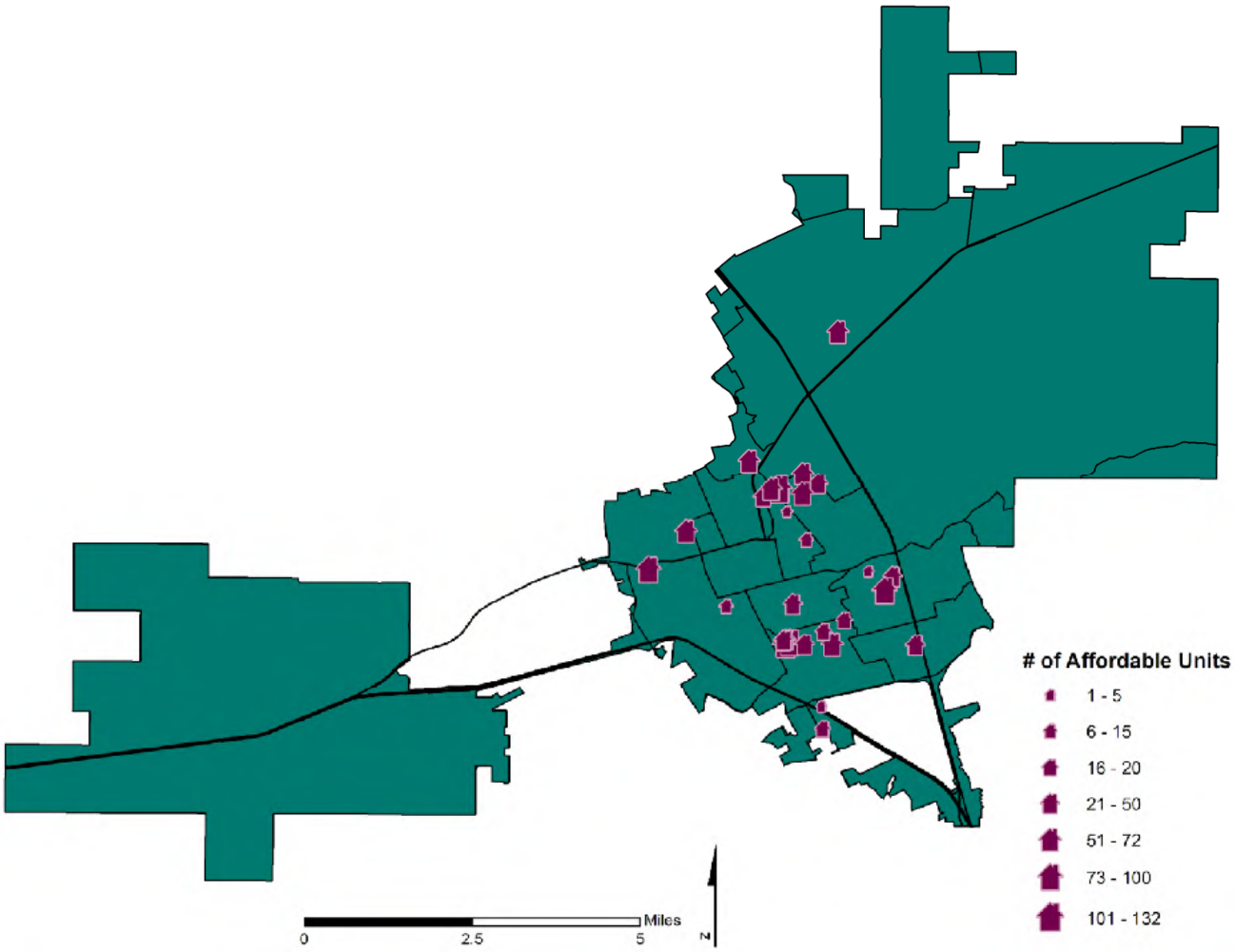
Locations of Price Restricted Rental Units



Source: CSI

Units are fairly evenly distributed between one, two, and three bedroom units. There are a few studio, four and five bedroom restricted units as well.

Restricted Units by Bedroom Size

Studio	1 Bdrm	2 Bdrm	3 Bdrm	4 Bdrm	5+ Bdrm
4%	33%	27%	25%	5%	0%

Source: CSI

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Price Gaps for Renters

	Renter Households	Income Limit	Affordable Housing Payment	Units Available	Average Rent + Utilities	Gap
0-30%	5,228	$13,560	$339	633	$835	$496
31-50%	3,407	$22,600	$469	3,053	$835	$366
51-60%	1,710	$27,120	$582	4,624	$835	$253
61-80%	2,012	$36,160	$808	5,244	$835	$27
81-100%	1,269	$45,200	$1,034	3,322	$835	None
101-120%	808	$54,240	$1,260	2,212	$835	None
120% and over	3,176	> $54,240	$1,260	296	$835	None
Total	17,611					

Source: CSI

Rental Housing Gap (Supply/Demand) Analysis

	Renter Households	Income Limit	Affordable Rent	Units Available	Gap
0-30%	5,228	$13,560	$243	633	4,595
31-50%	3,407	$22,600	$469	3,053	354
51-60%	1,710	$27,120	$582	4,624	None
61-80%	2,012	$36,160	$808	5,244	None
81-100%	1,269	$45,200	$1,034	3,322	None
101-120%	808	$54,240	$1,260	2,212	None
120% and over	3,176	> $54,240	$1,260	296	2,880
Total	17,611				

Source: CSI

Sales Market Gaps

	Potential Buyers	Income Limit	Affordable Price	Units Available (12 m supply)	Median Priced Home	Subsidy Needed
0-30%	1,478	$13,560	$63,000	17	$162,500	$99,500
31-50%	1,390	$22,600	$105,000	172	$162,500	$57,500
51-60%	723	$27,120	$126,000	87	$162,500	$36,500
61-80%	1,063	$36,160	$162,750	269	$162,500	None
81-100%	809	$45,200	$210,000	316	$162,500	None
101-120%	588	$54,240	$252,000	73	$162,500	None
120% and over	2,471	> $54,240	>$252,000	252	$162,500	None

Describe the number and targeting (income level/type of family served) of units assisted with federal, state, and local programs.

CSI has compiled the list of all price restricted rental properties in Las Cruces. These units serve families, seniors, persons with disabilities and persons who would otherwise be experiencing homelessness. In total,

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there are currently 1,426 price restricted rental units in Las Cruces. All restrictions are for households at income levels from 0–60% AMI.

Habitat for Humanity and Tierra Del Sol build affordable homes for households earning 80% or less of the AMI. Habitat provides a zero percent interest loan with affordable monthly payment to homeowners who contribute up to 500 hours of "sweat equity" in the building of their home, and Tierra Del Sol also uses a self-help model with low cost mortgages for buyers. The two agencies build approximately 14-15 units per year to help low-income household afford to buy a home in Las Cruces.

Provide an assessment of units expected to be lost from the affordable housing inventory for any reason, such as expiration of Section 8 contracts.

At this time, the Mesilla Valley Housing Authority does not have any plans to dispose of public housing units in Las Cruces that are owned by the Housing Authority. A review of the National Preservation Database from the National Low Income Housing Coalition for Las Cruces shows that there are a few privately owned subsidized properties that will have expiring subsidies within the next five years. These properties have a total of 541 price restricted units and were funded with a variety of sources, including HOME, LIHTC, and HUD Mortgage Insurance. While owners may not choose to leave the subsidy programs they are currently under, these properties should be tracked to ensure that they are not lost to the affordable inventory.

Does the availability of housing units meet the needs of the population?

When there is a smaller number of housing units available to households within a certain income range than there are households within that range, a housing gap exists. The gaps tables above provide a supply/demand analysis of the housing stock in Las Cruces.

CSI used HUD income limit data, 2013 US Census Bureau, and current housing authority utility allowance information to estimate the number of renter households in Las Cruces what are in need of rental units. **Our analysis shows a lack of units, or a gap for renters, at 0 – 50% AMI, with a total of almost 5,000 renters in need of an affordable rental unit.** The last Consolidated Plan, in 2011, noted a similar gap of 4,700 units. Renters with incomes up to 80% AMI will have a hard time affording the average rent in Las Cruces of $835, based upon the New Mexico Apartment Association third quarter 2015 rent survey, and the current utility allowance average for a two bedroom apartment in Las Cruces.

The CSI gap analysis for renters who would like to become owners shows that those at 60% AMI or less will need subsidies to afford the median prices home in Las Cruces, as will those with incomes just under 80% AMI. Downpayment assistance programs, interest rate subsidies and lower cost units constructed by Tierra Del Sol and Habitat for Humanity are all strategies for meeting demand from this population. CSI has estimated the number of renters who may want to become owners by applying the percentage of homeownership by income range to current renters to determine estimated demand.

Describe the need for specific types of housing:

There is a need for rental housing for individuals and families at 60% AMI or less. The need is especially acute for those at 0–30% AMI. Persons on fixed incomes and persons with special needs, such as disabled individuals, need deeply subsidized units accessible and close to public transportation and service enriched housing. There is also a need for homeownership opportunities for those at 80% AMI or less.

MA-15 Housing Market Analysis: Cost of Housing - 91.210(a)

Introduction

Rental housing costs in Las Cruces have been rising, and prices for units for sale have recovered and stabilized in the past few years. The following section of the plan provides an analysis of current housing costs in Las Cruces and recent cost trends, while also presenting all required Consolidated Plan tables and analysis of housing costs.

The following HUD-provided Consolidated Plan chart shows an 11-year trend in Las Cruces housing costs. The median home value between 2000 and 2011 rose 84%, or 7.6% per year on average. The median contract rent rose 42% during this 11-year period, an average of 3.8% per year.

Cost of Housing

	Base Year: 2000	Most Recent Year: 2011	% Change
Median Home Value	83,700	154,000	84%
Median Contract Rent	399	567	42%

Table 33 – Cost of Housing

Data Source: 2000 Census (Base Year), 2007-2011 ACS (Most Recent Year)

Rent Paid	Number	%
Less than $500	6,504	40.9%
$500-999	8,265	52.0%
$1,000-1,499	786	4.9%
$1,500-1,999	309	1.9%
$2,000 or more	40	0.3%
Total	***15,904***	***100.0%***

Table 34 - Rent Paid
Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

Rent Paid Narrative

The HUD-provided table above shows the number and percentage of renters in Las Cruces in 2011 paying rents by rent range. The data shows that 92.9% of Las Cruces renters paid less than $999 in rent. Over 40% paid less than $500 and only 2.2% paid $1,500 and over for rent. The New Mexico Apartment Association and BBER at the University of New Mexico both track the rental market in Las Cruces, and provide more recent rental pricing and vacancy information than the US Census.

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The average rent for all units in Las Cruces in the 3rd quarter of 2015 was $739, and ranged from $569 for a one bedroom one bath unit to $1,760 for a three bedroom 2.5 bath unit.

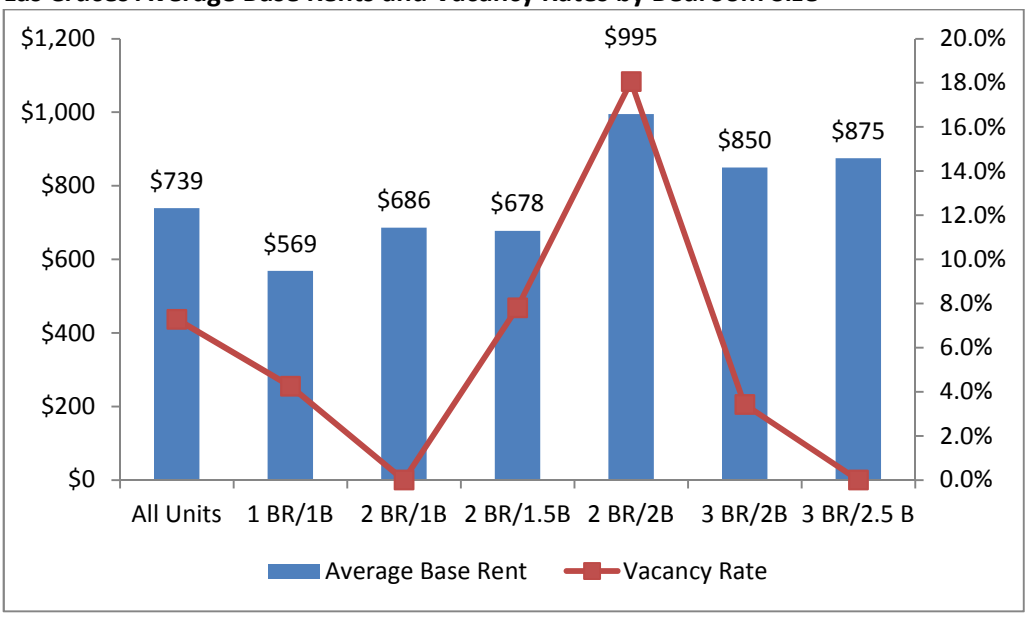
New Mexico Apartment Association Rent and Vacancy Survey, 3rd Quarter 2015

	Total Units	Vacant Units	Percent Occupied	Average SF	Average Base Mkt Rent	Average Base Rent/SF	Average Base Effective Rent	Average Base Effective Rent/SF
All Units	631	46	92.7%	934	$739	$0.79	$739	$0.79
1 BR/1B	258	11	95.7%	655	$569	$0.87	$569	$0.87
2 BR/1B	46	0	100.0%	952	$686	$0.72	$686	$0.72
2 BR/1.5B	64	5	92.2%	940	$678	$0.72	$678	$0.72
2 BR/2B	144	26	81.9%	1,201	$995	$0.83	$995	$0.83
3 BR/2B	117	4	96.6%	1,197	$850	$0.71	$850	$0.71
3 BR/2.5 B	2	0	100.0%	1,760	$875	$0.50	$875	$0.50

Source: New Mexico Apartment Association

Vacancies in Las Cruces are concentrated in two bedroom two bath unit. Housing providers and landlords interviewed during this study indicate a tight market, with waiting lists and few vacancies in price restricted and lower rent units. However, there has been quite a bit of construction of new higher priced rental units in some areas of Las Cruces, and over the past few years, consistently higher vacancy rates in higher priced, new, two bedroom two bath rental units have driven up overall vacancy rates.

Las Cruces Average Base Rents and Vacancy Rates by Bedroom Size



Source: New Mexico Apartment Association

CSI conducted a phone survey of price restricted rental units and found few vacancies in December of 2015. Owners and managers of price restricted units stated that they have waiting lists of potential tenants and few vacancies that come available throughout the year. BBER survey results from May of 2014 and 2015 show an

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overall vacancy rate of 8 – 9%, with higher vacancy rates in larger units. The NM Apartment Association 2015 3rd quarter survey reports a 7.3% vacancy rate overall, with rates below 5% for all but two bedroom units (see chart above).

CSI reviewed all sales listings for units on the market in Las Cruces in December of 2015 to prepare the following tables. Units with over five acres of land were excluded from this analysis. In December, the average asking price of a single family home on the market in Las Cruces was $203,199 and the median price of a single family home on the market was $169,900. Attached units (townhomes and condos) have lower prices. The average price of an attached unit was $121,470 and the median price was $114,950. Single family homes have a larger average size of 2,006 square feet, a higher number of bedrooms than attached units, and tend to be newer.

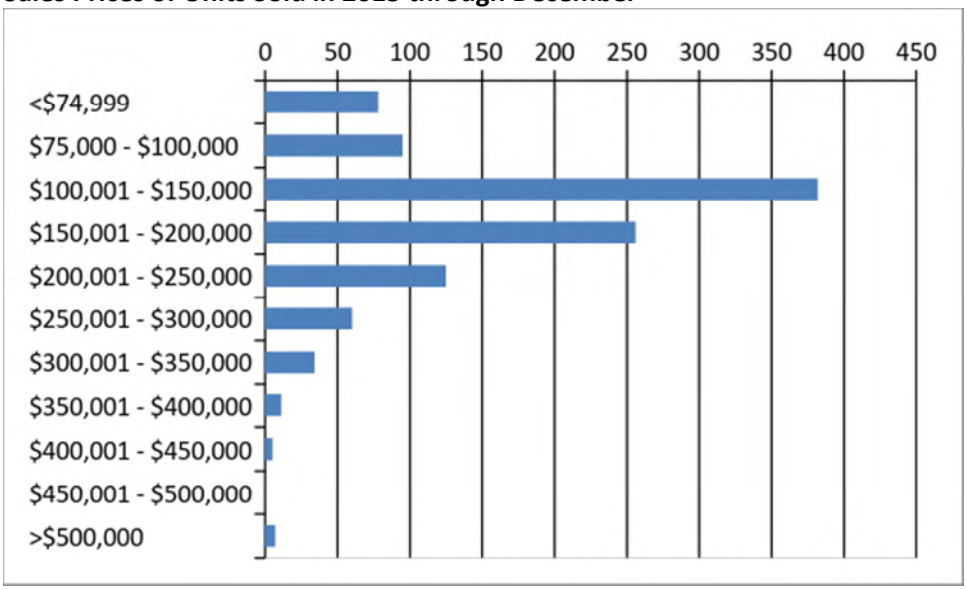
Current Listings, December 2015, Las Cruces

	Avg Price	Median Price	Avg Bedrooms	Avg Baths	Avg S.F	Avg Year Built	Avg Days on Market	Avg Price per S.F.
Single Family	$203,199	$169,900	3.3	2.0	2,006	2002	135	$101
Condos/Townhouse	$121,470	$114,950	2.2	1.8	1,252	1997	148	$97

Source: MLS and CSI

Las Cruces unit prices are concentrated in the $100,000-$200,000 price range. Few homes sold for above $300,000 in 2015. There were 173 that sold for $100,000 or less.

Sales Prices of Units Sold in 2015 through December



Source: MLS and CSI

While the majority of units for sale in Las Cruces are still priced at $200,000 or less and affordable to households at 100% AMI or less, the percentage of these units in the overall inventory is on the decline. In 2012, 60% of all units on the market were priced at $200,000 or less, while in 2015, only 53% were in this price range, a decline of 7%.

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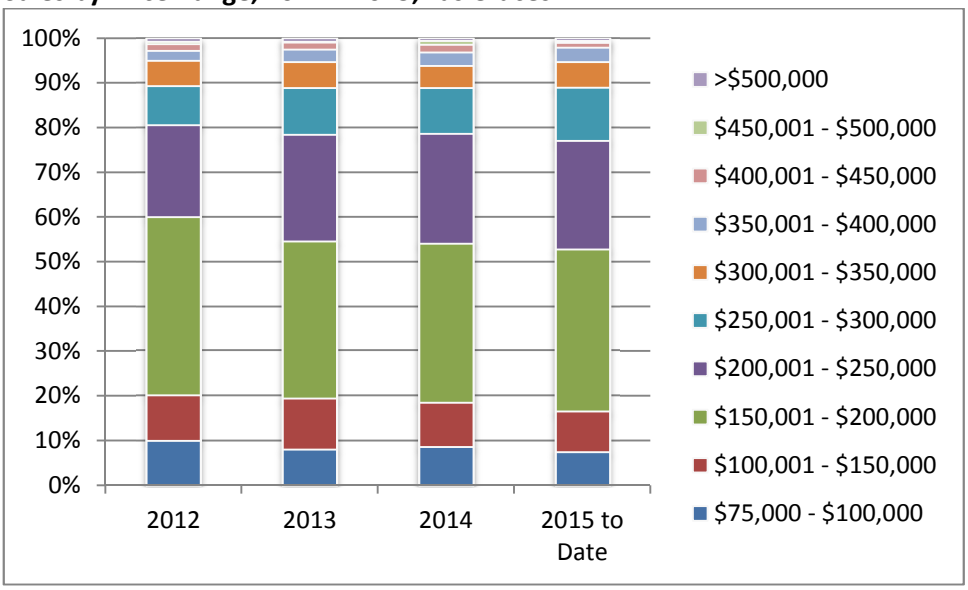
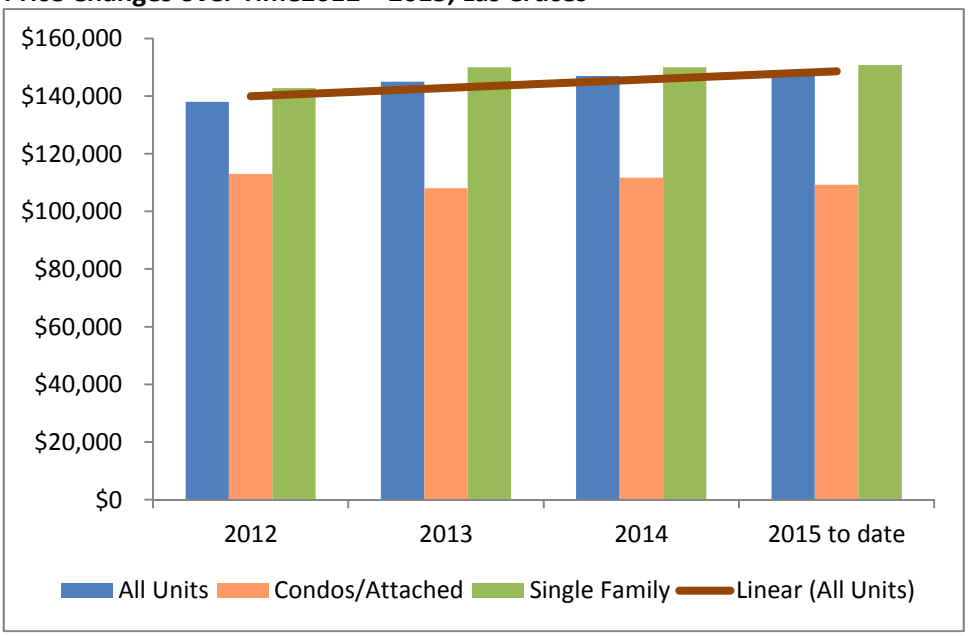
Sales by Price Range, 2012 – 2015, Las Cruces



Source: MLS and CSI

The sales market in Las Cruces is slowly recovering from the recession and foreclosure crisis. Median sales prices rose for all unit types between 2012 and 2014, and have remained stable from 2014 to 2015. No large price increases have been seen, though the inventory of lower priced units is declining as a percent of total units on the market.

Price Changes over Time2012 – 2015, Las Cruces



Source: MLS and CSI

Not surprisingly, new units have higher price per square foot and median price than existing units in Las Cruces. The following table shows sales in 2015 by MLS study area broken up by new construction and existing

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units. There were no listings for attached units constructed after 2012 in December of 2015 when data was pulled. Some real estate professionals interviewed during drafting of the plan indicated concern that Las Cruces may see another wave of foreclosures and price reductions in the next few years, which could affect market prices and conditions.

Current Listing Prices, December 2015, Las Cruces

	Price Per Square Foot		Median Price	
	Pre-2012	2012 2015	Pre-2012	2012 2015
Single Family	$97	$113	$160,500	$184,495
Condos/Attached	$81	NA	$103,000	NA

Source: MLS and CSI

HUD creates an estimate of the number of units on the market that are affordable to households at each HUD income range, using 2011 American Community Survey data. The analysis estimates there were a total of 12,243 rental and 9,711 owner occupied units affordable to households at 100% AMI or less in Las Cruces. Rental units subsidized with HOME funds may only charge the maximum rent limits, listed below, for HOME subsidized units.

Housing Affordability

% Units affordable to Households earning	Renter	Owner
30% HAMFI	540	No Data
50% HAMFI	2,899	1,210
80% HAMFI	8,804	3,368
100% HAMFI	No Data	5,133
Total	***12,243***	***9,711***

Table 35 – Housing Affordability
Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

Monthly Rent

Monthly Rent ($)	Efficiency (no bedroom)	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom
Fair Market Rent	444	534	633	906	1,007
High HOME Rent	517	561	676	772	843
Low HOME Rent	417	447	537	620	692

Table 36 – Monthly Rent
Data Source: HUD FMR and HOME Rents

Current Rents Compared to HUD Fair Market Rents and HOME High Rent Limits, 2015

	3rd Quarter	FMR	% Difference	High HOME	% Difference
Efficiency	NA	$445	NA	$445	NA
One Bedroom	$569	$534	-1%	$534	-1%
Two Bedroom	$678	$634	-1%	$634	-1%
Three Bedroom	$850	$907	-21%	$545	-17%

Source: HUD 2015 Rent Limits, CSI

Is there sufficient housing for households at all income levels?

No, there is not enough price restricted rental housing for renter households earning 60% or less of the AMI, and especially for those extremely low renter households at 30% AMI or less. Renters earning under 80% AMI may have a hard time finding an affordable unit for sale as prices rise in Las Cruces. Key informant realtors indicate that many homes affordable at 80% AMI or less may need repairs and updates.

How is affordability of housing likely to change considering changes to home values and/or rents?

Gaps for households at 80% AMI or less will most likely remain constant, as there is no large influx of households expected in Las Cruces, and prices have stayed fairly stable over the past few years.

How do HOME rents / Fair Market Rent compare to Area Median Rent? How might this impact your strategy to produce or preserve affordable housing?

CSI compared the current Dona Ana average rents for the third quarter of 2015 to the FMR and HOME High limits for Dona Ana County. The one and two bedroom limits are set are almost exactly the average rent for multi-family units, though the HUD limits include utilities and tenants most often pay their own utilities. The three bedroom HUD limits are below prevailing multi-family rents.

MA-20 Housing Market Analysis: Condition of Housing – 91.210(a)

Introduction

In addition to analyzing housing costs, it is essential to also study the condition of the housing stock within a community. Older housing units may need rehabilitation or upgrades to make them safe and habitable. Older units may also have lead based paint or other hazards that need to be mitigated. The following information provides an analysis of the condition of housing units in Las Cruces.

HUD calculates the number of occupied housing units with one or more "selected conditions" by tenure. These conditions include:

- Lack of complete plumbing
- Lack of complete kitchen facilities
- More than one person per room
- Cost burden greater than 30%

Most households with a housing condition in Las Cruces only have one housing condition. In Las Cruces, very few housing units lack complete plumbing. The 2011 American Community Survey CHAS data reported 135 rental units and 30 owner units occupied by households at 100% AMI or less that lacked complete plumbing or kitchen facilities. These units should be candidates for the local housing rehabilitation programs. There were 285 overcrowded renter households and 200 overcrowded owner households in 2011. Overcrowding is most often a result of households living in units too small for their families because of cost or housing availability, or because of a lack of units large enough for their households. Cost burden is the greatest issue facing Las Cruces households, as reported in the Housing Needs section of this report, and can be assumed to be the one selected condition most often found in the City.

Definitions

Las Cruces will employ the following definitions and standards to units which may be under consideration for Home Repair services within the Rehabilitation Program:

Standard Unit (s) not suitable for Rehabilitation: Dwelling units that meet minimum local, state and federal code requirements adopted by the City of Las Cruces and are in good condition requiring only cosmetic work, correction of minor livability problems, or maintenance work.

Substandard, Suitable for Rehabilitation: Dwelling units that do not meet minimum local, state and federal code requirements adopted by the City of Las Cruces but are both financially and structurally feasible for rehabilitation. This does not include units that require only cosmetic work, correction of minor livability problems, or maintenance work.

Substandard, Unit not Suitable for Non-Substantial Rehabilitation: Dwelling units that are in such poor condition as to be neither structurally nor financially feasible for rehabilitation, such as instances where the majority of a unit is structurally unstable and thereby unsafe for habitation.

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Condition of Units

Condition of Units	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
With one selected Condition	5,585	26%	8,209	52%
With two selected Conditions	118	1%	372	2%
With three selected Conditions	18	0%	0	0%
With four selected Conditions	0	0%	0	0%
No selected Conditions	15,730	73%	7,323	46%
Total	***21,451***	***100%***	***15,904***	***100%***

Table 37 - Condition of Units
Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

Owner occupied units in Las Cruces tend to be newer than renter occupied units. Sixty-three percent (63%) of owner occupied units were built in 1980 or after, while only 58% of renter occupied units were built in 1980 or after. Units constructed before 1980 may be in need of rehabilitation and upgrades, and may also contain lead-based paint.

Year Unit Built

Year Unit Built	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
2000 or later	6,062	28%	3,952	25%
1980-1999	7,442	35%	5,328	34%
1950-1979	6,782	32%	5,881	37%
Before 1950	1,165	5%	743	5%
Total	***21,451***	***100%***	***15,904***	***101%***

Table 38 – Year Unit Built
Data Source: 2007-2011 CHAS

HUD calculates the number of housing units that may be at-risk for lead-based paint hazards. Units built before 1980 may have lead-based paint, which is dangerous to children if not properly encapsulated or remediated. The following table shows the number of homes built in Las Cruces before 1980 where children are present. New Mexico has not conducted any area wide lead-based paint studies which would help determine how many children may be at-risk for lead poisoning in Las Cruces. Owners of rental housing units should test for lead to ensure rental units are safe for children living in them. Homes rehabilitated with CDBG funds must meet all HUD lead-based paint safety requirements.

HUD estimates of the units built before 1980 where children are present, 1,989 owner-occupied units and 1,950 renter-occupied units may contain a lead hazard.

Risk of Lead-Based Paint Hazard

Risk of Lead-Based Paint Hazard	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total Number of Units Built Before 1980	7,947	37%	6,624	42%
Housing Units build before 1980 with children present	1,989	9%	1,950	12%

Table 39 – Risk of Lead-Based Paint
Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS (Total Units) 2007-2011 CHAS (Units with Children present)

HUD requests that grantees estimate the number of vacant housing units, those suitable for rehabilitation and those not suitable for rehabilitation. This information is not tracked by the City of Las Cruces. However, American Community Survey data indicates there are 919 vacant units in Las Cruces which are not for rent, for sale, or second homes. RealtyTrac, a service which tracks forecloses and Real Estate Owned (REO) bank-owned properties, reports that there are currently 22 REO units for sale Las Cruces. CSI does not believe there are any abandoned REO properties in Las Cruces.

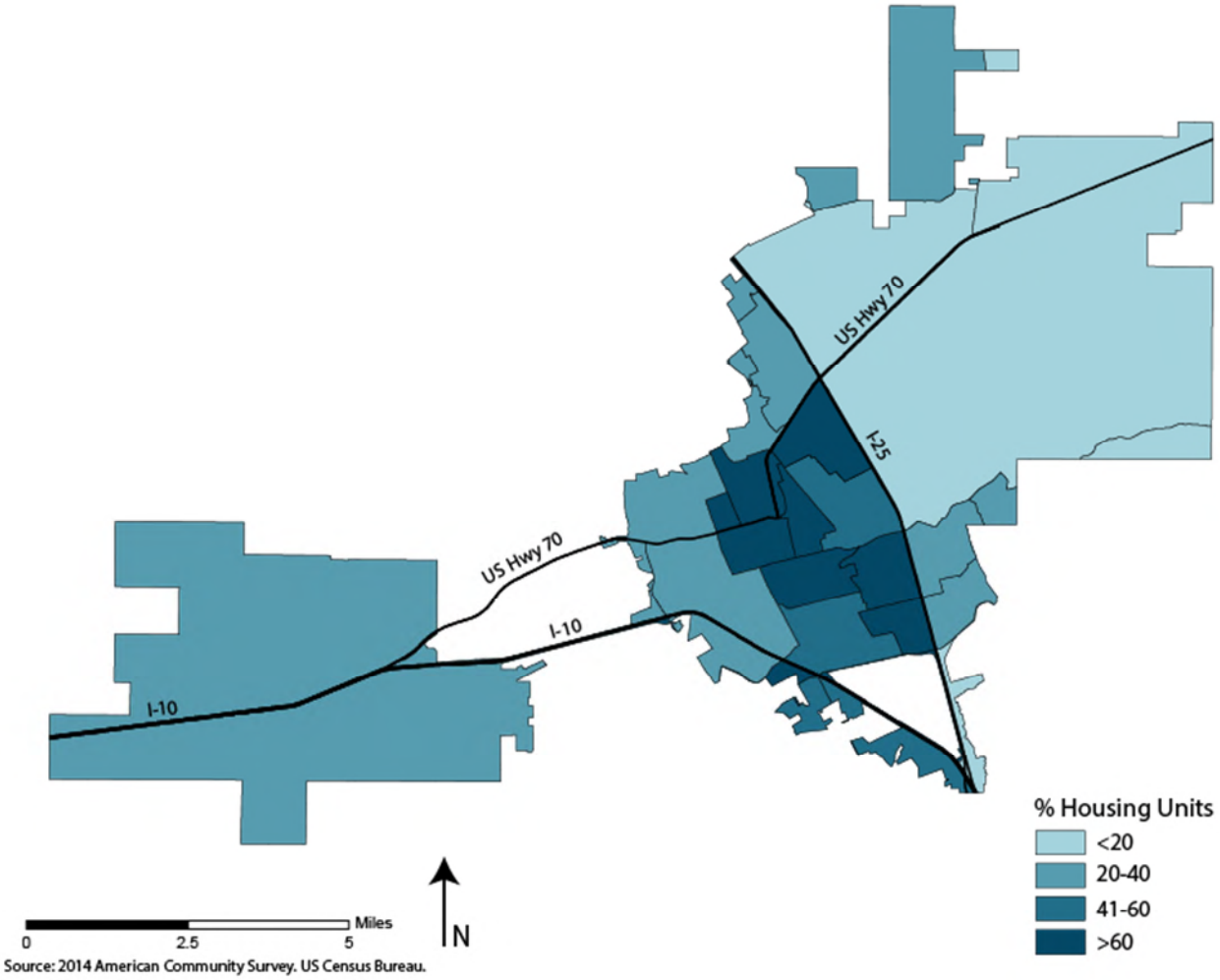
Vacant Units

	Suitable for Rehabilitation	Not Suitable for Rehabilitation	Total
Vacant Units	919	0	919
Abandoned Vacant Units	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
REO Properties	22	0	22
Abandoned REO Properties	0	0	0

Table 40 - Vacant Units

Need for Owner and Rental Rehabilitation

The following map shows the percent of housing units in each Las Cruces census tract constructed before 1980. These units are more likely than newer units to contain lead paint, lack complete plumbing and kitchens, and to need upgrades to major systems, including heating, cooling, roofs, electrical and plumbing. Units in these areas of Las Cruces are most likely to benefit from the owner occupied housing rehabilitation program than units in areas of town with higher concentrations of units constructed since 1980.



Estimated Number of Housing Units Occupied by Low or Moderate Income Families with LBP Hazards

CSI estimated the number of housing units occupied by low- or moderate-income families that may contain lead-based paint. HUD estimates of the units built before 1980 where children are present, 1,989 owner-occupied units and 1,950 renter-occupied units may contain a lead hazard. Of these, it is estimated that 40% are occupied by owners at 80% AMI or less (796 units), and 49% are occupied by renters at 50% AMI or less (960 units), based upon the percentage of total households in Las Cruces with children present in these income ranges.

Discussion

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MA-25 Public and Assisted Housing – 91.210(b)

Introduction

The Mesilla Valley Housing Authority owns 249 units of public housing in four developments, and has no plans to dispose of units in the next five years. The Housing Authority also owns 40 Section 8 financed rental units as well. HUD reports that the Housing Authority has 257 VASH Vouchers, and 11 Family Unification vouchers, in addition to the 1,183 vouchers available throughout Dona Ana County. The Housing Authority reports that they have 55 VASH vouchers, and 22 Family Self Sufficiency clients.

Totals Number of Units

Program Type									
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers					
				Total	Project -based	Tenant -based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
# of units vouchers available			253	1,607			257	11	0
# of accessible units									

*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition

Table 41 – Total Number of Units by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Describe the supply of public housing developments:

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The Housing Authority owns 249 units of public housing in Las Cruces in four locations. Tres Arboles is a 64 unit family property, San Pedro Place is 38 units of senior and disabled housing, Walnut Grove is 100 units of family housing and Jardines Alegres is 47 units of elderly/disabled housing. All are low density properties that stay fairly full.

Describe the number and physical condition of public housing units in the jurisdiction, including those that are participating in an approved Public Housing Agency Plan:

Most public housing units in Las Cruces have not been inspected by HUD since 2006. Walnut Grove was inspected in 2015 and got an average inspection score of 91. Public housing units in Las Cruces are kept to HQS standards, but most are outdated properties.

Public Housing Condition

Public Housing Development	Average Inspection Score
Walnut Grove	91
Tres Arboles	85
Jardines Alegres	91
San Pedro Place	70

Table 42 - Public Housing Condition

Describe the restoration and revitalization needs of public housing units in the jurisdiction:

The Housing Authority does not have plans to redevelopment or revitalize any public housing units in Las Cruces.

Describe the public housing agency's strategy for improving the living environment of low- and moderate-income families residing in public housing:

The Housing Authority has a Resident Advisory Board, and resident council boards for each of the four public housing developments. The Housing Authority has worked with private and public developers of housing to partner on Low Income Housing Tax Credit developments to expand the inventory of affordable rental properties available in Las Cruces.

Discussion:

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The Housing Authority does not have any plans to change existing programs or projects in the near future. Public housing units have high average inspection scores.

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MA-30 Homeless Facilities and Services – 91.210(c)

Introduction

The City of Las Cruces and its partners provide a continuum of homeless facilities and services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness and those who are at risk of becoming homeless. Programs provided through the Continuum of Care include emergency shelter, supportive services, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing and Housing First (Rapid Rehousing). The New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness (NMCEH) takes the lead in developing New Mexico's Continuum of Care Plan. NMCEH convenes and manages the Continuum of Care planning process and the Mesilla Valley Community of Hope provides multiple services for the homeless and chronically homeless population in Las Cruces. The table below outlines the numbers of beds under each umbrella category. The following section describes facilities and services in detail.

Facilities and Housing Targeted to Homeless Households

	Emergency Shelter Beds		Transitional Housing Beds	Permanent Supportive Housing Beds	
	Year Round Beds (Current & New)	Voucher / Seasonal / Overflow Beds	Current & New	Current & New	Under Development
Households with Adult(s) and Child(ren)	98	20	59	87	0
Households with Only Adults	88	0	15	121	0
Chronically Homeless Households	0	0	0	19	0
Veterans	0	0	0	41	0
Unaccompanied Youth	3	0	6	0	0

Table 43 - Facilities and Housing Targeted to Homeless Households

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Describe mainstream services, such as health, mental health, and employment services to the extent those services are use to complement services targeted to homeless persons

The Mesilla Valley Community of Hope is a provider of services that connects people who are experiencing homelessness with opportunities to apply for public benefits, such as SSI, SSDI, food assistance, employment, and training through the SOAR program, and other programs. MVCH case management staff provides one-on-one assistance in accessing public benefits, legal assistance, and other mainstream services. It's partnerships with multiple organizations such as the Department of Workforce Solutions, increases employment connections for its residents and clients.

List and describe services and facilities that meet the needs of homeless persons, particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth. If the services and facilities are listed on screen SP-40 Institutional Delivery Structure or screen MA-35 Special Needs Facilities and Services, describe how these facilities and services specifically address the needs of these populations.

Mesilla Valley Community of Hope (MVCH) – MVCH is a service center designed to assist homeless and address poverty issues in Las Cruces and Dona Ana County. MVCH offers case management, day shelter, an overnight tent city for individuals who are homeless, and assistance with disability applications and other community resources to help transition from homelessness into permanent housing solutions. Continuum of Care programs administered by MVCH include Sue's House, a permanent housing program for chronically homeless women, the Oak Street Apartments for homeless veterans with the Mesilla Valley Housing Authority, two HUD Rapid Re-housing programs which serve 40 people, the Abode permanent supportive housing program for chronically homeless men, and a Supportive Services for Veteran's Families (SSVF) Program. Other housing programs include short term housing in apartments for up to three months, rapid rehousing assistance, and homeless prevention assistance. MVCH also offers services such as case management, laundry, showers, lockers, assistance in obtaining identification and public income, and access to computers.

Gospel Rescue Mission is the only indoor shelter in Las Cruces that offers emergency food and shelter and is accessible 24 hours per day year round. The shelter is operated by 70 volunteers and seven paid staff members, is self-funded with no city, state or federal funding sources, and will take families and individuals.

El Caldito Soup Kitchen is a non-profit provider of food and meals for homeless and low-income people in Las Cruces and the surrounding rural communities. El Caldito offers a mid-day meal to between 250 and 300 persons six days per week and is staffed by three-part time employees and several volunteers. The agency also provides sack lunches on Saturdays.

Families and Youth Inc., is an organization geared toward helping families and at-risk youth and children. It operates a Transitional Living Program outlined in greater detail in the Special Needs Section of this report.

La Casa Domestic Violence Shelter – La Casa domestic violence shelter can shelter up to 80 people and approximately 26 children for up to 90 days. This includes both men, women, and families. La Casa has transitional housing units which they own (5 units which are scattered site units). It provides non-residential support as well. The shelter itself is typically full about 80% of the time. The shelter expanded in 2009 due to an increasing need to assist more female and male victims of violence. The agencies transitional housing program assists 22 families with tenant based rental assistance through the Continuum of Care process. Residents and those seeking services must have proof of documentation or they cannot be assisted, which agency staff identifies as an issue for undocumented community members in need. The tenant based rental assistance provided through HOME funds allows up to 24-month stay. La Casa also provides non-residential

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counseling/case management, legal advocacy, immigration specialists to determine status, and a court ordered batterer program. La Casa has an MOU with Catholic Charities who is able to help undocumented persons and immigrants in Las Cruces.

St. Luke's Health Care Clinic - St. Luke's Health Care Clinic is a significant partner of MVCH. It is located at the homeless campus and operates 5 days per week. It provides primary health care, prevention education, diagnostics/treatment center, chronic disease management and is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). St. Luke's has a full time nurse practitioner, volunteer doctors and provides Medicaid enrollment assistance on site. The outreach program operates an eye clinic and a foot clinic. They collaborate with the Department of Health on Harm Reduction Strategies and operate the Dona Ana Indigent program that targets low-income people who are not eligible for other insurance. St. Luke's also recently started a Behavior Health Program funded by The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The program will provide counseling, substance abuse outpatient services, and job readiness assistance. St. Luke's also collaborates with Opportunities of Hope for Housing Counseling assistance for its patients in need.

Jardin de los Ninos- Jardin de los Ninos is an early childhood education program that provides education, and therapeutic and other comprehensive services to children and their families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The childcare facility is located on the homeless campus and the agency coordinates with other homeless providers to support homeless families with children.

Las Cruces Veteran Affairs - The Las Cruces New Mexico VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) delivers primary care services to eligible veterans in Dona Ana County and outlying areas. It provides health screening, health promotion, education, acute and chronic disease management, and primary and mental health care. The New Mexico VA Health Care Systems Health Care for Homeless Veteran's Program (HCHV) is designed to end veteran homelessness through outreach, community partnerships establishing health care access for veterans, and assisting with benefits and discharge documents. Other services include psychiatric assessments, alcohol and drug treatment, case management and assistance with basic needs. The VA offers veteran's access to a Compensated Work Therapy Employment Program (CWT) for veterans in recovery.

The VASH program is the local VA Supportive Housing Program that serves homeless veterans with health, mental health, and substance abuse challenges in Las Cruces. The VASH program has 55 vouchers in Las Cruces. The program provides two VASH staff located at the housing authority to discuss the program with potential program participants and to assist them in obtaining housing and health care. VASH is well coordinated with MVCH, which provides flexible funds for security deposit, rent arrears, and in issuing vouchers to clients. The Mesilla Valley Housing Authority operates the HUD VASH Program for homeless veterans who have health, mental health, and/or substance abuse disorders. It is a provider of 55 VASH Vouchers and works directly with the VA to serve homeless veterans.

MA-35 Special Needs Facilities and Services – 91.210(d)

Introduction

The City of Las Cruces identifies several special need populations within the city. They include: persons with physical disabilities, intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), mental health disabilities, people with Substance Use Disorders (SUDS), elderly, frail elderly, people with HIV/AIDS, victims of domestic violence, veterans, at-risk youth, and the immigrant community. The primary housing need of many of households is affordable inventory and services. Many people with special needs require supportive housing and services to allow them to live in the least restrictive environment and to avoid homelessness.

Including the elderly, frail elderly, persons with disabilities (mental, physical, developmental), persons with alcohol or other drug addictions, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, public housing residents and any other categories the jurisdiction may specify, and describe their supportive housing needs

Seniors

In-home health care and accessible and affordable living quarters are all necessary components for some members of the aging population in Las Cruces. Transportation assistance, light housekeeping/ shopping and other disability services are necessary supportive housing for many seniors. The emotional and physical well-being of this group relies on available services, and affordable housing and service options. In addition, seniors are more likely to have a disability then other populations. Some need 24-hour care to remain safely in their homes as cognitive and physical abilities change over time.

City of Las Cruces Senior Programs and Munson Center provides comprehensive senior programs, coordination of services, nutrition and meal services, Long Term Care Services, arts and crafts, language and physical fitness activities, case management (assessments and resource referral assistance) and In-home services including meals on wheels, homecare (light housekeeping), and respite care. The City's Senior Resource Center staff offer information, referrals, assistance and advocacy to seniors at no charge. They provide Medicare/Medicaid information, a "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren" program and many other relevant workshops on –site.

Dial a Ride – Dial a Ride provides Curbside transit for people with disabilities and seniors. The program operates 7am to 7pm Monday through Friday and has a modified Saturday schedule and no Sunday service. Dial a Ride has 8 routes and 1 combined route.

Immigrant Communities

New Mexico Comunidades de Acción y de Fe (CAFé)- New Mexico CAFé is a non-partisan 501c3 organization that is part of the PICO (People Improving Communities through Organizing) National Network. CAFé is an advocacy organization that focuses on increasing community engagement on citizenship, immigration reform, subprime lending issues, and community organizing.

La Clinica de Familia (LCDF)- La Clinica de Familia is a Primary Care Medical Home for families, individuals and children. Services include mental health care, migrant health care diabetes health education (a growing need), family planning, preventative care, immunizations, women's health, prenatal and diagnosis and treatment. Their clinic serves all who need care and accepts Medicaid and Medicare.

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Catholic Charities- Catholic Charities provides immigration legal services, financial assistance and counseling for individuals and families in need. They are a mental health care provider for people in crisis and offer some cash assistance to individuals and families who are homeless. They partner with many local organizations to provide services for people in need in Las Cruces.

Disabilities

Members of the community who have physical disabilities need accessible, affordable housing options with a spectrum of services available to be tailored to their individual needs. Transportation assistance, medication assistance and assistance with shopping, bathing, and cleaning are necessary for some members of the community.

Tresco - Tresco serves people ages 18 – 72 with disabilities throughout a three county area. Most of the people served have needs related to developmental disabilities or have Autism Spectrum related needs. Tresco provides early intervention and helps approximately 850 unduplicated children per year and 1,500 adults. Services provided by Tresco include a variety of therapies, a day shelter, group housing for up to four persons in a unit, long term home care for elderly and medically frail clients, client transportation, and food assistance. Tresco also operates a work program and other vocational services to help clients who are able to work.

Mental Health

Persons with mental health challenges also need a variety of supportive services tailored to their individual needs. Safe, affordable housing coupled with in-home medication monitoring, peer to peer support, social outings, therapeutic services, life-skills, and case management are all facets of the supportive housing needs of this population. As stated previously, two of the biggest gaps identified in Las Cruces by key interviews include mental health (including home based) and substance abuse treatment.

The New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute (NMBHI) is the only state owned and operated psychiatric hospital in New Mexico. It is made up of five clinical divisions and serves a range of statewide behavioral health care needs. The hospital is located outside Las Cruces but within Dona Ana County and can provide treatment to residents of Las Cruces.

La Clinica de Familia has just begun to offer mental health services to low-income residents of Las Cruces.

Substance Use Disorders

Individuals with substance use disorders or who are dually diagnosed with mental health and substance use disorders may also need affordable quality housing with in-home and community based on-going case management and therapy. Individualized plans may involve medication monitoring, employment and/or vocational assistance and possibly other supports. Transportation is an important factor for all of these mentioned populations. Providers noted a lack of substance abuse treatment options in Las Cruces as a barrier for many residents, and a needed addition to the community.

HIV/AIDS

People with HIV/AIDS with limited financial resources may need affordable, supportive housing to improve outcomes related to their physical and mental well-being. Lower income people with HIV/AIDS are more likely to receive necessary medical treatments and therapeutic and other social supports which aid recovery when access to quality housing is available.

International Aids Empowerment - International AIDS Empowerment is an umbrella organization overseeing a variety of programs to help community members with HIV/AIDS. Programs provided include Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA), We Care emergency support, the Outright center, food pantry, HIV and AIDS counseling and testing, Caring through education, and an animal assistance program (PAWS). This organization strives to serve a wide population that includes LGBTQ and their families, the general public and expanded programs for elderly disabled and youth.

At-risk Youth

Families and Youth Inc. **(FYI)** - Families and Youth Inc. works to help disadvantaged youth in a variety of ways. It operates a transitional living program which includes 26 units of supportive housing and serves justice involved and homeless youth. The program allows 1 to 2 teens per unit and also has three family units for parenting teens. The agency also operates drug courts, child and adult food programs, summer food service, and a youth employment program. Other Families and Youth, Inc. programs include:

- **The JV Assessment and Reporting Center -** The JV Assessment and Reporting Center identifies and serves youth who are at-risk and system-involved. The program provides referrals to community resources, and support systems to address risky behaviors and reduce involvement in the juvenile justice system.
- **Children's Advocacy Center –** This program facilitates investigation, prosecution, intervention, and treatment of child abuse. FYI works with law enforcement, the judicial system, and protective services.
- **Family Navigation Education Services –** this program provides parenting and family support to prevent behavioral problems in children by enhancing the knowledge, skills, and confidence of parents
- **The AmeriCorps Program -** the AmeriCorps Program identifies low performing schools and provides in school and after school and summer support for youth.
- **The Youth Empowerment Program** – The Youth Empowerment Program works typically with 16-24 year olds and teaches soft skills, career skills, and places them in work sites across the county for paid work opportunities.

City of Las Cruces Juvenile Citation Program – The Juvenile Citation Program is an alternative program for youth offenders who commit a misdemeanor, petty misdemeanor, or status offense. The citation is screened by JPO and a referral is made to the Citation Program when it is determined that the youth is appropriate for services. The program provides youth an immediate consequence to their offense and diverts them from the formal juvenile justice system.

Domestic Violence

La Casa Domestic Violence Shelter - a description of La Casa can be found in the Homeless Needs Section of this report.

Child Advocacy Center – The Child advocacy center at FYI conducts forensic interviews for suspected cases of abuse.

La Pinon- Rape Crisis Center – La Pinon Rape Crisis Center provides medical exams at the hospital, 24-hour crisis intervention, counseling services, outreach to schools, a Kid Talk phone program, and other children's advocacy services. La Pinon provides a representative at NMSU who is available for students and provides various therapies for participants. La Pinon also provides a program to assist the prison population.

La Clínica de Familia- La Clínica operates a youth shelter and is a provider for the 24-48 hour hold when needed, then works to find placement for them.

Describe programs for ensuring that persons returning from mental and physical health institutions receive appropriate supportive housing

The New Mexico Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC), which includes Las Cruces, was developed knowing that people who are experiencing homelessness often do not always enter the system at a set point and institutional discharge planning is an important component of prevention. And, ending the practice of discharging individuals to the streets or shelters is a priority of the City of Las Cruces 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness. The 2015 BOS CoC application outlines an effort to coordinate local and state corrections departments on a plan to provide state funded supportive housing for people with mental illness who are most likely to end of up jail or prison. This is a relatively new collaboration and is planned to continue in the coming year through the Housing Leadership Group.

The State Linkages Program was designed for homeless people with a disabling behavioral health disorder and is funded by the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority/Behavioral Health Collaborative. The state of New Mexico has been gradually expanding the number of vouchers available and currently provides 96 in 7 counties statewide. In Las Cruces, the Mesilla Valley Community of Hope administers the program. Participants must be homeless and have a mental health disability and receiving services from La Clinica de Familia. La Clinica provides the supportive services and MVCH provides the housing voucher. This has proven to be an effective program in housing persons with mental illness.

Specify the activities that the jurisdiction plans to undertake during the next year to address the housing and supportive services needs identified in accordance with 91.215(e) with respect to persons who are not homeless, but have other special needs. Link to one-year goals. 91.315(e)

The City of Las Cruces will use Public Services dollars to fund the following projects in 2016.

CDBG ($112,00)

Casa de Peregrinos Food Rescue

Jardin De Los Ninos Children's Therapeutic Services

La Casa, Inc. Emergency Shelter Services

Mesilla Valley CASA, Inc. Advocacy For Children

Mesilla Valley Comm. of Hope Homeless Shelter Program

St. Luke's Health Care Clinic Medical Case Management

The City also uses the Health Related Public Services fund to support agencies that address the housing and supportive services needs of homeless and special needs populations in Las Cruces. The 2016 allocations are as follows.

Health Related Public Services ($300,000)

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Boys and Girls Club of Las Cruces More Members More Often

Casa De Peregrinos Food Security Program

Community Action Agency CARE DAC Cancer Care and Support Program

FYI-El Crucero El Crucero Transitional Living Program

Jardin De Los Ninos Healthy & Wise

La Casa Domestic Violence Family Services Program

La Clinica De Familia Expanded Clinic Hours

La Pinon SANE unit

Mesilla Valley CASA Volunteer Coordination & Development Enhancement

Mesilla Valley Community of Hope HOPE SOAR Program

Mesilla Valley Hospice Pain control and Comfort Care for Hospice Patients

Roadrunner Food Bank Hunger Relief

Southern NM Diabetes Outreach Diabetes Detection Prevention Education and Support

St. Luke's Health Care Clinic Client Support Program

For entitlement/consortia grantees: Specify the activities that the jurisdiction plans to undertake during the next year to address the housing and supportive services needs identified in accordance with 91.215(e) with respect to persons who are not homeless but have other special needs. Link to one-year goals. (91.220(2))

See list above.

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MA-40 Barriers to Affordable Housing – 91.210(e)

Negative Effects of Public Policies on Affordable Housing and Residential Investment

As part of the research for this Consolidated Plan and the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, the Community Strategies Institute conducted a general review of plans and regulations adopted by the City that relate to affordable housing. This review also included the City's Affordable Housing Strategy (2009). That strategy included recommendations for some regulatory changes to lower the cost of housing by allowing smaller lot sizes and increasing the allowable height of multifamily and mixed use buildings. The City has modified some of the regulations based on those recommendations. The general conclusion is that the policies and regulations administered by the City do not create unreasonable barriers to affordable housing development.

The zoning classification system in use allows for an array of housing types and densities and lot sizes. In some zone classifications, minimum lot size can be as small as 3,500 square feet. Building height has been increased to allow for five story buildings up to 60 feet in height. These regulatory modifications should have the effect of lowering development costs for both detached and multifamily affordable housing.

The City has adopted a revitalization overlay zoning classification for the older, core neighborhoods in the central part of the community. These neighborhoods are faced with aging infrastructure and a number of old homes which appear to be vacant. There are also a number of empty lots that could provide for new infill housing of both detached and smaller attached configurations. The revitalization overlay provides incentives that could lower the cost of redevelopment including impact fee waivers, flexible interpretations of lot size and set back requirements, and reduced permitting fees. These incentives have not been widely used and there is little evidence of any planned effort by property owners to take advantage of the provided incentives.

The City Community Development Department will reevaluate whether the carrot approach is adequate or maybe the adoption of an Abandoned/Unsafe Building Abatement Ordinance would provide owners with the motivation to either sell their substandard properties or make the needed investment to improve them. The overlay area represents a high yield opportunity for new infill development. Because basic infrastructure and good connectivity exists in this area, new affordable dwellings could be constructed at a price level that would be affordable for lower income residents.

As discussed in the Strategic Plan section of this Consolidated Plan, the City has in place a policy for waiving some impact fees for affordable housing construction. As envisioned in the Strategic Plan Section, the City will need to explore expanding the scope of the fee waiver program so more detached and attached affordable units would benefit from the cost reduction achieved through the waived fees.

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MA-45 Non-Housing Community Development Assets – 91.215 (f)

Introduction

The US Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) produces data that makes it possible to estimate labor force dynamics for the City of Las Cruces. HUD provides this information for the year 2011. While more recent employment data is available for Las Cruces, the HUD-provided data does show the unemployment rate for younger Las Cruces residents is much higher than the rate for those age 25 and older. This analysis has most likely included many New Mexico State University students who are not employed.

More current information from the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions (NMDWS) is available for the Las Cruces MSA. In December of 2015, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in the MSA was 7.5%. There were 92,300 persons in the labor force, 85,894 of whom were employed, and 6,406 who were unemployed. The unemployment rate is higher than throughout New Mexico which had a 6.6% seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in December of 2015. The labor force in Dona Ana County grew from 2001–2014, according to the US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). Total employed persons grew by 24%, and annual compensation grew by 53%.

Economic Development Market Analysis

The following table, provided by HUD, shows the number of workers in Las Cruces in 2011 by business sector, the number of jobs by business sector, the share of total workers, share of total jobs, and the percentage of jobs less percentage of workers. The table indicates the share of jobs and share of workers in Las Cruces are well aligned, with little variance between the two. The information is provided for 13 business defined sectors, using ESRI Business Analyst Package and American Community Survey data.

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Business Activity

Business by Sector	Number of Workers	Number of Jobs	Share of Workers %	Share of Jobs %	Jobs less workers %
Agriculture, Mining, Oil & Gas Extraction	727	232	3	1	-2
Arts, Entertainment, Accommodations	4,343	5,772	15	15	0
Construction	1,874	1,999	7	5	-1
Education and Health Care Services	6,649	9,727	23	26	3
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	1,541	2,047	5	5	0
Information	620	824	2	2	0
Manufacturing	944	1,947	3	5	2
Other Services	868	1,071	3	3	0
Professional, Scientific, Management Services	2,548	3,238	9	9	0
Public Administration	0	0	0	0	0
Retail Trade	4,399	6,430	15	17	2
Transportation and Warehousing	888	809	3	2	-1
Wholesale Trade	805	739	3	2	-1
Total	26,206	34,835	--	--	--

Table 45 - Business Activity

Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS (Workers), 2011 Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (Jobs)

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Labor Force

Total Population in the Civilian Labor Force	45,897
Civilian Employed Population 16 years and over	41,244
Unemployment Rate	10.14
Unemployment Rate for Ages 16-24	30.74
Unemployment Rate for Ages 25-65	5.91

Table 46 - Labor Force
Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

HUD also provides the number of people employed in various occupations by business sector for 2011. US Department of Commerce BEA data from 2013 shows the largest employment industries in Dona Ana County are healthcare and social assistance, state and local government, retail trade, administrative and waste management services, and construction.

Occupations by Sector	Number of People
Management, business and financial	9,283
Farming, fisheries and forestry occupations	1,885
Service	5,769
Sales and office	10,274
Construction, extraction, maintenance and repair	3,718
Production, transportation and material moving	1,797

Table 47 – Occupations by Sector
Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

CSI used NMDWS, Employment Projections data to conduct an analysis of the occupations with the largest number of employees in the Las Cruces MSA and the fastest growing occupations, and to review the median hourly earnings for these occupations.

Currently, the top three occupations in the Las Cruces MSA employ over 6,300 persons, and pay no more than a median hourly earnings of $9.53 per hour. A $10/hour employee working full time in Las Cruces can only afford to pay $520 per month for housing, much lower than prevailing rents in Las Cruces.

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Top Occupations in Las Cruces

Rank		2012	2022
1	Education, Training, and Library Occupations	5,899	6,831
2	Management Occupations	6,219	6,292
3	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	3,757	4,496
4	Business and Financial Operations Occupations	2,513	2,772
5	Architecture and Engineering Occupations	2,156	2,321
6	Community and Social Services Occupations	1,505	1,716
7	Computer and Mathematical Occupations	1,364	1,653
8	Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	875	934
9	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	796	874
10	Legal Occupations	343	382

The graphic below shows projections for the fastest growing occupations in the Las Cruces MSA from 2012 – 2022.

Highest Growth Occupations

Rank	Occupation	2012 Estimated Employment	2022 Projected Employment	Median Wage 2014	Estimated Annual Openings
1	Personal Care Aides	2,309	3,370	$17,950	122
2	Retail Salespersons	2,211	2,588	$19,890	114
3	Cashiers	1,786	1,977	$18,500	96
4	Waiters and Waitresses	1,361	1,597	$19,090	90
5	Food Preparation and Serving Workers	1,333	1,698	$19,890	87
6	Customer Service Representatives	1,308	1,629	$19,940	68
7	Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	2,067	2,341	$27,440	52
8	Managers, All Other	1,359	1,505	$82,650	45
9	Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse	1,429	1,332	$17,930	43
10	Registered Nurses	1,049	1,259	$63,190	41

Source: NMDWS, Employment Projections program

Most Las Cruces residents travel less than 30 minutes to work each day. Key informants interviewed while developing the Consolidated Plan noted that the availability and accessibility of public transportation through the Road RUNNER transit system is a barrier for many low-income households in accessing transit to jobs and housing.

Travel Time

Travel Time	Number	Percentage
< 30 Minutes	33,600	85%
30-59 Minutes	4,608	12%
60 or More Minutes	1,545	4%
Total	***39,753***	***100%***

Table 48 - Travel Time
Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

CHAS data from 2011 shows there were just over 9,000 persons in the Las Cruces labor force with a high school degree or less. For those with only a high school education, the unemployment rate of 17% was over four times the rate for those with a college education. Job training and placement programs for these residents could reduce the unemployment rate for less educated workers.

Education:

Educational Attainment by Employment Status (Population 16 and Older)

Educational Attainment	In Labor Force		
	Civilian Employed	Unemployed	Not in Labor Force
Less than high school graduate	3,297	684	2,406
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	5,856	583	2,487
Some college or Associate's degree	10,915	979	4,316
Bachelor's degree or higher	11,518	481	2,317

Table 49 - Educational Attainment by Employment Status
Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

Many of the residents without a high school diploma are older than 24-years-old, and have limited job options that will pay a living wage. Job training programs must target residents in all age groups.

Educational Attainment by Age

	Age				
	18–24 yrs	25–34 yrs	35–44 yrs	45–65 yrs	65+ yrs
Less than 9th grade	171	625	488	1,504	1,807

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9th to 12th grade, no diploma	1,864	1,417	948	1,405	1,158
High school graduate, GED, or alternative	2,818	2,393	2,114	4,460	3,016
Some college, no degree	7,079	4,358	2,904	5,168	2,868
Associate's degree	755	1,059	993	1,886	447
Bachelor's degree	997	3,571	2,168	3,304	1,643
Graduate or professional degree	36	1,167	1,249	2,962	1,635

Table 50 - Educational Attainment by Age
Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

It is not surprising CHAS data finds that residents with the most education also earn the most in Las Cruces. Persons with a bachelor's degree earned 99% more than those with just a high school education.

Educational Attainment – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Educational Attainment	Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months
Less than high school graduate	14,624
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	20,619
Some college or Associate's degree	25,340
Bachelor's degree	41,120
Graduate or professional degree	49,947

Table 51 – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months
Data Source: 2007-2011 ACS

Based on the Business Activity table above, what are the major employment sectors within your jurisdiction?

The major employment sectors in Las Cruces are Education and Health Care Services, Arts, Entertainment and Accommodations, and Retail Trade.

Describe the workforce and infrastructure needs of the business community:

Key informants and staff from the Las Cruces Economic Development Department state a lack of jobs, especially those paying a living wage, as the biggest workforce and infrastructure need of the business community in Las Cruces. The City is focusing on growing locally owned businesses to take advantage of local skills and talent.

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Describe any major changes that may have an economic impact, such as planned local or regional public or private sector investments or initiatives that have affected or may affect job and business growth opportunities during the planning period. Describe any needs for workforce development, business support or infrastructure these changes may create.

The City is promoting incentive programs such as Wage Plus to encourage employee training and development in the City. The City plans to start a business incubator program to encourage and support new businesses started in Las Cruces that can increase local employment. The City is also planning to promote the area to the film industry and grow the capacity of Las Cruces to attract film projects to Las Cruces.

How do the skills and education of the current workforce correspond to employment opportunities in the jurisdiction?

There is a lack of higher-paying jobs for skilled labor in Las Cruces.

Describe any current workforce training initiatives, including those supported by Workforce Investment Boards, community colleges and other organizations. Describe how these efforts will support the jurisdiction's Consolidated Plan.

The City of Las Cruces objectives under the Strategic Plan have been developed in order to primarily promote job creation, whether through the Local Economic Development Act (LEDA) through funds that the City makes available to specific businesses to create a mutually agreed upon number of jobs over a predetermined period of time, through collaborative activities with Economic Development Partners like the Greater Las Cruces Chamber, the Hispanic Chamber or Green Chamber as well as Dona Ana County and the Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance or through other means.

Other means would include, but not be limited to working with ED Partners to promote New Mexico State and federal incentive programs, i.e. Wage Plus and JTIP, working with internal partners across City departments such as Community Development in streamlining the City's Business Registration process and working with local educational institutions on workforce development.

All of the aforementioned activities contribute to a more stable and growing community and either directly or indirectly should represent an important element in the City Consolidated Plan.

Does your jurisdiction participate in a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)?

No.

If so, what economic development initiatives are you undertaking that may be coordinated with the Consolidated Plan? If not, describe other local/regional plans or initiatives that impact economic growth.

See above. The City of Las Cruces adopted a Sustainability Action Plan in 2014. The Sustainability Program works to help the City balance economic vitality, environmental health and social responsibility, taking into

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consideration the impact of local government decisions on the economy, society and the environment. The office is exploring ideas such as Green Job Training to train the local workforce and promote green development and technologies. Concerns about the local housing stock, much of which is older cinder block construction with little or no insulation, could lead to a focus on housing weatherization and job creation.

The City of Las Cruces also joined the STAR Communities network in 2014. The Sustainability Tools for Assessing and Rating Communities measure and report progress towards sustainability programs in many areas, including: the Built Environment, Climate and Energy, Economy and Jobs, Education, Arts and Community, Health and Safety, Natural Systems and Innovation and Process Credits. Local actions include looking at infill development, increasing the local minimum wage to help working families afford living expenses, supporting business districts to increase local economic activity, and providing focused support, resources, and services to young entrepreneurial companies through business incubators.

MA-50 Needs and Market Analysis Discussion

Are there areas where households with multiple housing problems are concentrated? (include a definition of "concentration")

Las Cruces considers there to be a “concentration” of a certain population group or characteristic if that group or characteristic is found to be at least 40% more than in other areas, following the definition found in the new AFFH analysis of poverty concentrations for racially/ethnically-concentrated areas of poverty (R/ECAPs).

CSI used CDP Maps data to review housing problems by census tract, and compared the rate of each housing problem to the rate for all households in Las Cruces. This analysis revealed that there are eight census tracks within Las Cruces with concentrations of households with any of the four housing problems. These tracts are listed below.

Households with One of Four Housing Problems

% of households with 1 of 4 housing unit problems	Tract
45.05%	35013000800
53.68%	35013000103
90.00%	35013001307
43.54%	35013000201
46.67%	35013000401
45.52%	35013000202
44.20%	35013000700
41.03%	35013001304
49.21%	35013001104
54.01%	35013000900

Source: CPD Maps

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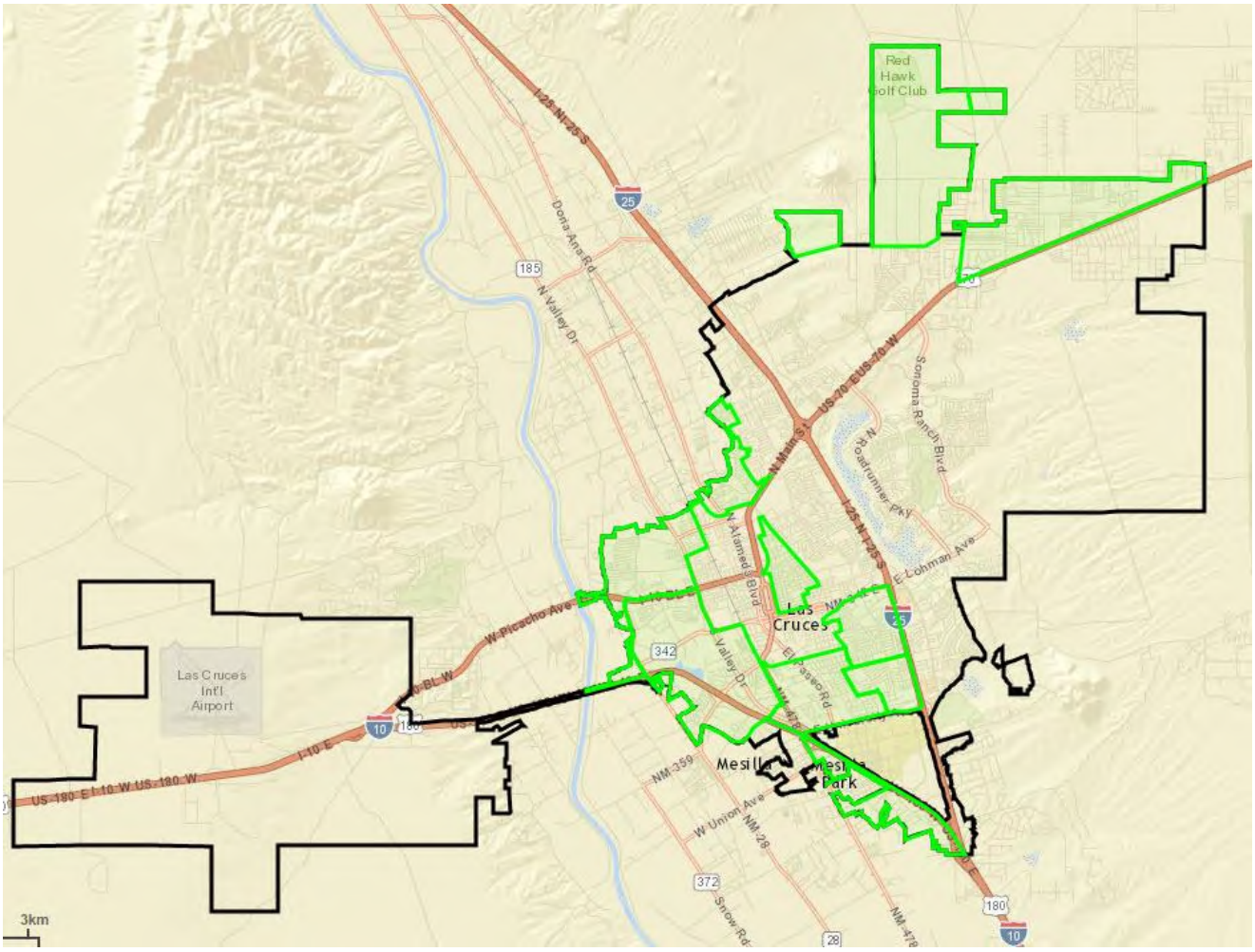
Households with One of Four Housing Problems



Source: CPD Maps

According to the CPD Maps data system, there are no census tracts with concentrations of 40% or more households with severe housing problems, which would include severe cost burden of 50% or more.

Are there any areas in the jurisdiction where racial or ethnic minorities or low-income families are concentrated? (include a definition of "concentration")

The following map shows the concentrations of Hispanic households in Las Cruces. City-wide, 57% of households are Hispanic or Latino. It is not surprising, then, to see that in 65% of census tracts within the City (17 of 26), more than 50% of residents are Hispanic or Latino. Las Cruces considers there to be a "concentration" of racial or ethnic minorities if there is more than 50% of one group in a census group. This is also consistent with the definition found in the new AFFH analysis of poverty concentrations for racially/ethnically-concentrated areas of poverty (R/ECAPs).

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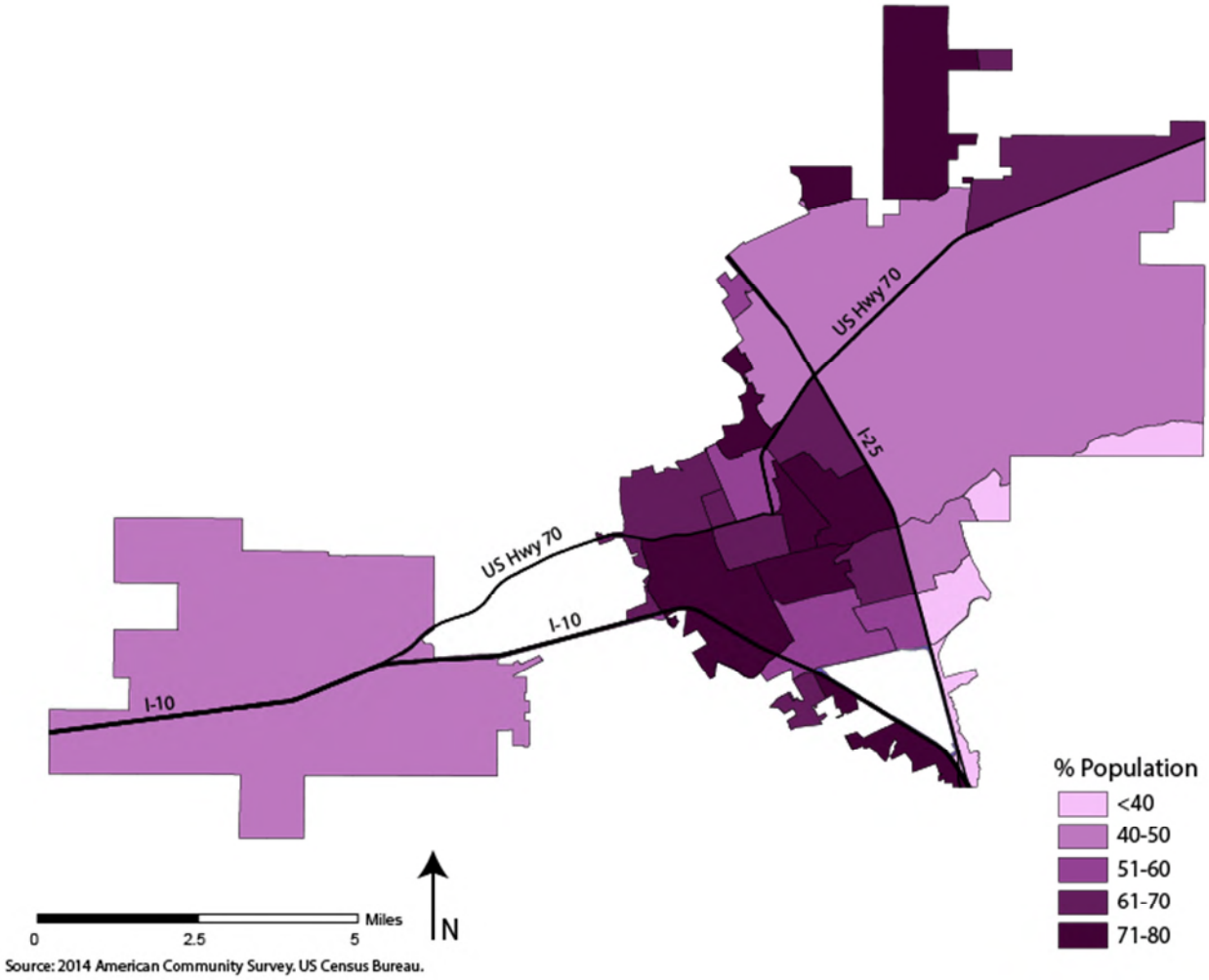

While many census tracts have more than 50% Hispanic population, there are just two that meet the R/ECAP threshold of 50% non-white and having a poverty rate of 40% or more, or three times or more the average tract poverty rate for the Las Cruces MSA. HUD has recently developed a data and mapping tool that identifies these "R/ECAP" census tracts based on 2010 census data. In Las Cruces, there are two R/ECAP tracts – 4.01 and 6.00. Tract 10.00 is not within the City limits and is owned by New Mexico State University.

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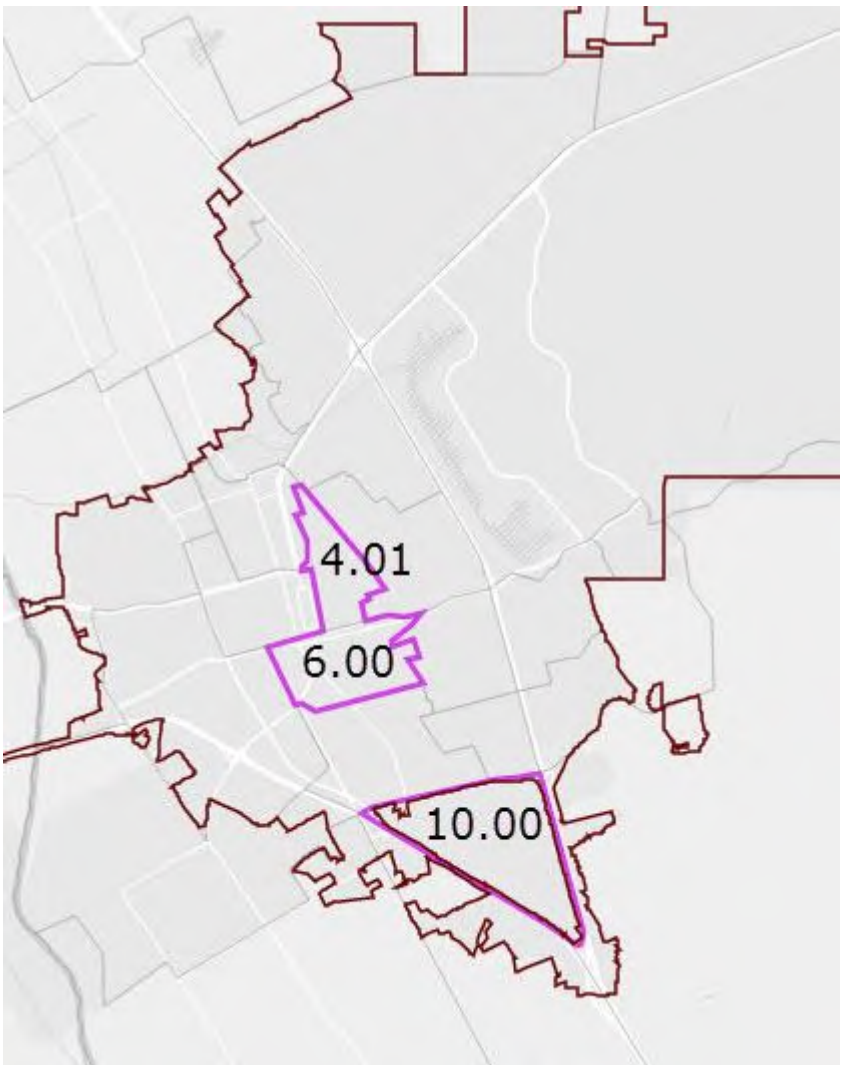

HUD AFFHT Mapping System R/ECAP Census Tract Map

What are the characteristics of the market in these areas/neighborhoods?

According to the HUD AFFHT data system, 60.4% of households in these tracts were Hispanic in 2010, and 48% were families with children. Tracts 4.01 and 6.00 are near downtown, and in older Las Cruces neighborhoods. 2014 American Community Survey data shows that in tract 4.01, 80%, in 6.00 and in 6.00 76% are Hispanic/Latino.

Are there any community assets in these areas/neighborhoods?

Yes, tracts 4.01 and 6.00 are in central Las Cruces, and are close to many services and amenities. These tracts are also located near more public transportation than other areas of the City.

Are there other strategic opportunities in any of these areas?

Yes, there are opportunities for revitalization, housing rehabilitation and housing construction in Central Las Cruces, near the University, on vacant lots in existing subdivisions, and on in-fill sites within the central City.

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Strategic Plan

SP-05 Overview

Strategic Plan Overview

The City of Las Cruces Strategic Plan identifies the priority needs in the City, and describes strategies the City will undertake to serve the priority needs. The sections of the Strategic Plan include: Geographic Priorities; Priority Needs; Influence of Market Conditions; Anticipated Resources; Institutional Delivery System; Goals; Public Housing; Barriers to Affordable Housing and strategies to ameliorate those barriers; Homeless Strategy; Lead Based Paint Hazards; and an Anti-Poverty Strategy.

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SP-10 Geographic Priorities – 91.215 (a)(1)

Geographic Area

Table 52 - Geographic Priority Areas

General Allocation Priorities

Describe the basis for allocating investments geographically within the jurisdiction (or within the EMSA for HOPWA)

The City of Las Cruces does not target funding or programs to specific geographies within the City. Funds are allocated based upon need, priorities, and goals.

The City's primary method of allocating CDBG and HOME dollars is to assist low to moderate income and special needs populations. To the extent that specific geographic areas have greater needs than other areas in the City and/or if service and housing organizations are located in certain areas, they will receive a larger proportionate share of the funding. For sidewalk improvements, the City will focus on the geographic areas where sidewalks, curb cuts and related ADA accommodations are lacking. Finally, to provide affordable rental and single family housing, the City's dollars will be allocated in areas of new development where affordable housing is lacking and/or infill areas that can accommodate affordable housing

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SP-25 Priority Needs - 91.215(a)(2)

Priority Needs

Table 53 – Priority Needs Summary

1	**Priority Need Name**	Reduce Homelessness
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Large Families Families with Children Elderly Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse Persons with HIV/AIDS Unaccompanied Youth
	Geographic Areas Affected	Within Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	Reduce Homelessness Stabilize Impoverished Households Increase Affordability of Rental Housing Economic Opportunity/Public Improvements
	Description	The Public Participation process used in the formulation of this 2016-2021 Consolidated Plan highlighted the need to increase resources available for individuals and households experiencing homelessness and the threat of homelessness. The City works with Continuum of Care partners and other charitable agencies in the community to provide assistance to those facing episodic homelessness, chronic homeless and those facing the threat of homelessness. Presently it is challenging for households in this situation to obtain stable decent housing and the accompanying needed supportive services to maintain stability in an independent living environment. The City has had to resort to supporting an overflow tent village to provide a basic level of safety and sanitary living conditions for those who are unable to obtain stable permanent housing through the homeless support system in the community.

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	Basis for Relative Priority	Those who are experiencing repeated episodes of homelessness are the hardest to house in the City of Las Cruces. The City has focused efforts on addressing the needs of homeless veterans and has achieved a functional elimination of veteran homelessness. This effort has succeeded because the provision of permanent housing options has been an effective way to reduce the number of homeless veterans presently residing in the community. A similar approach which places a high priority on other chronic homeless populations should also produce the outcome of a reduction in the number chronic homeless households. Because of economic conditions and the lack of decent, affordable housing, there are other households which face a first or second experience of losing their housing. If those households can be rapidly rehoused, the impact of living on the streets or the experience of the emergency shelter system can be minimized on that household. Often a small amount of assistance to help a household stay in their present housing is a cost effective preventive measure to keep that family in a stable living situation. Through emergency rent payments. mortgage payment or payment of utility bills, those households can avoid the need to start over on the housing ladder.
2	**Priority Need Name**	More affordable, accessible rental housing
	Priority Level	High

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	Population	Extremely Low Low Large Families Families with Children Elderly Chronic Homelessness Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse Veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions Persons with HIV/AIDS and Their Families Victims of Domestic Violence
	Geographic Areas Affected	Within Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	Reduce Homelessness Increase Affordability of Rental Housing Preserve Existing Affordable Housing
	Description	The needs assessment and market analysis section of this plan provides the statistical information identifying the need to expand the supply of affordable rentals in Las Cruces. The Public Participation process used to prepare the plan included key informant interviews and community meetings which gave participants the opportunity to identify priority housing and community development needs. There was nearly universal consensus that the single most pressing housing problem in Las Cruces is lack of affordable, accessible rental housing both for low-income working populations as well as special needs populations. The rents for market rate units, are exceeding the incomes of those who can least afford decent housing.

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	Basis for Relative Priority	The data and community input have listed this need as a high priority for this plan. The needs analysis and market assessment sections of this plan have documented the number of households with housing problems.
3	**Priority Need Name**	Preserve Existing Affordable Housing
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions Persons with HIV/AIDS and Their Families
	Geographic Areas Affected	Within Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	Preserve Existing Affordable Housing Provide Affordable Home Ownership Options
	Description	A substantial portion of the single family and rental homes in Las Cruces are over 30 years old. They often need basic health and safety improvements to keep the older housing stock viable. Many homes need expensive system replacement such as new roofs, mechanical systems, plumbing, and electrical systems. Additionally, many homes lack energy efficiency improvements such as insulation, energy star heating and water heating systems, thermal windows, and weather stripping that will lower operating costs and make the homes more affordable to residents with limited income. The homes/rentals occupied by elderly and persons with disabilities are often in need of accessibility improvements so that the residents can maintain a higher level of independence and not be forced to move to an institutional setting.

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	Basis for Relative Priority	Preserving the existing housing stock is critical for addressing the high demand for affordable housing in Las Cruces. Without ongoing rehabilitation, the existing housing stock will fall into disrepair and become candidates for demolition. It is far more cost effective to maintain the already built housing than it is to expend the necessary dollars to replace dilapidated units with new homes. The Market Analysis section of this plan documents the number of older homes potentially in need of rehabilitation. The Public Participation process provided the opportunity for citizens to comment on the need to preserve the housing stock and through the community meetings, preservation was listed as a high priority by community members.
4	**Priority Need Name**	Affordable Home Ownership Options
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Persons with HIV/AIDS and Their Families
	Geographic Areas Affected	Within Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	Preserve Existing Affordable Housing Provide Affordable Home Ownership Options
	Description	While the options for homeownership in Las Cruces are becoming limited, for low and moderate income households, there still are units that are priced at a level to households above the 70% AMI. Often, households with good credit and steady employment have not been able to save the funds needed for down payments. Additionally, there are opportunities to bring new, smaller units online that can be priced at a level affordable to first time buyers. Attached condos in new developments can be affordable if the necessary development concessions and homebuyer support resources are in place.

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	Basis for Relative Priority	While the price of for sale housing in Las Cruces is rising, there are still opportunities for qualified households to purchase a home. The acquisition and rehabilitation of older homes can preserve those units and through favorable financing, younger families will have the ability to own a home. While demand is great for affordable rentals, some qualified renter households could move to homeownership and free up a rental in the process. Low mortgage rates and the availability of down payment assistance can bring the existing housing stock into the realm of affordability for first time buyers.
5	**Priority Need Name**	Improve Public Facilities/Infrastructure
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions Persons with HIV/AIDS and Their Families Victims of Domestic Violence Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Within jurisdiction

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	Associated Goals	Economic Opportunity/Public Improvements
	Description	The social safety net in Las Cruces is composed of a combination of City agencies and community based organizations that supply emergency services as well as long term supportive services. Often the charitable groups do not have the resources to secure and maintain adequate facilities for their service activities. Critical health and safety improvements to community based facilities is an ongoing challenge. The City partners with charitable agencies in ensuring that the facilities used by the public meet a minimum standard of safety and functionality. In addition, there are several low-income neighborhoods that lack basic infrastructure improvements such as sidewalks, curb and gutter, drainage and water and sewer improvements.
	Basis for Relative Priority	Making sure that the Community Safety Net has a minimally functional platform from which to deliver services is an important component of this plan. Both through the needs assessment section of this plan and the Public Participation process including the community survey, residents and City officials believe that increased efforts need to be made to improve the economy so that citizens have access to decent paying jobs that will support the basic needs of the households in Las Cruces. Supporting existing businesses and making resources available for them to expand their businesses and also have an improved public infrastructure will stimulate economic growth in the community. This need is seen as a high priority in order to stimulate the stagnant local economy.
6	**Priority Need Name**	Expand Economic Opportunity
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Within jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	Economic Opportunity/Public Improvements

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	Description	Las Cruces is still in the recovery mode after the Great Recession. The needs analysis section of this plan highlights percentage of households with lower incomes. Employment and wages are in a static trend which contributes to the levels of poverty and also influences the number of households with housing problems. Affordability is the single largest category of housing problem. The City has formed an economic development department to lead the effort to enhance the economy and ultimately employment. The City will work with existing businesses and employers to provide support for business expansion and physical improvements to foster greater economic activity and job growth. The City will work with military and defense related employers to maximize employment opportunities in that sector of the economy which typically pays higher wages than some other service related sectors. The City will coordinate its economic development effort with other agencies which are providing job training and placement services and agencies which are operating youth employment programs.

SP-30 Influence of Market Conditions – 91.215 (b)

Influence of Market Conditions

Affordable Housing Type	Market Characteristics That Will Influence
The use of funds available for housing type	
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	Demand outstrips the supply of subsidized, accessible affordable rental units. TBRA will provide a bridge for those seeking a HCV or a Public Housing unit but can't obtain one because of the long waiting lists.
TBRA for Non-Homeless Special Needs	Special needs households often have poverty level incomes and because of long waiting lists for assisted housing, TBRA can provide an interim term of two years while those households move up on PHA waiting lists.
New Unit Production	For the past several years there has been no production of affordable rental units in Las Cruces. The numbers of rent burdened households indicate the tight market for affordable rentals. With the short supply of affordable units in the Las Cruces rental market, any new affordable units constructed that are targeted to the lowest income will be absorbed rapidly in the current market.
Rehabilitation	A significant number of homes in Las Cruces are more than thirty years old. Many of these homes are occupied by households with limited incomes that prevent them from making the necessary health and safety improvements to

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	antiquated systems. With upgrades to basic systems, these homes will remain livable and will also represent affordable purchase opportunities for future first homebuyers.

Table 54 – Influence of Market Conditions

SP-35 Anticipated Resources - 91.215(a)(4), 91.220(c)(1,2)

Introduction

HOME Investment Partnerships grant program has flexibility to assist in housing programs; participating jurisdictions decide how to use money for: Acquisition, Rehabilitation, New Construction, Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA), Home Buyer Assistance, Planning, and Operating Assistance for CHDOs. For 2016, the City anticipates it will receive $307,598 of HOME Entitlement funds. The City anticipates receiving approximately $30,000 in estimated program income from previous Home Rehabilitation projects that are paying off their mortgages or other HOME projects (rental properties) with loans that require repayment to the City's HOME Program, and $1,500 in Prior Year Resources. This will give the City's 2016 HOME Program a full funding amount of $339,098.

With the CDBG program funds may be used to address neighborhood revitalization, economic development, provisions of improved community facilities, prevention and elimination of slums or blight, and activities aiding low and moderate income families. For 2016, the City anticipates receiving $773,323 of CDBG Entitlement funds and an anticipated $35,000 of program income from houses which have been previously rehabilitated, and $20,000 in Prior Year Resources. This will give the City's 2016 CDBG Program a full funding amount of $828,328.

The City has an Affordable Housing Land Bank and Housing Trust Fund with approximately $500,000 in funds available for implementation in accordance with the City's Affordable Housing General Oversight Ordinance once the City has a written Affordable Housing Plan approved by MFA. Other efforts include an impact fee waiver program for developers of affordable housing in the City of Las Cruces (approximately $15,000 in value).

The City is the grantee for a Continuum of Care Supportive Housing Grant in the amount of $70,000 which is allocated to the Mesilla Valley Community of Hope to provide Permanent Supportive Housing in Las Cruces.

Las Cruces has a local Health and Human Services funding source for health related public services. The annual amount available for allocation is $300,000.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Reminder of ConPlan $	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: $	Program Income: $	Prior Year Resources: $	Total: $		
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	773,328	35,000	20,000	828,328	3,093,312	CDBG funding is used for a variety of programs and projects in Las Cruces. Prior Year Resources are excess program income.
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership TBRA	307,598	30,000	1,500	339,098	1,230,392	HOME funds are used for both homeownership and rental housing projects and programs. Prior Year Resources is excess program income.
Other	public -	TBRA	70,000	0	0	70,000	70,000	These funds are used to provide 11

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	federal							housing first vouchers for the Mesilla Valley Community of Hope.
Other	public - local	Acquisition Housing Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership	50,000	0	0	50,000	200,000	The Affordable Housing Trust Fund dollars are used for affordable housing related projects.
Other	public - local	Housing	15,000	0	0	15,000	60,000	The City providers impact fee waivers for specific projects.
Other	public - local	Public Services	300,000	0	0	300,000	1,200,000	These funds are used to provide public service funding to a variety of human service organizations working in Las Cruces.

Table 55 - Anticipated Resources

Explain how federal funds will leverage those additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements will be satisfied

HOME and CDBG funds will leverage additional resources including Low Income Housing Tax Credit funding (multi-family years) , private investors, private donations, and local funds.

The HOME funds generally require a match of local monies; however, through CPD Notice 07-05, issued July 11, 2007 and expiring July 11, 2008, the City's HOME match percentage had been waived or reduced by 100% from PY 2004 through PY 2014. The HOME funds normally require a 25% match; however, due to federal guidelines for HOME match waivers, the City of Las Cruces currently receives a 50% reduction in match liability waiver for Federal fiscal year 2015 and we assume there will be a match reduction for 2016 as well. Match requirements will be satisfied through

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various sources to including TBRA supportive services, local loan amounts in conjunction with MFA Mortgage Revenue Bond Program, volunteer labor and sweat equity, amounts discounted from sales prices of land to value amount for lot purchases for affordable housing development and other non-federal sources.

If appropriate, describe publically owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that may be used to address the needs identified in the plan

Public owned land and facilities are used for homeless services including, medical, child care, homeless day shelter, food services, meals, and victims of domestic violence emergency shelter and services. Additionally public owned land or the proceeds from the sale of public owned land may be used for the development of affordable housing.

Discussion

1. Due to limited funding, the City of Las Cruces will require that no more than $200,000 of HOME funds, starting in Program Year 2016, may be dedicated to a single project (but not necessarily one single agency in one program year). Should the dedication or financing of a land bank and trust fund be established, the City may evaluate and update this policy as appropriate

2. Due to limited HOME funding each program year, the City of Las Cruces will alternate the priority between dedicating of HOME funds between affordable rental housing development and single family homeownership developments. Starting in Program Year 2017, funding will be priority to affordable rental housing development and continue in odd numbered years (2019). Single family housing development will received priority in even numbered program years (2016, 2018, 2020). However, given the number, type, and quality of applications for funding and any undedicated funds available, HOME funds may be provided to the other priority in any given year.

The City of Las Cruces requires that no more than 50% of CDBG funds may be dedicated to infrastructure, public facilities, or economic development activities that result in capital or facility improvements and that the remaining 50% or more may come from other sources. Other sources can include other federal, state, local, and private funds. For improvements made to City-owned facilities that are occupied by non-city operated programs, the other 50% must come from other federal, state and private (non-City of Las Cruces) sources or will provide full funding from CDBG funds with 50% of the funding provided as loan, resulting in program income upon payback.

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SP-40 Institutional Delivery Structure – 91.215(k)

Explain the institutional structure through which the jurisdiction will carry out its consolidated plan including private industry, non-profit organizations, and public institutions.

Responsible Entity	Responsible Entity Type	Role	Geographic Area Served
Las Cruces Housing and Neighborhood Service-Community Development	Local Government	Lead coordinating and administrative agency for housing, homeless and supportive service agencies serving the jurisdiction	Las Cruces jurisdictional boundaries.

Table 56 - Institutional Delivery Structure

Assess of Strengths and Gaps in the Institutional Delivery System

The local government and the agencies that serve homeless and low-income populations have a well-coordinated service and housing delivery system. The City of Las Cruces Community Development Department is lead agency for providing planning, coordination, and financial assistance to the agencies delivering services in Las Cruces. This office also serves as the administrative lead for the City's Continuum of Care coordination. Housing programs and services in the City and to some extent, in Dona Ana County, are designed to meet the specific needs of persons experiencing homelessness, persons at risk of becoming homeless, special needs populations including elderly and those with physical and mental health challenges. The City works closely with an array of housing providers which address housing needs of homeless persons, the disabled, the elderly, and low-income households. The City supports the efforts of these agencies through the use of federal and local funds that are made available for program support. The City Community Development Department also provides technical assistance and performance evaluation for the agencies that receive City support. With the level of resources that are available in the community, the City does an effective job of leading the effort to have a comprehensive array of services available to support low income populations.

Because Las Cruces is experiencing a stagnant economy and the housing market is stressed to provide housing for households with limited ability to pay for that housing, there is pressure on affordable housing providers to expand the supply of needed affordable rental housing for both special populations and low-income households. Presently, the affordable housing production has not kept up with the existing demand let alone future demand. This is attributable to several factors: non-profit housing developers have not been able to accrue the necessary pre-development funds to initiate new development; private affordable developers have been reluctant to initiate new projects because they don't feel that Las Cruces projects can compete successfully with proposals in other areas of the State because the QAP plan adopted by the State Mortgage Finance Authority provides bonus points to communities with lower vacancy rates; there is no CHDO focused on rental housing development currently; non-profit entities are reluctant to risk up-front expenditures to bring new projects forward.

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Availability of services targeted to homeless persons and persons with HIV and mainstream services

Homelessness Prevention Services	Available in the Community	Targeted to Homeless	Targeted to People with HIV
Homelessness Prevention Services			
Counseling/Advocacy	x	x	x
Legal Assistance	x	x	x
Mortgage Assistance	x		x
Rental Assistance	x	x	x
Utilities Assistance	x	x	x

Street Outreach Services			
Law Enforcement	x	x	x
Mobile Clinics	x		
Other Street Outreach Services	x	x	x

Supportive Services			
Alcohol & Drug Abuse	x	x	x
Child Care	x	x	x
Education	x	x	
Employment and Employment Training	x	x	x
Healthcare	x	x	x
HIV/AIDS	x	x	x
Life Skills	x	x	x
Mental Health Counseling	x	x	x
Transportation	x	x	x

Other			
Early Childhood Education	x	x	x
Nutritional Support	x	x	x

Table 57 - Homeless Prevention Services Summary

Describe how the service delivery system including, but not limited to, the services listed above to meet the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth)

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Through CDBG and non-HUD funding, the City provides public services grants to non-profits who assist in homeless prevention and homeless services to extremely low-income individuals and families. The City continues oversight and technical assistance to affordable rental partners for affordable rental housing. The Families and Youth Inc. (FYI) transitional living center, partially funded with previous years HOME funds, provides transitional housing for young adults including homeless transitioning out of foster care or corrections programs.

Coordinated efforts to provide funding and facilities to the non-profit agencies providing housing and needed services to the homeless population in the City of Las Cruces are on-going. City staff participates in regularly scheduled meetings to discuss facilities provided by the City and services to the homeless population. Opportunities to increase and improve services and address needs to the homeless population are discussed at various levels. On-going technical assistance is provided to the various agencies providing services to the homeless.

Describe the strengths and gaps of the service delivery system for special needs population and persons experiencing homelessness, including, but not limited to, the services listed above

While Las Cruces residents benefit from an institutional structure which can provide needed supportive services to those who need them, the continued pressure on resources from both the federal and local level are making it difficult to respond to increased demand. All of the service delivery agencies in Las Cruces report that they see increased demand for their services. To some extent, the ability to expand the service delivery system is dependent on greater resource availability. This is a challenging situation because the fiscal pressures on local government make it difficult for local government to simply allocate more money out of strapped local revenues.

The need for new supportive housing developments that addresses the needs of special populations and those experiencing homelessness is critical. The two fundamental barriers to addressing this need is greater development capacity among housing providers and the necessary resources both to front end the housing development cost and also to expand the capacity of the service providers to be able to address the need for housing with services.

Provide a summary of the strategy for overcoming gaps in the institutional structure and service delivery system for carrying out a strategy to address priority needs

The City of Las Cruces plans to approach this challenging situation through a number of strategic actions. The City will work with affordable housing developers to help them acquire the necessary capacity to design development proposals that can successfully work their way through the development review system and also to acquire the necessary predevelopment funds that will allow them to gain site control of land parcels as well as to do the necessary engineering and architectural studies that will produce quality development plans that will be embraced by the community.

The City plans to recruit the services of various technical assistance providers to assist affordable housing agencies in ramping up their ability to move into the development mode. The City has opened discussions with the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority to identify opportunities for collaboration and to learn how the City can assist tax credit developers in successfully competing for LIHTC allocations. The City realizes that

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without the LIHTC resource, most rental development plans will not be feasible. The City's federal allocations of HOME and CDBG funds are not adequate to build the needed equity ratios to build low rent housing that is needed by special needs populations.

The City will work with the New Mexico MFA to seek solutions to the challenging vacancy rate data that the MFA collects for New Mexico communities. Presently the rent surveys used to identify vacancy rates in the Las Cruces area produce negative outcomes for truly determining the need for affordable rental housing in Las Cruces. Rental demand in Las Cruces is significantly impacted by occupancy levels of students during the academic year. The most recent survey commissioned by MFA surveyed the market during May after students have left the community at the end of the academic year. These rent surveys identify a surplus of market rate rental housing, particularly among two bedroom-two bath units. It appears that those units are overbuilt in Las Cruces. But the households most in need of housing cannot afford to pay the market rate rent for those type of units. There are both profit motivated and non-profit developers who have the capacity to bring more units online if they can be assured that LIHTC applications would be competitive with other communities in New Mexico. The City will pursue a strategy of working with MFA to ensure that whatever the City can do in changing regulations, plans, or adding City incentives that will create a competitive environment for Las Cruces LIHTC developers. Las Cruces will formulate this approach through its New Mexico sanctioned Affordable Housing Plan that is a pre-requisite for obtaining the legal sanction of providing public resources for affordable housing support by local governments in New Mexico.

The City will continue to work with supportive service providers to enhance service delivery models and expand the services available to underserved households. Some agencies are stretched to the limit of their capacity to expand services to those in need. Through a combined strategy of instituting efficiencies and ensuring that there are not duplications in the service delivery system, the City hopes to extend the existing resource base to more residents who are challenged by poverty and special challenges.

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SP-45 Goals Summary – 91.215(a)(4)

	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Reduce Homelessness	2016	2021	Affordable Housing Homeless	Citywide	Reduce Homelessness More affordable, accessible rental housing	CDBG: $250,000 Health Related Public Services: $45,000 Permanent Supportive Housing Grant: $300,000	Homelessness Prevention: 4000 Persons Assisted Housing for Homeless added: 55 Household Housing Units
2	Stabilize impoverished households	2016	2021	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide	Reduce Homelessness	CDBG: $300,000 Health Related Public Services: $1,000,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 6000 Persons Assisted

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	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
3	Increase affordability of rental housing	2016	2021	Affordable Housing Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs	Citywide	Reduce Homelessness More affordable, accessible rental housing	HOME: $450,000 Affordable Housing Trust Fund: $200,000	Rental units constructed: 150 Household Housing Units Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing: 50 Households Assisted
4	Preserve existing affordable housing	2016	2021	Affordable Housing Public Housing Non-Homeless Special Needs	Citywide	More affordable, accessible rental housing Preserve existing affordable housing Affordable home ownership options	CDBG: $1,500,000 HOME: $200,000 Affordable Housing Trust Fund: $500,000	Rental units rehabilitated: 25 Household Housing Units Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 70 Household Housing Units

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	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
5	Provide affordable home ownership options	2016	2021	Affordable Housing	Citywide	Preserve existing affordable housing Affordable home ownership options	CDBG: $200,000 HOME: $500,000 Affordable Housing Trust Fund: $500,000 General Fund Impact Fee Waivers: $75,000	Homeowner Housing Added: 70 Household Housing Units Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers: 10 Households Assisted
6	Economic opportunity/public improvements	2016	2021	Homeless Non-Homeless Special Needs Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide	Reduce Homelessness Improve public facilities/infrastructure expand economic opportunity	CDBG: $480,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 4000 Persons Assisted 2 Businesses assisted: Businesses Assisted

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Goals Summary Information

Table 58 – Goals Summary

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Goal Descriptions

1	**Priority Need Name**	Reduce Homelessness
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Large Families Families with Children Elderly Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse Persons with HIV/AIDS Unaccompanied Youth
	Geographic Areas Affected	Within Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	Reduce Homelessness Stabilize Impoverished Households Increase Affordability of Rental Housing Economic Opportunity/Public Improvements

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	Description	The Public Participation process used in the formulation of this 2016-2021 Consolidated Plan highlighted the need to increase resources available for individuals and households experiencing homelessness and the threat of homelessness. The City works with Continuum of care partners and other charitable agencies in the community to provide assistance to those facing episodic homelessness, chronic homeless and those facing the threat of homelessness. Presently it is challenging for households in this situation to obtain stable decent housing and the accompanying needed supportive services to maintain stability in an independent living environment. The City has had to resort to supporting an overflow tent village to provide a basic level of safety and sanitary living conditions for those who are unable to obtain stable permanent housing through the homeless support system in the community.
	Basis for Relative Priority	Those who are experiencing repeated episodes of homelessness are the hardest to house in the City of Las Cruces. The City has focused efforts on addressing the needs of homeless veterans and has achieved a functional elimination of veteran homelessness. This effort has succeeded because the provision of permanent housing options has been an effective way to reduce the number of homeless veterans presently residing in the community. A similar approach which places a high priority on other chronic homeless populations should also produce the outcome of a reduction in the number chronic homeless households. Because of economic conditions and the lack of decent, affordable housing, there are other households which face a first or second experience of losing their housing. If those households can be rapidly rehouse, the impact of living on the streets or the experience of the emergency shelter system can be minimized on that household. Often a small amount of assistance to help a household stay in their present housing is a cost effective preventive measure to keep that family in a stable living situation. Through emergency rent payments, mortgage payment or payment of utility bills, those households can avoid the need to start over on the housing ladder.
2	**Priority Need Name**	More Affordable, Accessible Rental Housing

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	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Large Families Families with Children Elderly Chronic Homelessness Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions Persons with HIV/AIDS and Their Families Victims of Domestic Violence
	Geographic Areas Affected	Within jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	Reduce Homelessness Increase Affordability of Rental Housing Preserve Existing Affordable Housing

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	Description	The needs assessment and market analysis section of this plan provides the statistical information identifying the need to expand the supply of affordable rentals in Las Cruces. The Public Participation process used to prepare the plan included key informant interviews and community meetings which gave participants the opportunity to identify priority housing and community development needs. There was nearly universal consensus that the single most pressing housing problem in Las Cruces is lack of affordable, accessible rental housing both for low-income working populations as well as special needs populations. The rents for market rate units, are exceeding the incomes of those who can least afford decent housing.
	Basis for Relative Priority	The data and community input have listed this need as a high priority for this plan. The needs analysis and market assessment sections of this plan have documented the number of households with housing problems.
3	**Priority Need Name**	Preserve Existing Affordable Housing
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions Persons with HIV/AIDS and Their Families

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	Geographic Areas Affected	Within Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	Preserve Existing Affordable Housing Provide Affordable Home Ownership Options
	Description	A substantial portion of the single family and rental homes in Las Cruces are over 30 years old. They often need basic health and safety improvements to keep the older housing stock viable. Many homes need expensive system replacement such as new roofs, mechanical systems, plumbing and electrical systems. Additionally, many homes lack energy efficiency improvements such as insulation, energy star heating and water heating systems, thermal windows and weather stripping that will lower operating costs and make the homes more affordable to residents with limited income. The homes/rentals occupied by elderly and persons with disabilities are often in need of accessibility improvements so that the residents can maintain a higher level of independence and not be forced to move to an institutional setting.
	Basis for Relative Priority	Preserving the existing housing stock is critical for addressing the high demand for affordable housing in Las Cruces. Without ongoing rehabilitation, the existing housing stock will fall into disrepair and become candidates for demolition. It is far more cost effective to maintain the already built housing than it is to expend the necessary dollars to replace dilapidated units with new homes. The Market Analysis section of this plan documents the number of older homes potentially in need of rehabilitation. The Public Participation process provided the opportunity for citizens to comment on the need to preserve the housing stock and through the community meetings, preservation was listed as a high priority by community members.
4	**Priority Need Name**	Affordable Home Ownership Options
	Priority Level	High

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	Population	Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Persons with HIV/AIDS and Their Families
	Geographic Areas Affected	Within Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	Preserve Existing Affordable Housing Provide Affordable Home Ownership Options
	Description	While the options for homeownership in Las Cruces are becoming limited, for low and moderate income households, there still are units that are priced at a level to households above the 70% AMI. Often households with good credit and steady employment have not been able to save the funds needed for down payments. Additionally, there are opportunities to bring new, smaller units online that can be priced at a level affordable to first time buyers. Attached condos in new developments can be affordable if the necessary development concessions and homebuyer support resources are in place.
	Basis for Relative Priority	While the price of for sale housing in Las Cruces is rising, there are still opportunities for qualified households to purchase a home. The acquisition and rehabilitation of older homes can preserve those units and through favorable financing, younger families will have the ability to own a home. While demand is great for affordable rentals, some qualified renter households could move to homeownership and free up a rental in the process. Low mortgage rates and the availability of down payment assistance can bring the existing housing stock into the realm of affordability for first time buyers.

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5	**Priority Need Name**	Improve public facilities/infrastructure
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Large Families Families with Children Elderly Public Housing Residents Chronic Homelessness Individuals Families with Children Mentally Ill Chronic Substance Abuse veterans Persons with HIV/AIDS Victims of Domestic Violence Unaccompanied Youth Elderly Frail Elderly Persons with Mental Disabilities Persons with Physical Disabilities Persons with Developmental Disabilities Persons with Alcohol or Other Addictions Persons with HIV/AIDS and Their Families Victims of Domestic Violence Non-housing Community Development
	Geographic Areas Affected	Within Jurisdiction

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	Associated Goals	Economic Opportunity/Public Improvements
	Description	The social safety net in Las Cruces is composed of a combination of City agencies and community based organizations that supply emergency services as well as long term supportive services. Often the charitable groups do not have the resources to secure and maintain adequate facilities for their service activities. Critical health and safety improvements to community based facilities is an ongoing challenge. The City partners with charitable agencies in ensuring that the facilities used by the public meet a minimum standard of safety and functionality. In addition, there are several low-income neighborhoods that lack basic infrastructure improvements such as sidewalks, curb and gutter, drainage and water and sewer improvements.
	Basis for Relative Priority	Making sure that the Community Safety Net has a minimally functional platform from which to deliver services is an important component of this plan. Both through the needs assessment section of this plan and the Public Participation process including the community survey, residents and City officials believe that increased efforts need to be made to improve the economy so that citizens have access to decent paying jobs that will support the basic needs of the households in Las Cruces. Supporting existing businesses and making resources available for them to expand their businesses and also have an improved public infrastructure will stimulate economic growth in the community. This need is seen as a high priority in order to stimulate the stagnant local economy.
6	**Priority Need Name**	Expand Economic Opportunity
	Priority Level	High
	Population	Extremely Low Low Moderate Non-housing Community Development

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	Geographic Areas Affected	Within Jurisdiction
	Associated Goals	Economic Opportunity/Public Improvements
	Description	Las Cruces is still in the recovery mode after the Great Recession. The needs analysis section of this plan highlights percentage of households with lower incomes. Employment and wages are in a static trend which contributes to the levels of poverty and also influences the number of households with housing problems. Affordability is the single largest category of housing problem. The City has formed an economic development department to lead the effort to enhance the economy and ultimately employment. The City will begin to explore working with existing businesses and employers to develop a program which could provide support for business expansion and physical improvements to foster greater economic activity and job growth.

Estimate the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families to whom the jurisdiction will provide affordable housing as defined by HOME 91.315(b)(2)

The City of Las Cruces estimates to assist 150 extremely low, low and moderate income renters with the construction of 150 new rental units over the next five years, and 25 rehabilitated rental units. The City plans to assist 50 extremely low-income homeless households with tenant based rental assistance. The City plans to assist 70 low-income and moderate income homeowners with housing rehabilitation, 70 new low and moderate income homebuyers with the construction of housing units for sale, and 10 low or moderate income homebuyers with direct homebuyer assistance.

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SP-50 Public Housing Accessibility and Involvement – 91.215(c)

Need to Increase the Number of Accessible Units (if Required by a Section 504 Voluntary Compliance Agreement)

The Mesilla Valley Public Housing Authority is not under a Section 504 Voluntary Compliance Agreement.

Activities to Increase Resident Involvements

The Housing Authority has a Resident Advisory Board, and resident council boards for each of the four public housing developments. The Housing Authority has worked with private and public developers of housing to partner on Low Income Housing Tax Credit developments to expand the inventory of affordable rental properties available in Las Cruces

Is the public housing agency designated as troubled under 24 CFR part 902?

No

Plan to remove the 'troubled' designation

NA

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SP-55 Barriers to affordable housing – 91.215(h)

Barriers to Affordable Housing

As part of this Consolidate Plan, the City has examined its policies and regulations governing the production of new affordable housing units. The City and its stakeholders completed an Affordable Housing Strategy (2009) which listed a number of policy and regulatory actions the City should adopt to stimulate the production of more affordable rentals and for sale units. The City has adopted many of those recommendations. The City has been very successful in working with affordable homeownership developers, particularly Habitat for Humanity and Tierra del Sol. The City has provided some impact fee waivers and other regulatory concessions to facilitate affordable homeownership in subdivisions in various parts of the City. The City will continue to provide support for creating affordable homeownership and affordable rentals.

As part of research for the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, an appendix document to the Consolidated Plan, Community Strategies Institute interviewed key informants, conducted surveys, made a general review of zoning and development regulations and facilitated community meetings to gain information about the policies and regulations the City has in place regarding housing and land use. The general consensus indicates that the City land use, zoning and development regulations do not impose unreasonable barriers to the expansion of the affordable housing supply in the City.

Insufficient monetary resources and developer capacity and motivation are the barriers which have limited the production of affordable rentals in the community. The City has created an affordable housing trust fund, but that fund is limited by the general constraints on the City General Fund which is the primary source of capital in the trust fund. For profit developers and non-profit affordable developers pointed out that the financial constraints are heavily influenced by the LIHTC Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) adopted by the Mortgage Finance Authority. The current QAP factors in its allocation formula, points based on rental vacancy rates in the community. The most recent survey used as a basis for the QAP was conducted in May of 2015. That survey showed a high vacancy rate, estimated to be over 6%. However, timing of the survey is not advantageous to Las Cruces because many college students leave the community for summer vacation and are not in residence. Another contributing factor in the higher than typical Las Cruces vacancy rate could be attributable to the overbuilding in market rate rentals for two bed room, two bath units. This high number of vacancies of one type of unit strongly contributed to the higher estimated vacancy rate.

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Developers indicated low motivation to expend the necessary pre-development funds to bring a project forth because they believe that a LIHTC project in Las Cruces wouldn't compete well for a tax credit allocation. Developers also pointed to other factors in the QAP that limits the competitiveness for Las Cruces affordable development proposals.

Strategy to Remove or Ameliorate the Barriers to Affordable Housing

In general, the City is using its Affordable Housing Strategy as a blueprint for addressing the factors that inhibit the production of more affordable housing. The City has established a land bank which does have a couple of parcels that could be developed. During this plan period the City intends to use those parcels for development and will provide the land at low cost for affordable development. As budgetary constraints, permit, the City will address the financing shortage by adding allocations from the General Fund into the housing trust fund. The City will open discussions with the Mortgage Finance Authority to develop a strategy for enhancing the competitiveness of Las Cruces LIHTC projects. The Community Development Department will work with affordable housing developers to provide resources and technical assistance in conjunction with national and regional technical assistance providers such as NeighborWorks, Enterprise Partners and the Mortgage Finance Authority.

The impact fee waiver program the City sponsors provides a limited number of fee waivers, due to budgetary constraints. The City will examine financing options for increasing the potential number of fee waivers it can grant in a fiscal year. Historically, the fee waivers have been applied to for sale units and the number granted annually would be insufficient to lower the development costs of a multifamily development with greater than 30 units.

The City has implemented a process for setting affordable unit production targets and measuring the progress made toward those goals. The output indicators included in this Consolidated Plan, form the basis tracking the desired progress at least for those activities which the City will partially support with federal funds.

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SP-60 Homelessness Strategy – 91.215(d)

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

City owned property is leased at no cost to an alliance of agencies that provide direct outreach services and case management, as well as child care, health care, food services, and a day shelter to homeless and near homeless which include veterans and chronically homeless individuals and families.

The City of Las Cruces is the grantee for a Permanent Supportive Housing/Shelter plus Care Grant awarded under the McKinney-Vento Act that provide rental housing subsidy and supportive services for homeless disabled persons and families. This program encourages participation in a self-sufficiency plan and assessment of individual client needs. The City provides tenant based rental assistance to victims of domestic violence exiting the emergency shelter. These clients are provided transitional housing rent subsidy and supportive services which includes an assessment of their individual needs in preparation for self-sufficiency.

Addressing the emergency and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City provides funding to non-profits that provide emergency or transitional housing to homeless persons and families. At least two agencies in the City have Continuum of Care Supportive Housing Grants awarded under the McKinney-Vento Act, as well as State funded Tenant Based Rental Assistance. The City has also provided previous years HOME funding to a Youth Transitional Housing Shelter for transitional housing. One agency provides emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence and also transitional housing for those exiting the shelter. Also, Neighborhood Stabilization Funding (NSP) provides transitional rental units to victims of domestic violence.

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.

The Permanent Supportive Housing/Shelter Plus Care grant provides and assists with linking the clients to services that include independent living skills to the homeless population including veterans and chronically homeless. The program encourages participation in a self-sufficiency program with efforts to

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assist them in becoming self-sufficient and to remain in permanent housing to avoid becoming homeless again. HOME funded TBRA also provides transitional housing to clients participating in supportive services promoting self-sufficiency and independent living skills. Non-HUD funding has been provided to Mesilla Valley Community of Hope to provide supportive services and house up to 10 veterans as part of the Mayor's Challenge to end veterans' homelessness in 2015. The City also provides non-HUD funds that are used to provide needed public services from non-profit agencies to the community that would include assistance to the homeless and chronically homeless. For PY 2015 approximately $300,000 is available for health care funding, some of which is dedicated to homeless service providers.

The City is a grantee for an additional Permanent Supportive Housing grant that provides tenant based rental assistance to homeless disabled households. An NSP funded rental unit provides permanent housing to chronically homeless women.

Help low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families who are likely to become homeless after being discharged from a publicly funded institution or system of care, or who are receiving assistance from public and private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education or youth needs

Through CDBG and non-HUD funding, the City provides public services grants to non-profits who assist in homeless prevention and homeless services to extremely low-income individuals and families. The City continues oversight and technical assistance to affordable rental partners for affordable rental housing. The Families and Youth Inc. (FYI) transitional living center, partially funded with previous years HOME funds, provides transitional housing for young adults including homeless transitioning out of foster care or corrections programs.

Coordinated efforts to provide funding and facilities to the non-profit agencies providing housing and needed services to the homeless population in the City of Las Cruces are on-going. City staff participates in regularly scheduled meetings to discuss facilities provided by the City and services to the homeless population. Opportunities to increase and improve services and address needs to the homeless population are discussed at various levels. On-going technical assistance is provided to the various agencies providing services to the homeless.

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

The Continuum of Care (CoC), is the coordinated approach that addresses physical, economic and social needs of the homeless population. Services organized within the Continuum of Care include outreach,

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emergency shelter, transitional and permanent housing and supportive services. The New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness (NMCEH), is the leader of this process. NMCEH convenes, manages and leads the Balance of State Continuum of Care Coalition. The Mesilla Valley Community of Hope, is the local lead in providing an array of services for the homeless population in Las Cruces. The City provides technical assistance, coordination and support for the agencies which serve homeless populations. As part of the training and technical assistance the City works with agencies to provide effective outreach and needs assessment for those individuals experiencing homelessness. The City also provides support for a homeless encampment at the Center of Hope grounds. Homeless individuals and households who are without conventional shelter or housing can be accommodated at the Community of Hope facility. Through the City's partnerships with other service providers, the facility is staffed with outreach workers and case managers who assess needs and connect residents of the camp with the services to address their needs.

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SP-65 Lead based paint Hazards – 91.215(i)

Actions to address LBP hazards and increase access to housing without LBP hazards

The purpose of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 is to develop a national strategy to eliminate lead-based paint hazards in all housing as expeditiously as possible; to implement, on a priority basis, a broad program to evaluate and reduce lead-based paint hazards in the Nation's housing stock; to encourage effective action to prevent childhood lead poisoning by establishing a framework for lead-based paint hazard evaluation and reduction; to ensure that the existence of lead-based paint hazards is taken into account in the development of Government housing policies and in the sale, rental, and renovation of homes and apartments; to mobilize national resources through a partnership among all levels of government and the private sector; to reduce the threat of childhood lead poisoning in housing owned, assisted, or transferred by the Federal Government; and to educate the public concerning the hazards and sources of lead-based paint poisoning and steps to reduce and eliminate such hazards. The City will continue to test homes constructed prior to 1978 for lead-based paint at the time households seek assistance under the City's Home Rehabilitation Program.

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How are the actions listed above related to the extent of lead poisoning and hazards?

The table below, from the City's Home Rehabilitation Handbook, summarizes the procedures taken to remove or mitigate lead paint during rehabilitation work.

SUMMARY OF LEAD-BASED PAINT REQUIREMENTS

FOR REHABILITATION (24 CFR 35; Subpart J)

Total Project Cost	**Less than $5,000**	**$5,000 to $25,000**	**More than $25,000**
Strategy	Do no harm	Assess and Control Lead Hazards	Assess and Abate Lead Hazards
Notification	All 3 types	All 3 types	All 3 types
Lead Hazard Evaluation	Paint Testing or Presume Lead	Paint Testing and Risk Assessment or Presume Lead	Paint Testing and Risk Assessment or Presume Lead
Lead Hazard Reduction	Repair Surfaces disturbed during rehabilitation	Interim Controls and Standard Treatments	Abatement (Interim controls on exterior surfaces not disturbed by rehabilitation)
Work Practices	Safe work practices Clearance of site	Safe work practices Clearance of site	Safe work practices Clearance of site
Total Project Cost	**Less than $5,000**	**$5,000 to $25,000**	**More than $25,000**
Documentation	Notice Evaluation Clearance Report	Notice Evaluation Clearance Report	Notice Evaluation Clearance Report

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How are the actions listed above integrated into housing policies and procedures?

The City of Las Cruces Home Rehab CDBG program policies include provisions for compliance with applicable lead based paint hazard reduction. The City will continue to provide required notice and information to all home rehabilitation program participants of the hazards posed by lead paint. Home Rehabilitation staff attend CDBG Lead Based Paint Remediation training when the training is available.

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SP-70 Anti-Poverty Strategy – 91.215(j)

Jurisdiction Goals, Programs and Policies for reducing the number of Poverty-Level Families

The City of Las Cruces utilizes the approximate maximum percentage allowable to fund public service activities. These activities historically benefit a large number of low and very low-income persons. The City also allocates $300,000 annually of its general fund monies to public service activities.

The City will implement those efforts that assist with housing services to the homeless and near homeless. In 2014 the City passed an ordinance to increase the minimum wage rate phased over a 5 year period with reviews in 2016 and 2018.

Both through the needs assessment section of this plan and the Public Participation process including the community survey, residents and City officials believe that increased efforts need to be made to improve the economy so that citizens have access to decent paying jobs that will support the basic needs of the households in Las Cruces. Supporting existing businesses and making resources available for them to expand their businesses and also have an improved public infrastructure will stimulate economic growth in the community.

The City will work with military and defense related employers to maximize employment opportunities in that sector of the economy which typically pays higher wages than some other service related sectors. The City will coordinate its economic development effort with other agencies which are providing job training and placement services and agencies which are operating youth employment programs.

How are the Jurisdiction's poverty reducing goals, programs, and policies coordinated with this affordable housing plan

Employment and wages are in a static trend which contributes to the levels of poverty and also influences the number of households with housing problems. Affordability is the single largest category of housing problem. The City has formed an economic development department to lead the effort to enhance the economy and ultimately employment. This Five Year Consolidated Plan identifies priority needs and investments the City will take to address the challenges of poverty and housing affordability. Those Priority Needs have a central theme: The housing problems Las Cruces residents are experiencing are due primarily to the stagnant wage environment while at the same time housing costs continue to rise. The combined resources available to the City, are not sufficient to solve the housing affordability problem for all. While substantial City and federal resources will be devoted to the goals and actions outlined in this plan, the City will also focus on stimulating the local economy in order to create more economic activity and employment for the lower income and underserved populations in Las Cruces.

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SP-80 Monitoring – 91.230

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

The City of Las Cruces has a well-established procurement and contracting process that ensures sub-grantees meet the established goals and outcomes for the project, program or services funded by the City.

At least annually, each subrecipient is monitored to ensure subrecipient files contain the necessary documentation to validate that program funds have been expended on appropriate expenses that produce the outcomes specified in contract documents.

The City monitors subrecipient documentation to ensure the subrecipient meets the cross cutting requirements contained in HOME and CDBG regulations, including Section 3, National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) requirements, procurement and Fair Housing Marketing and Outreach and all other cross-cutting requirements.

The City also partners with subrecipients to ensure their activities are tracked and documented for use in other City plans and strategies that measure how well the City is meeting the milestones and outcome indicators contained in other strategic plans as well as the Consolidated Plan. The City requires sometimes, monthly and quarterly performance updates from sub-grantees. Annually the City updates the Annual Action Plan to reflect progress and deficiencies within the stated Goal Outcome indicators included in the Strategic Plan and One-Year update. The City completes the HUD required Consolidated Annual Evaluation Reporting System report (CAPER) annually, to document achievements and identify areas of deficiency.

The City through its Section 3 recruitment efforts and in conjunction with its Economic Development Department, provides outreach and technical assistance to minority and woman owned businesses to ensure that local enterprises are aware of and capable of participating in City funded projects and activities listed in the Consolidated Plan.

The City is in the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan to ensure that the community development and housing related elements of that plan are in harmony with the priority needs and

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goals of the Consolidated Plan. The Comprehensive Plan addresses issues of blight and under-utilization of properties particularly in the central, older neighborhoods of the City.

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Appendixes –

Citizen Survey Results

Citizen Participation Documents

Form 424 and Certifications

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CITY OF LAS CRUCES CONSOLIDATED PLAN

COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY

The City of Las Cruces Housing and Community Development Department created a survey to collect opinions from members of the community about existing local needs. The electronic questionnaire was marketed and distributed by the City and its community partners to all residents throughout Las Cruces. Paper versions of the questionnaire were also made available by the City to obtain as many opinions as possible, and were sent to over 7,800 households living in low income census tracts within the City. Those results were then tabulated electronically by CSI. A total of 691 households responded to the survey.

Household Profile

The majority of people who responded live in Las Cruces (93.9%). The majority of respondents (98.3%) to the survey were private citizens. Single parent households comprised 5.02% of survey respondents and seniors aged 65 and older comprised 31.05% of all respondents. Approximately one-third of respondents (30.59%) reported being married with children in the home.

Table 1: Household profile –Place of Residence- Las Cruces

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	93.9%	612
No	6.1%	40
Other (please specify)		19
Answered question		**652**

Source: CSI

Table 2: Affiliation/ Profession

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Private Citizen	98.3%	645
Housing agency staff or housing developer	0.3%	2
Service Provider	0.9%	6
Local or state official	0.5%	3
Economic development entity	0.0%	0
Homeless service provider	0.0%	0
Other (please specify)	0.0%	0
Answered question		**656**

Source: CSI

Table 3: Household Composition

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Married/ household with children living at home	16.74%	110
Married/ partner household without children currently present	30.59%	201
Single parent household	5.02%	33
Individual living alone (under 65 years of age)	10.96%	72
Household or individual age 65+	31.05%	204
Other	5.63%	37
Answered question		**657**

Source: CSI

Income

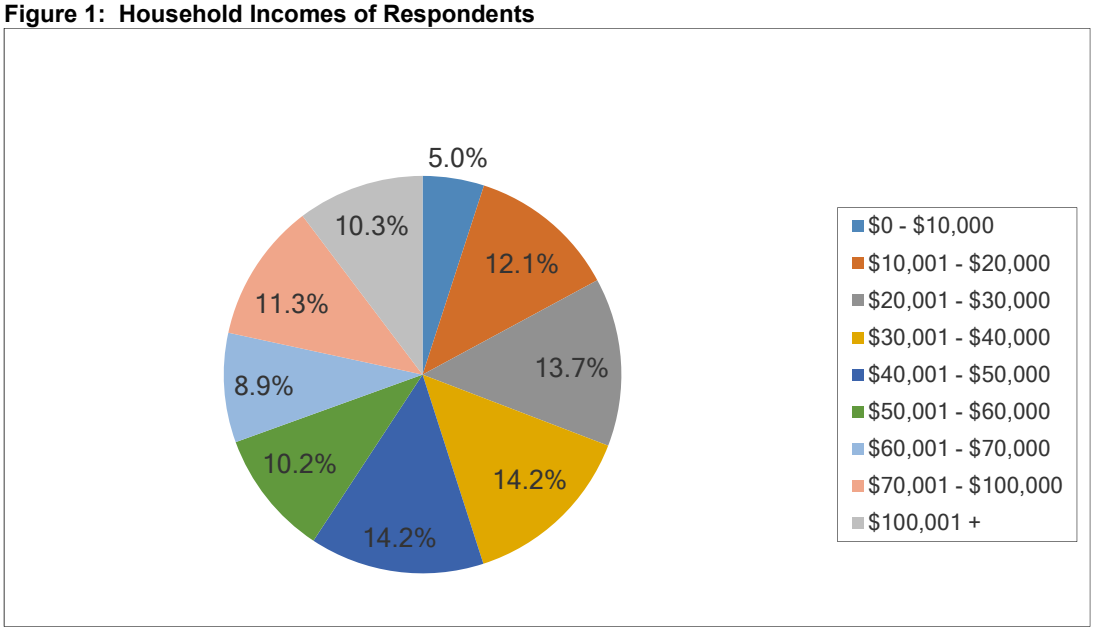
Respondents were asked to provide income ranges to assure a cross-section of citizens participated in the survey. Respondents were well distributed among all income categories. There were 619 people who responded to this question. Of those, 64 (10.3%) reported income at or above $100,001 annually and 14.2% reported income between $30,001 and $40,000 per year. Another 14.2% (or 88 respondents) reported their annual income was between $40,001 and $50,000. There were 75 people (12.1%) in the second to lowest income category and 31 people (5%) in the lowest income category of $0-$10,000.

Table 4: Income Data

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
$0 - $10,000	5.0%	31
$10,001 - $20,000	12.1%	75
$20,001 - $30,000	13.7%	85
$30,001 - $40,000	14.2%	88
$40,001 - $50,000	14.2%	88
$50,001 - $60,000	10.2%	63
$60,001 - $70,000	8.9%	55
$70,001 - $100,000	11.3%	70
$100,001 +	10.3%	64
answered question		**619**

Source: CSI

Figure 1: Household Incomes of Respondents



Respondents were asked to indicate their race or ethnicity. More than one response to the question is permitted. There were 621 respondents that answered the question. The majority reported their ethnicity as White (61.7%) and 252 (40.6%) reported their ethnicity as Hispanic/ Latino. There were 34 respondents who listed "other" as their race or ethnicity.

Table 5: Race/ Ethnicity

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
White/Anglo	61.7%	383
Hispanic/Latino	40.6%	252
African American	1.1%	7
Asian	0.8%	5
Native American	4.3%	27
Other	5.5%	34
	answered question	621

Source: CSI

Community Needs

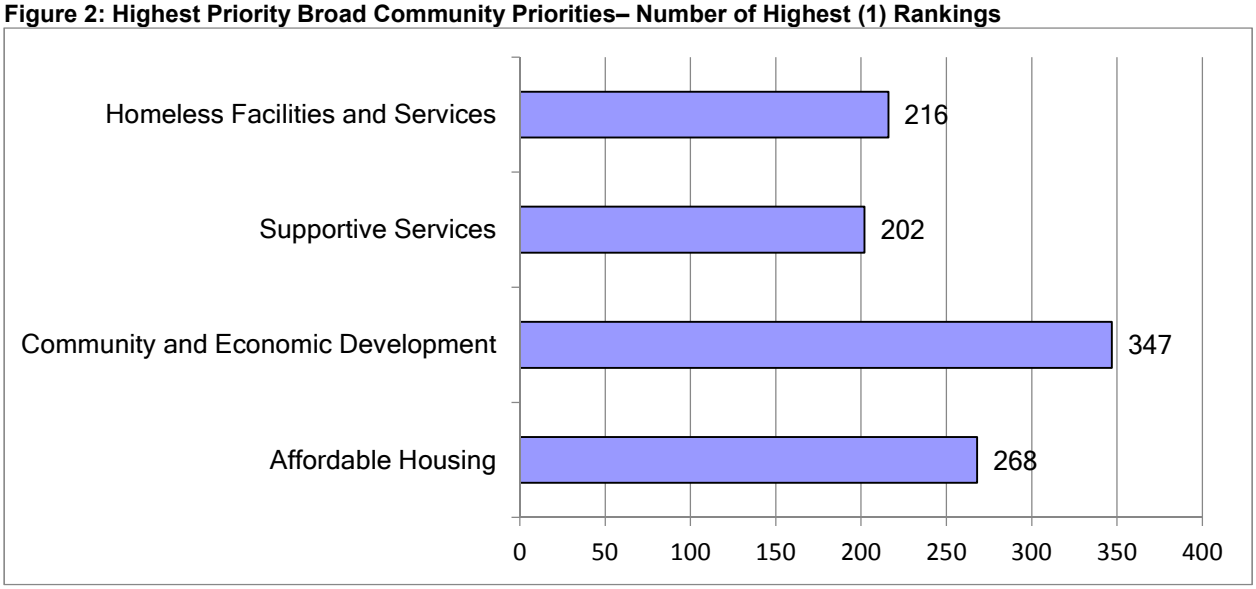
Respondents were asked to prioritize broad categories of community needs. These areas include affordable housing, community and economic development, supportive services, and facilities' and services for persons experiencing homelessness.
The highest identified need was Community and Economic Development (347). The second highest need identified was Affordable Housing (268). Homeless facilities and Services was the third highest ranked need (216).

Table 6: Respondents Rankings of Broad Community Needs

Answer Options	Highest Need (1)	Medium Need (2)	Low Need (3)	No Need (4)	Don't know	Response Count
Affordable Housing	268	218	(26	44	22	678
Community and Economic Development	347	222	64	27	15	675
Supportive Services	202	314	103	26	28	673
Homeless Facilities and Services	216	222	162	49	23	672
					answered question	**684**

Source: CSI

Figure 2: Highest Priority Broad Community Priorities– Number of Highest (1) Rankings



Affordable Housing

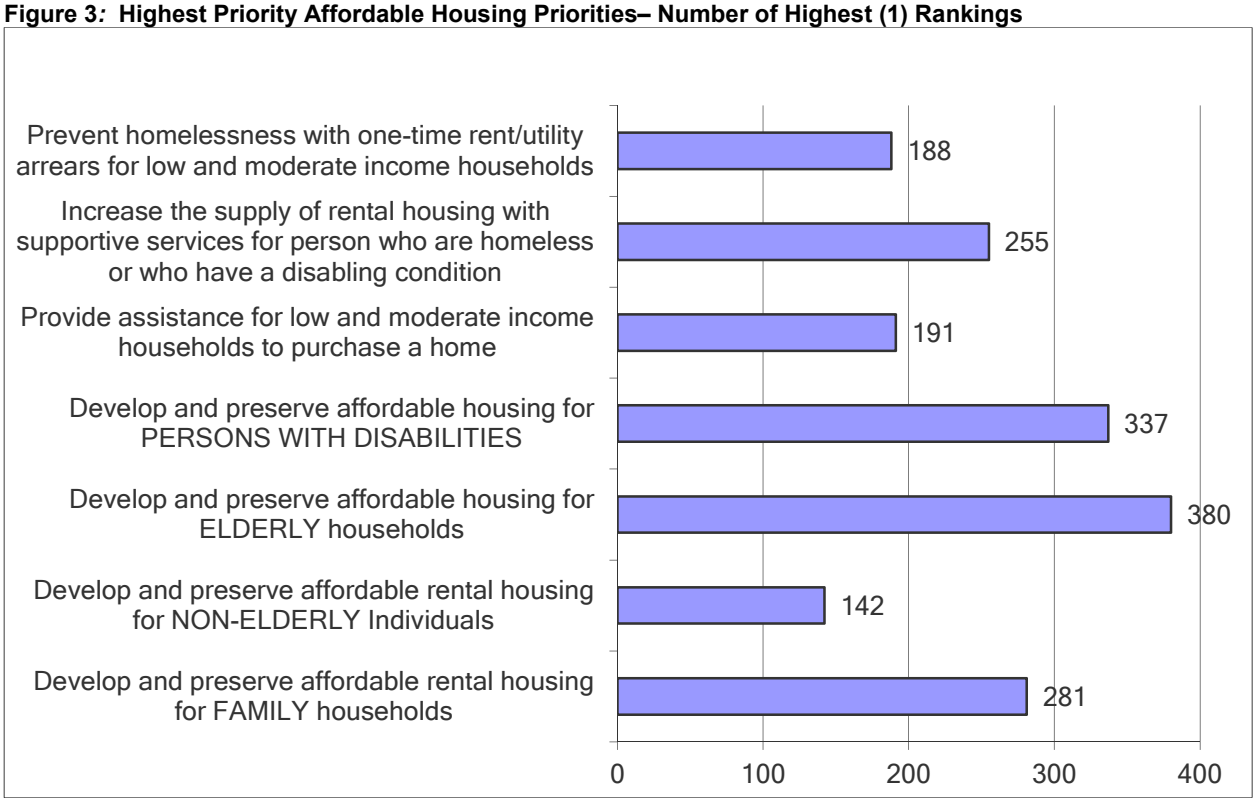
Respondents were asked to rank the importance of seven activities that address affordable housing needs in Las Cruces. Developing and preserving affordable rental housing for elderly households was the highest ranked priority. Developing and preserving affordable housing for persons with disabilities was the second highest ranked priority. There were 78 respondents who identified the category of providing assistance for low and moderate income households to purchase a home as "no need".

Table 7: Respondents rankings of Affordable Housing Priority Needs

Answer Options	Highest (1)	Medium (2)	Low (3)	No Need (4)	Don't Know	Response Count
Develop and preserve affordable rental housing for FAMILY households	281	235	104	27	24	671
Develop and preserve affordable rental housing for NON-ELDERLY individuals.	142	255	189	54	24	664
Develop and preserve affordable rental housing for ELDERLY households.	380	192	65	17	19	673
Develop and preserve affordable housing for PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES	337	215	73	17	25	667
Provide assistance for low and moderate income households to purchase a home.	181	205	170	78	22	666
Increase the supply or rental housing with supportive services for persons who are homeless or who have a disabling condition	188	215	119	48	40	677
Prevent homelessness with one-time rent/utility arrears for low and moderate income households	188	209	161	64	52	674

Source: CSI

Figure 3*:* Highest Priority Affordable Housing Priorities– Number of Highest (1) Rankings



Community and Economic Development

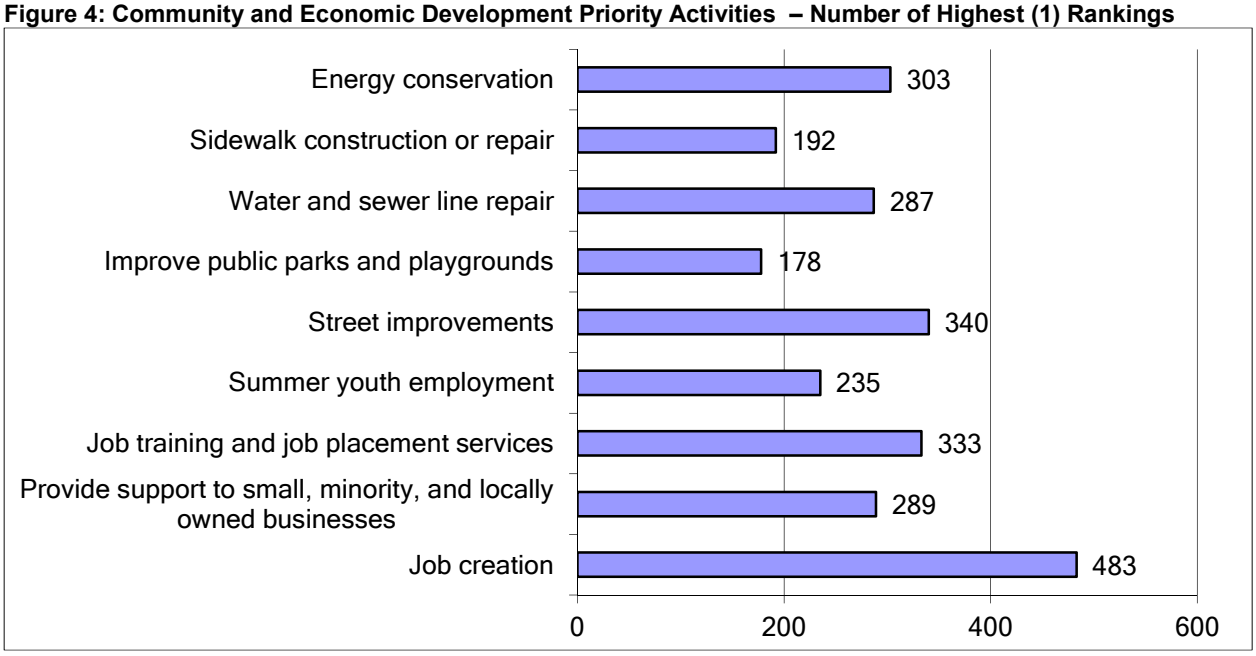
Respondents were asked to rank the importance of nine community and economic development activities in Las Cruces to meet needs concerning job creation, business support, job training and youth employment needs. The highest priority need was job creation. Street improvements and job training/ placement services were second and third.

Table 8: Respondents rankings of Community and Economic Development Priority Needs

Answer Options	Highest (1)	Medium (2)	Low (3)	No Need (4)	Response Count
Job creation	483	127	24	10	644
Provide support to small, minority, and locally owned businesses	289	238	94	26	647
Job training and job placement services	333	256	58	13	660
Summer youth employment	235	265	136	16	652
Street improvements	340	228	79	7	654
Improve public parks and playgrounds	178	297	156	19	650
Water and sewer line repair	287	268	87	12	654
Sidewalk construction or repair	192	278	162	20	652
Energy conservation	303	222	110	20	655
				answered question	**672**

Source: CSI

Figure 4: Community and Economic Development Priority Activities – Number of Highest (1) Rankings



Source: CSI

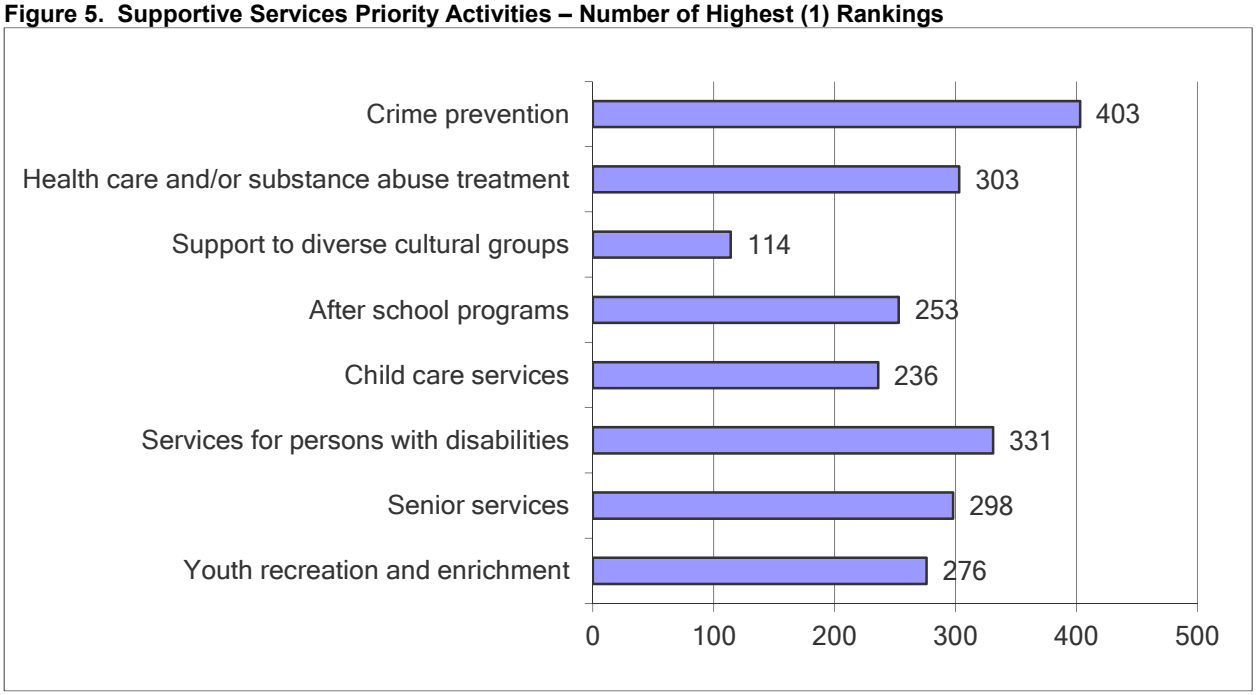
Supportive Services

There were eight categories of supportive services that respondents were asked to rank. Crime prevention was the highest need by respondents. Services for persons with disabilities and healthcare and substance abuse treatment were the second and third highest ranked priority.

Table 9: Respondents rankings of Supportive Services Priority needs

Answer Options	Highest (1)	Medium (2)	Low (3)	No Need (4)	Response Count
Youth recreation and enrichment	276	293	76	13	658
Senior services	298	294	60	11	663
Services for persons with disabilities	331	243	74	13	661
Childcare services	236	271	115	31	653
After school programs	253	282	94	22	651
Support to diverse cultural groups	114	208	231	98	651
Health care and/or substance abuse treatment	303	242	83	30	658
Crime prevention	403	199	47	7	656

Figure 5. Supportive Services Priority Activities – Number of Highest (1) Rankings



Source: CSI

Homeless Assistance

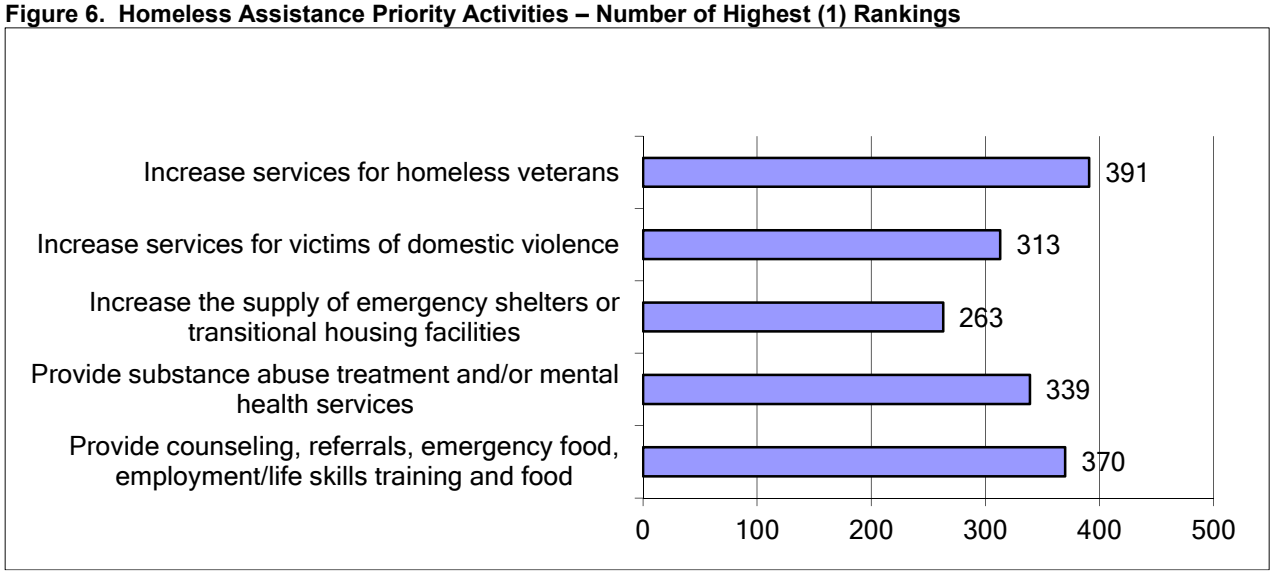
Respondents were asked to rank five activities to meet the needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Las Cruces. The highest ranked priority was to increase services for homeless veterans. The second highest ranked activity was to provide counseling, referrals, emergency food, employment/life skills training (and food). There were 42 respondents who said they believe there is no need to increase emergency shelter or transitional housing inventory.

Table 10: Homeless Assistance Priority Needs

Answer Options	Highest (1)	Medium (2)	Low (3)	No Need (4)	Response Count
Provide counseling, referrals, emergency food, employment/life skills training and food	370	210	61	23	664
Provide substance abuse treatment and/or mental health services	339	233	72	22	666
Increase the supply of emergency shelters or transitional housing facilities	263	244	116	42	665
Increase services for victims of domestic violence	313	248	81	16	658
Increase services for homeless veterans	391	190	68	10	659

Source: CSI

Figure 6. Homeless Assistance Priority Activities – Number of Highest (1) Rankings



Comments provided by respondents

The survey solicited comments and opinions about housing, community development, economic development, supportive services and homelessness needs in Las Cruces. Respondents provided a wide range of opinions on multiple issues. Respondents stated they believe there is a significant need for increasing inventory of affordable rentals and accessible homes in Las Cruces. Increasing bike and pedestrian friendly areas was suggested. Creating volunteer opportunities for people who are homeless was also suggested. One respondent noted a perception of a “no growth” attitude at the local level and high fees as a disincentive. Job creation, expansion of transportation services and increasing resources for seniors were suggested activities.

The following table provides the unedited comments provided by respondents.

road repairs! 1200 Block West Ethel complete new pave and new pipes. Help businesses with improved license and permit process, speed up inspection requests. Complete street repair in a timely manner. Thank you
We need more lower cost accessible homes. That would help a lot.(Spanish translation)
We need more street lights it is very dark
"jobs" - detail improvement more store other store Walmart - Impove transportation (City buses), this is shame full! We should have had the outlet mall here in Las Cruces instead of being in El Paso. The businesses in Santa Teresa should be here in Las Cruces as well as train jobs.

Help people who help themselves first. Make people work, and pay for their needs, maybe not a full fee, but something too many "free loaders" who abuse any assistance taht is out there. All the public housig you see around the city is full of people who don't care, dirty yards, trash, junk cars, and all they do is sit outside. I see this when I go to those areas. Make them responsible! Work!
1) provide more often solid waster pickup. Grapler, recycle 2) remove dumpsters from street Renfrow east of University Methodist Church.
People who work should not be forced to pay for housing for people who choose not to. Unwed parents should deal with their own needs. I have relatives who are totally happy to live off of people who work.
The LAs Cruces City Councils "no growth" policy and increasing development fees is the most damaging policy this city has regarding jobs and housing. The home building industry is very labor intensive.
Many city workers are not supervised properly. Street repairs are not done properly and always need to be redone. Supervisors not being watched properly!
Highest need in everything marked in survey - please - and God Bless You all!
I want my tax money to go to US citizens Only!
Im a single parent and I have been on food stamps for a while now. the absent parent lives right down the street, makes good money, has a boat, camper and 2 trucks. He works under the table. I've told child support all of this info as they tell me I'd better or my child will lose his medical coverage and they do NOTHING! It would save the state money to get me off assistance, but they do nothing! And if these "homeless" people were all citizens int would be differenct to me. The veterans are.
Screen applicants and do follow ups as to who is approved. Needs of applicants, followups o who is really living in Housing Residence.
How about including men in the domestic violence equation? You cannot combat racism by enforcing racism. This area is predominately hispanic, it is "new mexico". However, being hispanic is minority? Stop dividing people by race or sex.
Increase solar incentives for businesses and homes. Develop EBID canals as multi use paths. Make the city more bike friendly. Incentivize infill projects to remove empty lots and abondoned buildings. Increasing the minimum wage and wages in government. City provided internet services.
We need long term rehab care for drugs and alcohol treatment. We need more mental health services. Long term solutions for the homeless.
I would like to see steps set in place to encourage people to actually take care of and respect the homes and provisions they are given, rather tahn destroy and take advantage of taxpayer funds.
I am a retired social worker. I have worked with low income families and seniors and the homeless. I know first hand how difficult it was to help them find housing and other needs. Sometimes I felt like I kept running into road blocks when the need was immediate and the waiting list was so very long.
Is there "current" screening and/or periodic monitoring of selected individuals for assistance, especially for low-income housing? Many "so called" low-income do not use banks, request cash, when hired, but drive fairly new, above average model vehicles. "food for though"
We are all connected as a community. It is very important to help homeless people get back on track without enabling dependency. Albuquerque has a great program where they offer homeless people the opportunity to help clean the city (pulling weeds...) and pay I think $10/hour. Without contract. It gives them some revenue and most important a sense of value. Austin TX has also a good program where they allocate an area and put tiny houses per the homeless. Some of the beautiful very cheap garden shed could be used to make tiny houses. The city could assign an area where we could develop a village with those tiny houses, a community garden, solar power, and give homeless a decent place to live.
Get rid of the homeless town on Amador. Ridiculous! A hand up is one thing, a hand out perpetuates poverty.
There is a need for those of us who fall between the cracks. I work full time but can't afford to bring my house up to code. I live in fear of city condemning my property - where would I go? Electric, plumbing are dire. Just as NMSU offers scholarships, I wish we could apply for funding. At one point city wanted to help me but Santa Fe said my place is "historic" and restrictions were too costly for city budget. HELP!
Housing needs to check on How Many People Really live in a home and also check on cars coming and going. Crugs over crowded animal not allowed without papers. Low stove pilots, always going off, water too hot, doors falling off hinges on closets.

The residents of the City of LC are tax payers and of legal age to voice opinions in matters that affect our livelihood and family, I wish to address a personal concern. I am perhaps one of many seniors in our community, who for some reason (beyond our control) are not able to get out and participate or get involved in community activities to be well informed of the services available for us, the residents, that we can turn to for orientation or direction on obtaining assistance to resolve issues affecting our social economic livlihoods. In my case, I am no longer able to drive (vision problem), which prevents me from going in search of an indicated office for the help I need to resolve a problem (household or business). We have very poor tranportation (buses or taxi cab) and there are time and schedules, routes, plus medical criteria to consider. Nowadays, all is computer menu and the internet. This puts a lot of the people in a spot (lack of tools and knowledge) plus language gap for a lot of us. Need info/referral office (forms, services, INS, and other), need transportation (affordable cost), 8 am to 6 pm Monday through Sunday. Directory of services (phone, location, business hours). Not much "family locations" or activities available ie the zoo.
Lighted bike paths.
Make landlords take more responsibility for the properties they own.
Provide refferals and emergency foods.
Provide a safe atmosphere for the citizens of Las Cruces.
Do not place low income apartments in new housing development areas.
Develop downtown and surrounding areas for better tourism.
More effective public transportation as well as better bike path and walking options.
Please attend to zoning issues. Too many neighborhoods with multi-family homes, single family home, mobile homes and businesses all in one area that diminishes the property value.
Affordable rent for low income families.
Hold home renters responsible for yard and house appearance/ cleanliness.
Wheel chair swings in Las Cruces Park
More low in come housing for the elderly.
Don't let the old neighborhoods fall apart.
Improve intersections.
Need more common restaurants/chains
Make efforts towards helping the homeless become more efficient on their own in terms of holding a job and being able to afford to live everyday.
Better health care facilities, better nursing homes and hospice care.
Do not provide permanent shelter for the homeless.
Provide more adequate services for the largely expanding community.
Hire more road construction employees.
The community needs jobs to keep graduating NMSU Students.
Las Cruces needs better crime control.
Provide veterans with any and all services they need.
Affordable housing
Improve the community in all aspects. Streets, sidewalks, parks housing, trash clean-up etc. all need improved.
Provide warming shelters for the homeless for the very cold nights.
Provide aid for low income homeowners, specifically for home and appliance repairs.
Provide job training and services to the youth.
Larger parks to engage the youth in recreational activities and stay out of trouble.
Separate the young community from the elderly and disabled community.
Making housing rental more affordable for families in need of 2-4 bedroom homes.
City leaders need to become more involved
Take care of the veterans.
Better coordinate street repairs.
Do something about the foreclosed/abandoned houses.
Citizens need to support incoming businesses to Las Cruces.

Improve the parks.
Stop catering to the homeless and making Las Cruces seem like a "Safe-Haven" for the homeless.
Fix sidewalks and improve lighting in Alameda-Depot Neigborhood
More recreational parks and options for taking the kids too. Tired of spending money in other states to enjoy themselves.
Make improvements and repairs to the roads.
Provide funding to Mesilla Valley Hospital.
Try and run community centers more efficiently.
Protect and help our veterans by offering financial and housing services.
Improve the city in regards to being more business friendly.
Add more recreational options for children and adults such as amusement and water parks. Also in need of healthier store options such as, Trader Joe's or Whole Foods.
All services be made available to all regardless of what category you fall into.
Preserve the open space and conserve the water supply.
Provide for single disabled people on low incomes.
Ensure homeless do their part in obtaining housing and services.
Fix the roads around the downtown area.
Finish Roadrunner Rd.
People receiving assistance need to prove citizenship. Assisted living facilities need to be better staffed and need to make more in wages.
Mandatory drug testing anyone receiving public aid.
Stricter screenings on people using the services provided.
I think it is a mistake for the government to build housing units. Attempts in the past have been terrible mistakes. Much better to subsidize rental housing by providing funding for those in need so they can afford to rent or buy from the existing inventory. If there is a shortage of housing, builders and investors will take care of the need as long as there are buyers/renters willing to buy.
Main priority needs to be job creation.Less minimum wage jobs with more career oriented jobs to keep graduates in the community.
Enact a program providing the elderly with help for paying their utilities. Limit housing for younger couples and single mothers.
Needs an improved business environment.
Job security and job creation is a serious issue that needs addressed.
In my opinion Las Cruces is in major need of everything
Fix roads by doing more than filling potholes. Specifically East mesa, Peach Tree Rd and Standly Rd.
Encourage development and create jobs so that the rest of the problems shrink.
Offer more senior care and assisted living facilities that except medicare etc.
Provide jobs for all citizens to help with homeless problem. Make them pass a hair and urine drug test in order to get paid. Get paid for quality and amount of work. Offer food and shelter incentives to those who can work with strict supervision.
Improve education outcomes at all grade levels and provide less benefits for the homeless and near homeless.
Too many non-citizens receiving aid.
Fix intersections such as Three Crusses and Spitz, Solano/N. Main and Spitz . Specifically adding more right and left turn lanes and U-Turn options to increase flow of traffic. Also intersection of Lenox and Johnson St. could use speed bumps because people often speed down these roads.
Please fix streets!
Provide cell phones for seniors with low income.
Classes that would guide citizens towards not seeking predatory loans.
-Less homes need built with too many on the market. -Streets and sidewalks need repairs. -Better jobs that pay more than minimum wage. -Renovate the parks so citizens will get more use. -No need for more hospitals.
Information about activities that are currently going on within the city

The city needs to invest in more ball parks, Paz and Hardy fields are over used. Need repairs desperately. We need a large indoor facility for the volleyball leagues instead of traveling to El Paso every weekend and summers. The roads in Las Cruces are in need of major work and repairs. Gert rid of the tent city all together. It is a disgrace to the human race!
more street lights in my neighborhood on the street Calle Espina (Spanish translation)
1. create jobs for the elderly. 2. proportionalize the assortment of good to people who recieve help with food and shelter. Teach them how to cook so that they don't waste food and throw it away. 3) There are still a lot of places where the sewers back up with flooding (Spanish translation)
I think that they should integrate the society of all of the homeless instead of just giving them food and a place to stay. They should pay them to make something for the community. (Spanish translation).
on the street Tornillo y Picacho, it is very dark and there needs to be more light so that you can see what you are doing.
city should take a look at co-op housing as an option for low-moderate income families.
With any housing and provided assistance there needs to be easy access to transportation to and from the services, groceries, and work centers. It does little good to provide affordable housing if the dwellers have little access to other necessities in life. It is difficult to decide who needs assistance "the most" - veterans, seniors, families, domestic abuse survivors. They ALL need and deserve assistance. Ranking them isn't a solution - helping them is.
We do not need more homeless to be relocating to Las Cruces for extended complimentary services. Training, counseling and assistance to become independent for those who are in our community should have highest priority. Hard working locals should have the very highest priority in services and benefits. This will strengthen our community rather than drain it.
I believe the housing issues in Las Cruces are being somewhat met. For example me and my children received rental assistance in the 1990s. In addition, my parents participated in a build-your-own-home federal program in the 1960's. It is through programs such as these that I was able to work toward home ownership. I believe the citizens of Las Cruces need housing assistance so that they can live happier more productive lives.
C of H is doing a good job and deserves the support of City.They have a good program for housing veterans. El Caldito needs support of city to continue their work. Secure housing and job training for victims of domestic violence is currently not meeting the needs of community.
I've paid taxes for 25 years - things have only gotten worse. Many of the services are to benefit only the administration not the target audience. As of 2015 I have been a near poor resident but when I needed help, it was provided through friends - no agency support. (they didn't have money budgeted) they they get paid and rent/furnishing subsidies were available. I feel that most people need to be responsible for themselves. Disaster happens, then agency support. Housing is available at very low cost already. Streets need fixing - I have reported some, but one 18 months ago - still not fixed. Bus service need improving - down hill steadily - 20 min>30 min>40 ,min >60 min. Routes changed and lack of bus routes. As handicapped, I need bus service.
housing and shelter for mentally ill
invest in building an olympic pool complex. Why did they cut the hours availability at the aquatic center? Closing time changed from 8:30 pm - 6:00 pm - really? "alternative programming" has not been scheduled.
As a community we need to provide greater support to the homeless citizens of Las Cruces to include: Shelter Free meals Counseling Medical care
Housing and counseling for PTSD /mental health service in the cony and referrals. Single Family housing for Veterans. Grant/affordable home conversion for homeowners to convert their homes. Issues resolved in other cities in the US. As a volunteer "community of home", need outdoor restrooms immediately. It is on the table at the time. With the current food stamp program giving recipients, do community service, it should be expanded to all city, county and state comodity issuing of food. As a volunteer, I see the real needy there, as needed, but also see above poverty level individuals taking advantage of the system. Come one come all needs to be curved and we would have our city/county and state thrive rather than lag in this area (housing and comodities).
We are in desperate need of having streets repaired especially around Nevada, Lester, Lees, Salano Idaho area! We need to have the City of Las Cruces to hvae compassion on their employees. Do not fire people who work hard at what they are doing.
You give far too much time wanting to give away free or cheap handouts to undeserving persons. Spend more time lowering taxes to create greater incentives for new businesses. That will solve many of these percieved needs. It will create new jobs with good incomes. This is an anti-business town.
1) Transportation - improve city buse service in the city and county. 2) note: some items I marked as less important because the city is doing a good job

I am unhappy that CLC does not think it important enough to sufficiently fund certain of its housing/community needs. It was not until a relative became disabled from behavioral health issues that I became aware of the dismal prospects for any kind of assistance for housing. We were told by MVPHA that the wait to get to the top of the list to even be able to submit an application and be considered for assistance was 12-18 months and that no new construction of affordable housing has taken place in CLC for years. And even after that wait and being able to submit a 20-page application (which considers having received a traffic ticket as a criminal offense) which requires more documentation than even that demanded by NM Income Support Division for SNAP, the "background investigation" takes 2-3 more months. Practically a 2 year wait. And yet CLC, which instantly leaped on the right to raise the gross receipts tax faster than any other city in New Mexico in 2013, and has greatly benefited from the increased revenue as well as its incredible ability to seek out and profit from federal grant money of all kinds, seemingly has no funds it's willing to devote to housing assistance but instead looks for handouts from the federal government. Disgusting! And in looking at another frail portion of our population, the elderly, CLC holds itself out as a great place from them to retire. But obviously only if one is well-heeled. The senior nutrition program by its own admission suffers greatly from lack of funding and constantly implores its recipients to contribute funds monthly to its meager budget with tales of dire straits and a delivery force of meals on wheels drivers who seem to consist of underpaid contractors or volunteers. And the other senior programs which purport to send out housekeepers and respite caregivers are equally underfunded with year-to-year-and-a-half wait lists. And think about the attrition which naturally occurs in this aged population--without some of its prospective clients dying off, the wait might be even longer. We spend way too much money on pet projects such as the $5 million on the city plaza currently ongoing and silly bike paths (78 miles at the moment and counting) which are things and not enough on the citizens from whom so much of the revenue is sucked out. Thanks for asking.

Take a look at what Utah has done with the homeless population. Reduction and saving money.

none

The City already provides plentiful opportunities for recreation for youth. I feel public transportation, sidewalk, and park improvements are critical and necessary to improve the situation for community members and the functioning and resiliency of the community as a whole. Truly affordable housing is needed, not as defined by the development industry, but as defined by the people who need housing. To help make housing affordable, transportation options must also be affordable and accessible and useful. Bike lanes, safe and comfortable sidewalks, and timely and plentiful public busses are needed in all parts of the city. Public housing may be an option, but it must be aesthetically pleasing, integrated into market rate housing neighborhoods, and connected to all parts of the city by high quality, non-single occupant vehicle transportation options.

The most important community need is recreation and entertainment for ages 13-40yrs. We have to keep this age group busy, active and challenged to get more involved with Las Cruces development.

This community desperately needs improved pedestrian, bicycle and bus infrastructure so it is easier to get around without a car. Making Las Cruces a better place to walk, bike and take public transportation will have a positive impact on public health, quality of life and the economy, and will particularly benefit the elderly, those who are homeless and low-income families!

there is plenty of affordable housing. just not as nice/new as most people want. we need more enforcement on rentals (apartments, houses, etc). condition, condition for the price. regular maintance, regular repairs. property owners need to held accountable for the safeness and quality of their rental property

I feel the cost of apartments are way too high for the income in this area. People who do not wish to live in a "tribe" are not able to live here. I see prices $700-900 for one bedrooms GET REAL pay that and utilities and you can not eat. Affordable means being able to live alone in my eyes not with 10 other people. I also feel we have ENOUGH parks we do not need to add more. Street repair is a PRIORITY. Every street on my way to work has huge pot holes and they are never repaired. Street lights are way to long as well. Thank you.

Assist the historic neighborhoods in renovation and economic development programs.

We need street improvement and police protection much more than anything else. The city is spending way too much on programs for the homeless and poor without requiring these people to do something to earn their way. Everyone can do some kind of work. Just giving people handouts doesn't solve their problems. The more we just give people stuff the less incentive they have to help themselves.

Before embarking on new projects, finish existing ones. For instance, major streets were built such as Lohman, but the medians were never completed. This is not acceptable in a city and it serves to depress community investment by new businesses, etc.

The city requires two full-service branch libraries in order to meet the ever growing demand of this diverse population.

We need more industry in Las Cruces to create jobs that will support families. That will change everything in this community to not rely on government jobs. We are very isolated in Las Cruces and it seems we have to put up with whatever we're handed. We need to hold everyone to a higher standard because after 8 years coming from Wisconsin I've gotten used to bottom of the barrel.

Please encourage the City to follow the Affordable Housing Plan. Enlarge the area of the city that allows accessory dwellings. Increase transit service so that people can get to job training, education, and jobs. Increase density along transit corridors so that more housing can be built next to transit.

We need additional parks, especially a couple more dog parks. Lots of seniors and low-income people have few opportunities to take their dogs somewhere safe and fenced in.

I hope you can get a developer to put up some high-end condos. This is a retirement town, among other things, and some folks don't want the responsibility of a single-family home, yard maintenance, etc. As downtown progresses, this would be a great thing to locate there so folks can walk to activities. Now you would need to be more successful than I am in getting Sprout's to come here...and downtown would be the perfect place for them. The oft mentioned higher-end living in the development at the old country club it not at all well located for higher-end living.

It would be great if there would be a community effort to "clean up" existing mobile home units and apartment areas, especially those near NMSU. There is no pride of ownership which reflects upon the entire city. Also, the city building codes in many areas appears to be non-existent. New development does not replace the need to restore or raze many "eye sores" around town. We currently have far too many abandoned, empty buildings.

Las Cruces should strive in EVERY WAY POSSIBLE to become a model city with humanly friendly, family friendly, age-friendly, and diverse friendly services. As Santa Fe is known as the city different, I want LC to be known as the "City Cares."

Quite a lot of programs are offered for children to teen years but but very little is offered for the teens and therefore they tend to get in trouble. The Minson Center Senior Center literally sucks. Seniors need to have a place that is friendly and welcoming. A place where they can sit around and visit and socialize. Most seniors live alone and have no one to talk to. All their interaction is at meal time and then it is eat and get out. It is a very cold place and I don't mean as in heat. When I travel, I quite often stop in at other Senior Centers to check them out and they are always vey warm and inviting. As for Sage Cafe that should either be closed down or promoted. Seniors in the East Mesa area are spread out. They are not going to drive there for an hour of coffee and talk when there is nothing else going on to keep them there. As far as evening events downtown, once you attend and event there is only one or two restaurants and nothing else. Went to first chili drop 2014 and attended an event at Rio Grand. Came out at 9:30 pm and there was nothing to do and no place to get warm. Got kicked out of a private party because my wife was so cold and it was the only place we found to go inside. Used to enjoy going to the park and spending the afternoon and evening while waiting for the fireworks. We would bring a picnic and lounge chairs and just have a great time. Who wants to sit on bleachers that are uncomfortable. You can't see or hear the music. I think that is the most horrible place to hold anything other than sports. You tout the city as family and senior friendly but then you go and do just the opposite and discourage it. We love the music in the park series and rarely miss it. It would be nice to have more porta potties around the park not just in one place. It is a difficult walk for some of the older people to get to the current ones. The roads in our neighbor are horrible. Water mains keep bursting and the streets are dug up and never made level. Every street in our neighborhood has been dug up at least 5 times each. And now we have a pothole on the Main Street that enters into our neighborhood. The speeders on Highway 70 is terrible. The only time people slow down is when a police car either is sitting beside the road or has pulled someone over. If you are doing the speed limit, drivers either tailgate you or honk they horn because they want to get ahead. Getting rid of the speed cameras was not a good idea.

the city must curb urban sprawling and focus on the sustainable living by building upwards than outwards.

If people have an income from employment, that solves a lot of social, housing, and community needs. Innovative programs that bring in employers and jobs should be a very high priority because if properly done actually will pay back the city's investment in many ways. Innovative educational programs that provide for needs of the many adults lacking completion of HS, ESL, and other skills that employers require, also a top priority. Early College HS and New America charter school, J Paul Taylor etc are good models, but we need more of them. Make it easier for those working to improve their lives through education. Take advantage of online tools. While it is a real challenge and can be expensive to support large fields of grass in the desert, parks are still a huge plus for family recreational opportunities. Our Parks and Rec have been falling further and further behind in upkeep during the recession. They need a new maintenance model and plan ASAP. Trees in the Country Club Estates park on Spitz have been dying over the past three or four years, and they are cut down and not replaced, and apparently nothing is done to keep them healthy enough to survive either. This park is used by children for many different sports and rec, and the parents come to watch and picnic and sit under the trees for shade. Yes, we had that cold snap that killed off some trees, but the problem for that park, and others, is much bigger and still ongoing. Lack of appropriate care by Parks & Rec. Long term economic health for Las Cruces will involve being a retirement destination for part of the huge 80M or so baby boomers, retiring now and over the next 10-15 years. The city should have a very active promotion program, perhaps a promo group that tours likely areas such as upper midwest cities, and east coast cities, where the cold winters make CLC so attractive to retirees. We need to be marketing to that demographic in dynamic and powerful ways...again, like jobs, it will pay off for the city in so many ways, including jobs for all the services the elderly require. The new model is to support seniors staying in their dwellings, rather than move them to retirement facilities, but that model involves bringing services to senior's homes, and that is a LOT of jobs. Some of those jobs will be well paying health care jobs for our kids to aspire to and win, as they graduate to adults.

the city government needs to take the gross receipt tax monies and spend it on police and fire and infrastructure needs not parks/swimming pools/ downtown stages

There's needs to be more affordable housing, a lot of families that live here barely even make 30K a year for a family of 3 or 4. Its having to put families in two bedroom apts. which makes it real uncomfortable but that's all they can afford on top of whatever debt they may have to include feeding their families. There are a lot of homes that go from $800-$1000 a month for rent which makes it even harder to reach that. I would really like to see a change like that happen for those families that are suffering. Thanks
Continued investment in downtown infrastructure improvements and amenities.
Regardless of population, I think that substance abuse/mental health services are the greatest need in our community. Providing significant financial support to business and economic development is a wasteful use of tax dollars, especially when most jobs provided are low wage.
There is a lot of work to be done in these areas. I don't envy your task of trying to prioritize and fund them, but I believe you're doing the best you can.
Our local municipality needs to collaborate with our elected city & county representatives and in conjunction with our State and Federal Agencies for supportive monies, grants and foundations to improve our city and county services. NM is rated #1 with highest: Drinking and Driving..distracted Driving resulting in victims left with hospital, medical, and homeless issues. Las Cruces can do better by increasing these serious traffic violations! 250.00 for texting, driving, DUI... I NCREASING.FINES CAN ONLY DETER AND INFUSE SAFE FOR OUR COMMUNITY!! The current rate if 25.00 fine for texting and distracted driving and or DUI driving is shameful for all taxpayers citizens to read and hear on a daily basis!

History

Political corruption museum proposed as Albany tourism draw

Exhibits would expose capital's shady dealings

MICHAEL VIRTANEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIKE GROLL/AP

Bruce Roter holds a button promoting his proposed Museum of Political Corruption in Albany, N.Y. Roter envisions a museum that would detail Albany's political scandals.

ALBANY, N.Y. - A resident of New York's capital city has an unusual economic development plan to harness what he says is one of Albany's most abundant renewable resources: political corruption.

For a $12.50 or so "bribe," visitors to the planned Museum of Political Corruption will get a tour of the state's long history of crooked politicians and shady deals, as well as a chance to learn about individuals who have fought corruption and suggested solutions to the state's chronic problem.

The museum is the idea of Bruce Roter, a professor at Albany's College of Saint Rose, who is raising money for a museum he envisions as both an educational institution and a tourist destination.

"Let's use it as a resource. … The attention is already there," Roter said. "If we can get ahead of the late-night punchlines."

That the recently disgraced leaders of the New York Senate and Assembly are now on federal trial, accused of selling their influence and lying about it, doesn't make this a particularly ripe time, Roter said. He recalled a century-old newspaper story by muckraker Nellie Bly reporting she was able to kill a random piece of state legislation by paying $1,250.

Roter has been working on the project for two years after talking over coffee with Kathy Sheehan, who has since become mayor of Albany. The question came up: What Albany resource could yield tourism revenue? Corruption fit the bill and has a certain advantage: "It's a renewable resource," he said.

Roter has already established a nonprofit museum organization with a website, mugs for sale and some heavies from the academic and museum worlds on its boards of directors and advisers. They include Philip Mark Plotch, political science professor at Saint Peter's University, and Zephyr Teachout, Fordham law professor and former gubernatorial candidate.

Now the serious fundraising begins. Roter's keeping close to the vest what's come in so far. But he believes he can get a brick-and-mortar museum running in about four years, including what he intends to call the "cozy crony cafe." It could launch sooner with an interim, mobile museum exhibit.

It's meant to be satirical and entertaining, but grounded in the rigors of research, education and museum science. Roter sees school groups visiting.

The legendary Boss Tweed and a certain Mr. Phelps, who engineered Bly's bill spiking for cash, are likely to be featured. Roter has already obtained vintage political cartoons from the late 1800s from the periodicals Harper's Weekly and Puck.

Since news of the project was first reported, Roter says he's received nods of support from Republicans and Democrats and no pushback so far.

Sheehan said there is much the public could learn from Albany's checkered past, as long as it is presented as a "cautionary tale" and not glorified. She said Albany as a whole has been unfairly judged by the actions of corrupt state leaders.

"The frustrating thing for me is when Albany is used as a synonym for corruption or dysfunction," she said. "Because there are those of us who live here, who say, 'wait a minute, this is a great city.' "

City of Las Cruces®
PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

– PUBLIC HEARINGS • REUNION PUBLICA –

HUD CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN
Plan De Participación

Wednesday/Miércoles
DECEMBER 16/Diciembre 16
5:30-7:00 p.m.
Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite St.

Las Cruces residents are invited to attend a public hearing regarding a HUD Citizen Participation Plan. As the City receives funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), a citizen participation plan has been developed that outlines the City's process to engage and receive comments on how the City will allocate and spend HUD funds.

A draft citizen participation plan will be presented at the public hearing listed above and a copy is available on the City's website at http://www.las-cruces.org/cd. Hard copies will also be available for public review at Las Cruces City Hall, Community Development Department, 700 N. Main St., Suite 1100; City Clerk's Office, Suite 1200; and Branigan Library, 200 E. Picacho Ave.

Public comments can be made at the public hearing or during the 15-day comment period from November 30th through December 18th. Public comments must be submitted by Friday, December 18, 2015, by 5:00 p.m.

Los residentes de Las Cruces están invitados a un reunión publica para recibir comentarios sobre el plan de participación necesario por Departamento de Desarrollo Urbano y Vivienda (HUD por sus siglas en ingles). El plan de participación para los cuídanos de Las Cruces ha sido desarrollados para decribe el proceso de solicitad participación de los habitan de Las Cruces y recibir comentarios sobre el uso de fondos federales.

El Plan de participación será presentado a un reunión pública (información arriba) y una copia estar disponible para revisión pública en el sitio web de la ciudad en http://www.las-cruces.org/cd. Copias también estará disponibles para revisión pública en el en Edificio de Ayuntamiento, cuarto 1132, Oficina del Secretario de la ciudad, 700 N. Main St. y La biblioteca de Branigan, 200 E. Picacho Ave., Las Cruces, NM.

Comentarios y observaciones deben ser enviados durante el período de comentario público de 15 días entre el 30 de Noviembre y 18 de Desembre de 2015. Comentarios públicos deben ser enviados a 5:00 p.m. en viernes, 18 de Diciembre de 2015.

Written comments may be submitted via any of the following methods:
Comentarios por escrito pueden presentarse a través de cualquiera de los siguientes métodos:
By Mail / *Por correo*: Community Development Department Neighborhood Services Section
Departamento de desarrollo comunitario Sección de servicios de barrio
ATTN: Citizen Participation Plan / *Plan de participación*
P.O. Box 20000, Las Cruces, NM 88004
By E-mail / *Por correo electrónico*: vzamora@las-cruces.org
By Phone / *Por teléfono*: 575-528-3194 (voice / voz) or 575-528-3157 (TTY)

This facility meets the requirements for handicapped accessibility. A Spanish-speaking interpreter will be available, and upon request, sign language interpreters and other auxiliary aids can be provided. If you need an accommodation for a disability to enable you to fully participate in this event, please contact us at least 72 hours before the event at 575-528-3194 or TTY at 575-528-3157. The City of Las Cruces does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, familial status, spousal affiliation, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

Este edifico cumple los requisitos de accesibilidad para persona con discapacidades fiscos. Servicios de traducción en Español estarán disponibles y con petición intérpretes de lenguaje de señas y otras ayudas auxiliares. La Ciudad de Las Cruces acomodara razonablemente a individuos con discapacidades que deseen atender esta reunión pública. Por favor notifique al Departamento de Desarrollo de la Comunidad 72 horas antes de la reunión llamando al (575) 528-3022 (voz) o al 575-528-3157 (TTY). Este documento puede ser presentado en formas alterativas si usted lo pide, llamando a los números anteriores. La Ciudad de Las Cruces no discrimina en base de raza, origen étnico, color, religión, origen nacional, ascendencia, sexo, orientación sexual, identidad de género, condición familiar, conyugal afiliación, edad o discapacidad en el empleo y la prestación de servicios.

/CityofLasCruces CLCGOV CLCTV.com Equal Housing Opportunity / Igual de Oportunidad en las Vivenda

Washington, D.C.

White House fence jumper left a suicide note

ANDREA A. MCCARREN
WUSA-TV, WASHINGTON, D.C.

WASHINGTON - In court, Joseph Caputo turned to his mother and mouthed the words "I love you." He was shackled but wearing the same clothing as on Thanksgiving, when he jumped the White House fence.

Caputo's distraught mother said nothing as she left D.C. Superior Court surrounded by reporters.

Caputo jumped the fence with an American flag draped over him like a cape and a binder of papers between his teeth. He immediately put his hands up and then lay on the ground as the Secret Service moved in.

Charging documents reveal that while in custody, Caputo told agents that "I love my country" and that "I knew I would be locked up." Officers confiscated an American flag, a flash drive that resembled a "Captain America" shield, a pocket guide to the Constitution and weight-lifting gloves.

The documents also say Caputo left behind, in the Virginia home where he'd been staying, a suicide note that said: "Death is a natural part of life." Caputo's mother also provided officers with a last will and testament prepared by Caputo and an audio message in which he told his mother that "something will happen, and he may or may not be able to see her again."

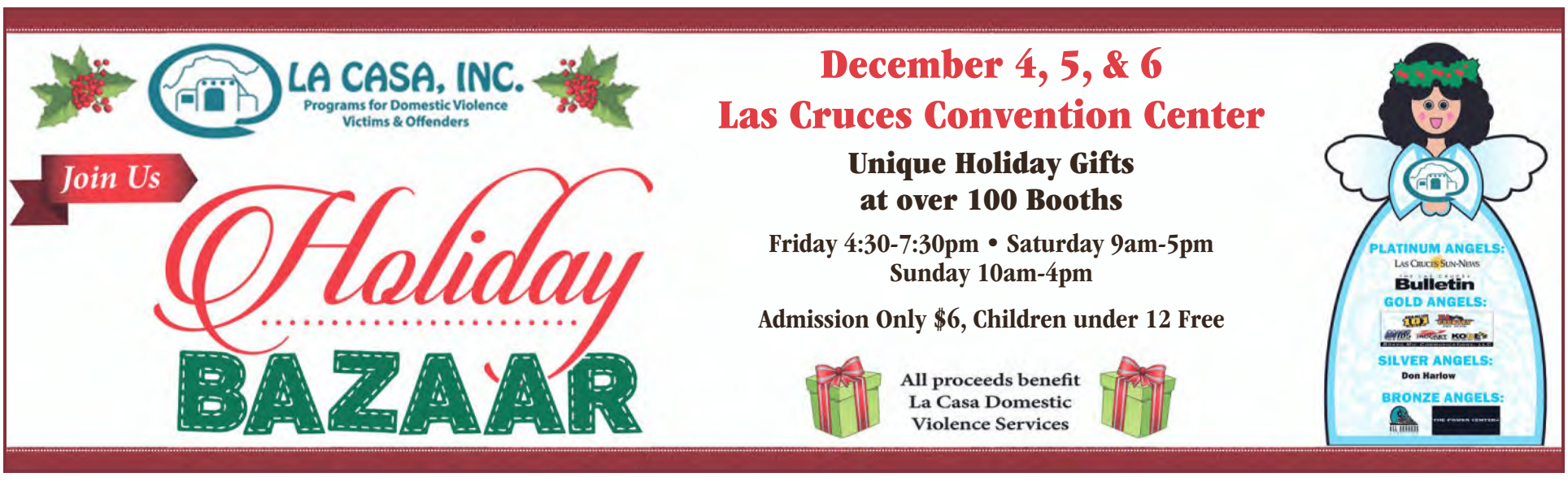
Caputo was released to the custody of the Secret Service and will undergo a comprehensive psychiatric evaluation at St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

In 2011, when Caputo was a high school senior, a Connecticut newspaper published a glowing feature on his success, despite having Asperger's syndrome.

At the time, Caputo said he dreamed of studying criminal justice. Now, he's learning about it firsthand.

He'll be in federal court Monday.

The Secret Service put new security measures in place last summer.



Law enforcement

Chicago police officer shoots, kills 2

CARYN ROUSSEAU
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO - A Chicago police officer shot and killed two people early Saturday while responding to a domestic disturbance call on the city's West Side, police said.

The shooting happened around 4:25 a.m. after officers who responded to the call "were confronted by a combative subject," the Chicago Police Department said in a statement.

The medical examiner's office and family members said Quintonio LeGrier, a 19-year-old college student, was pronounced dead at a hospital at 4:51 a.m. and Bettie Jones, a 55-year-old mother of five who lived downstairs from the apartment where LeGrier was staying, died at a different hospital at 5:14 a.m.

Both LeGrier and Jones were black, the Cook County medical examiner's office said. Police did not immediately disclose the race of the officer, how long the officer has been with the department or the officer's current work status.

The department is the subject of a federal civil rights investigation, which came after the release of a video showing white officer Jason Van Dyke shooting Laquan McDonald, a black 17-year-old, 16 times in 2014. Van Dyke faces six counts of first-degree murder and one of official misconduct in the death of McDonald and is scheduled to be arraigned Tuesday.

Officials have said the investigation will look into patterns of racial disparity in the use of force and review how the department disciplines officers and handles misconduct accusations.

LeGrier's father told the Chicago Sun-Times he had invited his son to a family holiday gathering before the shooting but he chose not to go. Antonio LeGrier said that when he returned to his second-floor apartment early Saturday, Quintonio appeared to be a "little agitated."

He said he heard loud banging on his locked bedroom door about 4:15 a.m. and that his son said, "You're not going to scare me." He said Quintonio tried to bust the door open, but he kept him from doing so and called police.

The father said he called Jones, who lived a floor below, and warned her that his son was a "little irate" and not to open the door unless police arrived. He said Jones told him she saw Quintonio outside with a baseball bat.

When police arrived, Antonio LeGrier said he heard Jones yell, "Whoa, Whoa Whoa!" He said he heard gunshots as he made his way down from the second floor and then saw his son and Jones lying in the foyer.

"I identified myself as the father and I held my hands out," he said.

He said his son had emotional problems after spending most of his childhood in foster care, but that it didn't warrant him being shot and killed.

The father said police told him that Quintonio was shot seven times.

He said his son was a "whiz kid" who was home on his holiday break from Northern Illinois University, where he majored in electrical engineering technology.

It is not clear from the police statement whether there are any video recordings of the shooting.

MEGAN CREPEAU/CHICAGO TRIBUNE VIA AP

A Chicago police sergeant speaks with a relative of Quintonio Legrier, who was killed by a police officer in Chicago early Saturday.

Obama

Continued from Page 1A

Even in the depths of tragedy after a church shooting in Charleston, South Carolina, the president struck an emotional chord with his stirring eulogy for the victims.

"I said at the beginning of this year that interesting stuff happens in the fourth quarter — and we are only halfway through," Obama said during his year-end news conference.

But the seventh year of Obama's presidency also challenged his restrained approach to international crises. Attacks in Paris and San Bernardino, California, heightened fears of terror, and Obama's attempts to reassure Americans fell flat.

Obama now stares down 11 months before his successor is chosen in an election shaping up to be a referendum on his leadership. He stirs deep anger among many Republicans, but he remains popular among Democrats and foresees a role campaigning for his party's nominee.

The president has about a half-dozen trips abroad planned, including a likely visit to Cuba.

His legislative agenda is slim and centers mostly on areas where he has common ground with Republicans, including final passage of the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact and criminal justice reform.

But he's also eyeing provocative executive actions, including expanding background checks for gun purchases and closing the Guantanamo Bay detention center.

"We recognize there's limited time left," said Jennifer Psaki, Obama's communications director.

Struggles and triumphs

At times, Obama's second term has appeared to play out in reverse.

He struggled to capitalize on his decisive reelection victory in 2012, stumbling through a two-year stretch that exposed the limits of his power. Then, in an unexpected twist, his party's devastating defeats in the 2014 midterm elections spurred one of the most productive years of his presidency, positioning Obama to be a valuable ally for Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton.

"Barack Obama will loom over the election," said Dan Pfeiffer, a longtime Obama adviser who left the White House earlier this year.

Advisers say the Supreme Court's ruling in May upholding the subsidies at the heart of Obama's health care law came as a particular relief. The decision ensures the law survives his presidency, even as Republican candidates pledge to repeal it.

Obama sees the Iran nuclear accord, Pacific Rim trade pact and sweeping climate change agreement finalized in Paris earlier this month as examples of how America should wield its power on the world stage.

National security

Yet Obama hasn't been able to escape the Middle East. No matter how many times he tries to pivot to Asia or rebrand U.S. foreign policy as more about diplomacy than military might, the volatile region continues to be the dominant force in the way his foreign policy is viewed.

Nearly every candidate running for president — including Clinton, his former secretary of state — is calling for more aggressive action to fight the Islamic State group, especially in the wake of terror attacks in Paris and California.

White House advisers say Obama is well aware that he misjudged the public's level of anxiety about terrorism and must scramble to counter what he sees as overheated rhetoric from Republican presidential candidates.

Aides say outlining an alternative to Republicans on foreign policy and other matters will be a central part of his final State of the Union address to Congress on Jan. 12.

The address was scheduled earlier than usual to give the president space to make his case before primary voting begins.

Julian Zelizer, a political historian at Princeton University, said a well-crafted speech can only go so far in helping Obama reassure the public of his national security stewardship.

"The only way he regains ground is concrete victories where people can literally see progress made," Zelizer said. "This is an area where he has to have policy gains."

Working with Congress

As he closed out 2015, Obama promised he wouldn't fade into the background in his final year in office. But he's also realistic about the limited opportunities for a Democratic president and Republican-led Congress in a presidential election year.

Some Republicans say they're willing to work with the president in his final year.

"I think if you look at what we've been able to work with him on this year, it's a good, telling piece of the kinds of things we can do next year," said Sen. Cory Gardner, R-Colo. "We worked very well on education reform, the highway bill, on human trafficking legislation — so there were some significant bipartisan accomplishments that we have been able to achieve this year."

Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., echoed that sentiment, saying that "there are a lot of opportunities" to work with the president.

White House aides say the president is eager to campaign for the party's nominee, as well as Democrats in other races. He chafed at being kept on the sidelines in the 2014 midterms, and advisers used Democrats' sweeping losses as an I-told-you-so moment for party officials.

This time, Obama isn't waiting for an invitation from the Democratic nominee.

"I will have a Democratic successor, and I will campaign very hard to make that happen," he said.

City of Las Cruces®
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– PUBLIC MEETINGS • REUNION PUBLICA –

HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

Fondos federales de vivienda y desarrollo urbano

The City of Las Cruces needs your input about how to spend the housing and community development funds it will receive during the next five years (2016-2020) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Activities must generally benefit low and moderate income persons. The City is starting a process called the Consolidated Plan, which will determine how the federal funds will be spent. Citizen participation is a vital step in determining the community's needs.

La Ciudad de Las Cruces necesita su opinión acerca de cómo invertir los fondos federales de vivienda y desarrollo urbano qué recibirá durante los próximos cinco años (2016-2020) del Departamento de Desarrollo Urbano y Vivienda (HUD por sus siglas en ingles) de los Estado Unidos. Generalmente, las actividades seleccionadas deben beneficiar a personas con ingresos bajos o moderados. La Ciudad está empezando un proceso que se llama el Plan Consolidado, que determinará como se invertirán estos fondos federales. La participación de los ciudadanos es una parte muy importante en este proceso para determinar las necesidades de la comunidad.

We invite you to participate in one of the meetings listed:
Le invitamos que participe en uno de las siguientes reuniones públicas:

Tuesday/Martes
JANUARY 12 /12 DE ENERO / 6-7:30 p.m.
Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite

Wednesday/Miércoles
JANUARY 13 /13 DE ENERO / 2-3:30 p.m.
Henry Benavidez Senior Center, 1045 McClure Rd.

Wednesday/Miércoles
JANUARY 13 /13 DE ENERO / 6-7:30 p.m.
Sage Café, 6121 Reynolds Dr.

For more information contact Vera Zamora, Housing & Neighborhood Services Manager at 575-528-3194. If you cannot join us, be sure to complete a survey about housing and community development needs by going to https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LasCrucesCP.

Por más información contactar a Vera Zamora, encargado de servicios de vivienda y barrios en 575-528-3194. Si no puede asistir a una de las reuniones, asegúrese de completar el cuestionario acerca las viviendas y desarrollo urbano que se halla en el Web con la dirección https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LasCrucesCP.

These facilities meet the requirements for handicapped accessibility. A Spanish-speaking interpreter will be available, and upon request, sign language interpreters and other auxiliary aids. If you need an accommodation for a disability to enable you to fully participate in this event, please contact us 72 hours before the event at 575-528-3194 or TTY at 575-528-3157. The City of Las Cruces does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, familial status, spousal affiliation, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

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/CityofLasCruces CLCGOV CLCTV.com Equal Housing Opportunity / Igual de Opportunidad en las Vivenda

TX-0001081914-01

Wellness Seminar.

Evolution of Insulin Resistance and its Impact on Obesity, Diabetes, Heart Disease and Hormones

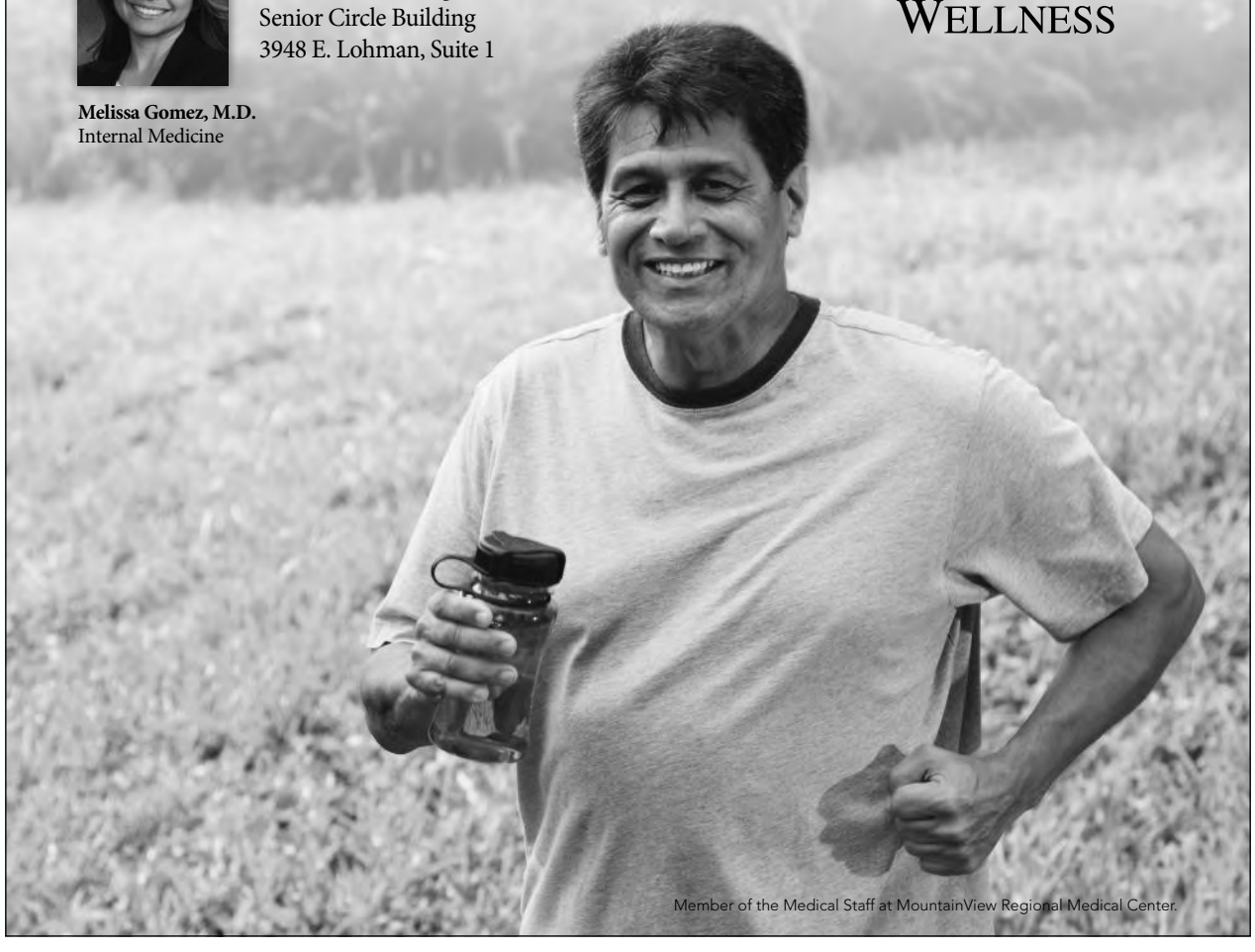
When it comes to living healthier, education is the important first step. Whether you are concerned about diet and exercise, or managing a chronic illness like diabetes or heart disease, MountainView Wellness can help you create a plan to get back to your optimum level of health.

To reserve your space at our next seminar, call 575-521-8860.

Melissa Gomez, M.D.
Internal Medicine

Wellness Seminar
January 14 • 6 p.m.
MountainView Regional Medical Center
Senior Circle Building
3948 E. Lohman, Suite 1

MOUNTAINVIEW WELLNESS



Member of the Medical Staff at MountainView Regional Medical Center.

India

CHANNI ANAND/AP

Indian security forces stand outside Pathankot's air base, which came under attack by suspected militants Saturday.

Attack on air base leaves six dead

Incident comes amid thawing relations with Pakistan

CHANNI ANAND
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PATHANKOT, India - Suspected militants infiltrated an Indian air force base near the border with Pakistan on Saturday and exchanged fire with security forces for hours, leaving at least four gunmen and two Indian troops dead, officials and news reports said.

Although it was unclear who staged the attack, it was being seen as a possible attempt to undo recent progress made in relations between archrivals India and Pakistan, coming just a week after the first visit to Pakistan in 12 years by an Indian prime minister.

The attack at the Pathankot air force base began a couple of hours before dawn, and by late morning it appeared that the violence had ended with the killing of the gunmen by Indian forces. But two hours later, more gunfire erupted, and an air force helicopter was seen firing at an area of the base, a major installation about 267 miles north of New Delhi.

Air force spokeswoman Rochelle D'Silva said Saturday night that troops were combing the entire base to fully secure it. She said the combing operation was expected to continue through the night.

The defense ministry said there had been intelligence reports about a likely terror attack on military installations in Pathankot, and the air force had been prepared to thwart any attackers.

"Due to the effective preparation and coordinated efforts by all the security agencies a group of terrorists were detected by the aerial surveillance platforms as soon as they entered the Air Force Station at Pathankot," the ministry said in a statement.

Despite the intelligence on a possible attack, at least two air force troops were killed in the gunbattle, the Press Trust of India news agency reported. PTI, citing police, also said at least four gunmen had been killed.

Police said they suspected the gunmen were militants and were investigating whether they had come from the Indian portion of Kashmir or from Pakistan. The Himalayan region of Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan but is claimed in its entirety by both.

Rebels routinely stage attacks in Indian-held Kashmir, where they've been fighting since 1989 for an independent Kashmir or its merger with Pakistan.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training Kashmir's insurgents, a charge Islamabad denies, and the attack was viewed by many in India as an attempt to unravel recent progress in the country's relationship with its archrival.

The violence came just a week after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi made an unannounced visit to Pakistan to meet with his Pakistani counterpart, Nawaz Sharif. The visit was seen as a potential sign of thawing relations between the two nuclear-armed neighbors. The two leaders also held an unscheduled meeting at the Paris climate talks.

Universities

Clemson responds to frat misconduct

RON BARNETT
THE GREENVILLE (S.C.) NEWS

Clemson University denies allegations that it "owed a duty of care" to a fraternity pledge who died during a fraternity run in September 2014.

In court documents filed last week, the university in Greenville, South Carolina, answered allegations made in a lawsuit brought by the parents of Tucker Hipps, including that he was forced to walk along a narrow railing of the State 93 bridge over Lake Hartwell. The university argued that Hipps might have contributed to his own death during the 2014 run. His body was found in the water below the bridge late that afternoon, and the coroner said he died of head injuries that could have been caused by falling from the bridge onto large rocks in shallow water.

The lawsuit was filed in April but amended in November to include allegations drawn from testimony of someone who said he saw Hipps walking on the rail. Authorities have dismissed the person's statements as inconsistent with known facts.

Clemson was named as a defendant along with Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity and three members of the fraternity. The university denied that a member of the fraternity contacted a Clemson official asking permission to go for a predawn run Sept. 22, 2014. The lawsuit alleged that fraternity members got no reply to the emailed request and took that as acquiescence by the university.

City of Las Cruces®
PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

– PUBLIC MEETINGS • REUNION PUBLICA –

HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

Fondos federales de vivienda y desarrollo urbano

The City of Las Cruces needs your input about how to spend the housing and community development funds it will receive during the next five years (2016-2020) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Activities must generally benefit low and moderate income persons. The City is starting a process called the Consolidated Plan, which will determine how the federal funds will be spent. Citizen participation is a vital step in determining the community's needs.

La Ciudad de Las Cruces necesita su opinión acerca de cómo invertir los fondos federales de vivienda y desarrollo urbano qué recibirá durante los próximos cinco años (2016-2020) del Departamento de Desarrollo Urbano y Vivienda (HUD por sus siglas en ingles) de los Estado Unidos. Generalmente, las actividades seleccionadas deben beneficiar a personas con ingresos bajos o moderados. La Ciudad está empezando un proceso que se llama el Plan Consolidado, que determinará como se invertirán estos fondos federales. La participación de los ciudadanos es una parte muy importante en este proceso para determinar las necesidades de la comunidad.

We invite you to participate in one of the meetings listed:
Le invitamos que participe en uno de las siguientes reuniones públicas:

Tuesday/Martes
JANUARY 12 /12 DE ENERO / 6-7:30 p.m.
Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite

Wednesday/Miércoles
JANUARY 13 /13 DE ENERO / 2-3:30 p.m.
Henry Benavidez Senior Center, 1045 McClure Rd.

Wednesday/Miércoles
JANUARY 13 /13 DE ENERO / 6-7:30 p.m.
Sage Café, 6121 Reynolds Dr.

For more information contact Vera Zamora, Housing & Neighborhood Services Manager at 575-528-3194. If you cannot join us, be sure to complete a survey about housing and community development needs by going to https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LasCrucesCP.

Por más información contactar a Vera Zamora, encargado de servicios de vivienda y barrios en 575-528-3194. Si no puede asistir a una de las reuniones, asegúrese de completar el cuestionario acerca las viviendas y desarrollo urbano que se halla en el Web con la dirección https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LasCrucesCP.

These facilities meet the requirements for handicapped accessibility. A Spanish-speaking interpreter will be available, and upon request, sign language interpreters and other auxiliary aids. If you need an accommodation for a disability to enable you to fully participate in this event, please contact us 72 hours before the event at 575-528-3194 or TTY at 575-528-3157. The City of Las Cruces does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, familial status, spousal affiliation, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

Estos edificios cumplen los requisitos de accesibilidad para persona con discapacidades fiscos. Servicios de traducción en español estarán disponibles y con petición intérpretes de lenguaje de señas y otras ayudas auxiliares. La Ciudad de Las Cruces acomodara razonablemente a individuos con discapacidades que deseen atender esta reunión pública. Por favor notifique al Departamento de Desarrollo de la Comunidad 72 horas antes de la reunión llamando al (575) 528-3022 (voz) o al 575-528-3157 (TTY). Este documento puede ser presentado en formas alterativas si usted lo pide, llamando a los números anteriores. La Ciudad de Las Cruces no discrimina en base de raza, origen étnico, color, religión, origen nacional, ascendencia, sexo, orientación sexual, identidad de género, condición familiar, conyugal afiliación, edad o discapacidad en el empleo y la prestación de servicios.

/CityofLasCruces CLCGOV CLCTV.com Equal Housing Opportunity / Igual de Oportunidad en las Vivenda

TX-0001081914-01

www.lcsun-news.com

LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

SEE ATTACHED

I, being duly sworn, Diana Jaramillo deposes and says that she is the Legal Coordinator of the Las Cruces Sun-News, a newspaper published daily in the county of Dona Ana, State of New Mexico; that the DISPLAY is an exact duplicate of the notice that was published once a week/day in regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof for 1 consecutive week(s)/day(s), the first publication was in the issue dated November 29, 2015, the last publication was November 29, 2015. Despondent further states this newspaper is duly qualified to publish legal notice or advertisements within the meaning of Sec. Chapter 167, Laws of 1937.

Signed

Diana Jaramillo

Legal Coordinator
Official Position

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ss.
County of Dona Ana
Subscribed and sworn before me this

10th **day of** March '16

Diana Jaramillo

Notary Public in and for
Dona Ana County, New Mexico

June 24, 2019

My Term Expires

OFFICIAL SEAL
DIANA JARAMILLO
Notary Public
State of New Mexico
My Comm. Expires 6/24/19

City of Las Cruces®
PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

The City of Las Cruces Needs Your Input…

…to identify housing and community development needs in your neighborhood and the city.

Why is the City Interested?

The City of Las Cruces needs your input about how to spend the federal housing and community development funds it will receive during the next five years (2016 – 2020). Activities must generally benefit low and moderate income persons. The City is starting a process called the Consolidated Plan, which will determine how the federal funds will be spent. Citizen participation is a vital step in determining the community's needs.

What do we want to know?

- What do you consider to be the most critical housing needs in your neighborhood and for the City overall?
- What are the most critical community development needs? (e.g.; where sidewalks are needed, streets paved, drainage problems solved)
- What can the City do to improve housing opportunities and community development?

How to Get Involved

Community Meetings

On January 12th and 13th, three community meetings will be held to gather public input on housing and community development needs. During these forums, citizens, social service agencies, developers, homeless and housing providers, health professionals and advocates will come together to discuss the most pressing needs in the City. Please join us at one of the forums listed to the right.

Public Hearings

The draft Consolidated Plan will be available for review on March 22, 2016. On April 6th and 7th, hearings will be held to take public comments on the draft Plan. Dates, times and locations are listed to the right.

Questions?

If you cannot join us, be sure to complete a survey about housing and community development needs by going to www.surveymonkey.com/r/LasCrucesCP. Also feel free to provide written comments about the Consolidated Plan to the contact below. For more information about the Consolidated Plan process, or to make disability accommodations for a meeting, contact:

Vera Zamora, Housing and Neighborhood Services Manager
Phone: 575-528-3194 email: vzamora@las-cruces.org

Public Forum Schedule

Community Meetings

January 12, 2016
6:00 – 7:30 pm
Munson Senior Center
975 Mesquite

January 13, 2016
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm
Henry Benavidez Senior Center
1045 McClure Road

January 13, 2016
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
Sage Cafe
6121 Reynolds Drive

Public Hearings

April 6th , 2016
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Sage café
6121 Reynolds Drive

April 7th, 2016
9:00 am - 10:30 am
Las Cruces City Hall
Council Chambers
700 N. Main Street

April 7th, 2016
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Mesilla Valley Community of Hope
Resource Room; Building 3
999 West Amador Avenue

Note: All locations are accessible to persons with disabilities.

CITY OF LAS CRUCES CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN
PUBLIC HEARING DECEMBER 16, 2015

NAME:	EMAIL ADDRESS:	PHONE NUMBER:
Lisa LaRocque	llarocque@las-cruces.org	541-2177
Armida Hernandez	fed.interpretor@yahoo.com	(505)977-6336
Becky Baum	beccaeich@yahoo.com	575.527 5588
Jan Lauterbach	JLauterbach@las-cruces.org	528-3134
Natalie Green	ngreen@las-cruces.org	528-3086
Steve Zumwalt	szumwalt@las-cruces.org	528-3194

Citizen Participation Plan Public Meeting
for the 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan
December 16, 2015

Following are the summary minutes of the 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan Public Input meeting held on December 16, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite St., Las Cruces, New Mexico.

PRESENT: Vera Zamora (Community Development)
Natalie Green (Community Development)
Jan Lauterbach (City of Las Cruces)
Armida Hernandez (Interpreting and Translation Services)
Lisa LaRocque (City of Las Cruces)
Becky Baum - Recording Secretary

No Public Present

Note: Staff waited for 40 minutes to ensure ample opportunity for members of the public to attend.

CONSOLIDATED PLAN PUBLIC INPUT MEETING
MUNSON SENIOR CENTER
JANUARY 12, 2016

Name	Organization (if applicable)	E-mail	Phone
MAGDALENA GIRÓN	[illegible]		
Glenn Landers		glenn.landers@gmail.com	
Rose Garcia	Tierra del Sol Housing	rosag@tdshc.org	541-0477
SAL ESTRADA	TDS	tdsestrada@msn.com	541-0477
David Nuñez		D-N-Nuñez@MSN.com	649-0460
THEO LAUTURNER	AARP		575-494-5188
Henry Lauturner			575-494-3759
Cindi Davis		southernmom45@yahoo.com	650-8144
Pamela Angell	St. Vic's Health Care Clinic	pangellos@hcc.info	202-0795
Colleen Patrick + Robert Brokable		bucketrobert@yahoo.com	642-8646

CONSOLIDATED PLAN PUBLIC INPUT MEETING
HENRY BENAVIDEZ SENIOR CENTER
JANUARY 13, 2016

Name	Organization (if applicable)	E-mail	Phone
MAGDALENA GIRÓN	[illegible]		
Theresa Armendariz	La Casa, Inc.	tarmendariz@lacasainc.org	526-2819
Juan Olvera	MVPHA	jolvera@mvpha.org	528-2000
ART MARRUJO	Tierra Del Sol Housing	ARTM@TDSHC.org	541-0477
Delores Gomez	Volunteer at EC Caldito		5265991
Jimmy Michael	Mobile Home PARK	jamco1cnm@Hotmail	6425515
Simona Chacon	ST. Luke's Health Care Clinic	simonamango13@yahoo.com	649-3402
Jan Lauterbach	CLC	JLauterbach@las-cruces.org	528-3134
Veronica Schulz			649-4944
Audrey Hartley	Jardin de los Niños	jardindelosninos1@gmail.com	650-0768
Victoria Harvey	St Luke's Health Clinic	volongs4elh@hotmail.com	
Dawn Hommel	CAAS NM	dawnh@caasnm.org	527-8799
Nicole Martinez	MV Com. of Hope	hope@zianet.com	523-2219
Lorenzo Alba Jr	Casa De Desamparados	lo.alba.jr@gmail.com	523 5542
[illegible]	CLC		CLC
Angela Green	CLC		
Raymond Burchfield	CLC		
Natalie Green	CLC		

x 3094

CONSOLIDATED PLAN PUBLIC INPUT MEETING
SAGE CAFÉ
JANUARY 13, 2016

Name	Organization (if applicable)	E-mail	Phone
Jan Lauterbach	CLC	JLauterbach@las-cruces.org	528-3134
Sharon Thomas	SCRTD	SKThomas_1D@msn.com	575 644-2577
Barbara & Arvel Thomas	none	—	382-7473
Shannon Jacquez	Families & Youth	Sjacquez@fyinm.org	635-2165
A Lopez	HOMEOWNER	—	—
Karl & Melanie Schluter	~~Sera~~ Rising	Kjandmj86@gmail.com	3730126
Roschlin + George George	Home owners	georgearist;e@Aol.Com	993-2090
Charles Wendler		candiwendler@aol.com	915-479-3337

Citizen Participation Plan Public Meeting
for the 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan
January 12, 2016

Following are the summary minutes of the 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan Public Input meeting held on January 12, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite St., Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Staff Present	Vera Zamora (Community Development) Natalie Green (Community Development) Ray Sartin (Community Development)
Consultant/Translator:	Magdalena Giron (Interpreting and Translation Services) Becky Baum (Recording Secretary)
Public Present:	Glen Lauders Rose Garcia Sal Estrada David Nunez Theo Lauturner Henry Lauturner Cyndi Davis Pamela Angell Colleen Patrick R. W. Brokard

Tom Hart gave a PowerPoint presentation of the 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan (see attached). The following questions and/or comments were made:

R.W. Brokad and Pamela Angell requested clarification of Tom Hart's statistics regarding mental health needs among adolescents in Las Cruces and regarding homeless population and utilization of homeless shelters. Pamela Angell discussed her personal experiences with the homeless people of Las Cruces.

Sal Estrada requested clarification of the number of veterans served by the homeless services in Las Cruces and whether the residents of the tent city are considered to be "homeless."

Vera Zamora clarified the definition of "functional zero" that is being used in the presentation and that the tent city residents are considered "homeless."

Rose Garcia discussed that she works with affordable housing and that she feels Tom Hart's presentation does not have accurate information because standard information gathering methods do not work for the homeless population of Las Cruces. She also offered to provide data from her office to help update the data that Tom Hart is working with.

David Nunez supports Rose Garcia's opinion about information gathering techniques and discussed the locations of colonias that he feels are third-world conditions and strongly suggested site visits to improve data collection.

Rose Garcia urged City Councilors to advocate for affordable housing.

David Nunez discussed language barriers and that the residents of the colonias are under-represented.

Magdalena Jiron discussed that the survey is very confusing for non-English speakers and therefore cannot be answered accurately by people who speak only Spanish due to grammar mistakes.

Rose Garcia discussed that the farm workers are mostly Spanish speakers who need better housing support in order to keep them here to work in agriculture.

Tom Hart continued his presentation.

David Nunez requested clarification on the type of properties in demand for affordable housing and where the information came from.

Tom Hart discussed that it is difficult to find out the type and quality of properties using a standard market survey.

Rose Garcia discussed the low income tax credit available from MFA and that Las Cruces does not receive the credit due to not scoring well on the applications. She again urged that City Councilors and County Commissioners advocate for more help for low-income families.

Tom Hart discussed some of the reasons that Las Cruces does not score well on the MFA applications and how to improve the scores.

Rose Garcia discussed timing of applications and how to improve the scores.

Tom Hart continued to discuss MFA applications and vacancy rates.

R.W. Brokad asked what the green line on the screen represented.

Tom Hart promised to look at his notes to be able to answer that later. He continued his presentation.

David Nunez asked for clarification on the types of renters in Tom Hart's numbers, whether they are currently renting homes or waiting to rent homes.

Tom Hart explained that the numbers represented currently housed renters.

Rose Garcia commented that the large number of people in the 30% income range consists of residents that qualify for assistance and due to recent cuts they are not getting help. She continued that most of these people are seniors and very low-income families and need extra help.

Tom Hart continued his presentation.

Rose Garcia commented that Las Cruces may try to get assistance from the new National Housing Trust Fund being made available through Congress and discussed that she does not believe Las Cruces will be ready to compete for those monies.

Tom Hart continued his presentation.

Sal Estrada commented that it is believed that the lack of educational success at two of the elementary schools in Las Cruces is due to homelessness and low income. He asked how to approach the problem of homelessness impacting the children's ability to learn and succeed at school.

Tom Hart discussed that the City has several after-school programs and parenting education programs that Sal Estrada may wish to make a high priority.

Rose Garcia commented that the City needs to budget for investing in these programs.

Tom Hart discussed that these public meetings are to get public opinion input to present to the City Council so that they can set budgets and priorities.

David Nunez asked for clarification that FY 2014-2015 budget monies were roughly 1.2 million.

Vera Zamora clarified that the monies being discussed are CDBG funds and not City General Fund money and that these entitlement monies are usually allocated to the services being shown on the screen. The Home Funds as well as some of the CDBG funds are dedicated to affordable housing, limiting the amount dedicated to public services by the percentage allowed by the regulations, which is 15%.

David Nunez asked that the expenditures be detailed in a presentation.

Vera Zamora informed him that at the end of the year maps are created to indicate where the monies are spent in the CAPER report.

Tom Hart discussed that after the strategic planning there are specific projects listed for the new year's budget.

David Nunez discussed that it is important to see exactly where the money is going and how the City is getting money and if they lose the chance to receive financial aid due to lack of competitiveness or missing deadlines for applications.

Vera Zamora discussed how the City receives money from HUD.

David Nunez commented that he is often disappointed when requesting aid from his City Councilors due to budget constraints.

Tom Hart commented that available funds are shrinking and less money is available recently.

David Nunez is concerned that City Council is using large amounts of money on small projects that are not really helpful.

Vera Zamora indicates that the funding currently under discussion, for street infrastructure projects, has to be spent in low to moderate income areas.

David Nunez asked how to request funds and/or infrastructure improvements.

Vera Zamora informed him that those requests are routed through City Council using public input meetings like this one.

David Nunez asked again how an individual could request a sidewalk or road repairs.

Vera Zamora indicated again that the individual would come to the public meetings and have their concerns brought up to City Council.

David Nunez commented that the low-income families need advocates to improve their housing and infrastructure.

Sal Estrada asked about the geographical data on the map.

Vera Zamora indicated that there are low moderate census tracts indicated.

Sal Estrada requested clarification of where monies would be allocated relative to the census tracts.

Tom Hart and Vera Zamora discussed that all the monies do not have to be allocated only in the specific geographical areas shown on the map as long as the monies are considered to be allocated fairly.

Tom Hart mentioned that there are more meetings regarding the Consolidated Plan in the next few days and that the new mapping techniques that HUD is using shows more diversity in Las Cruces and allows more leeway in developing neighborhoods.

Cyndi Davis asked how the City programs tie in with State programs to help people purchase their own homes.

Vera Zamora indicated that it depends on the project as to how the City and State funds are disbursed, that the situation or project determines whether gap funding is used or CDBG funding.

Cyndi Davis asked if all the affordable housing groups are coordinating together and how to find information on which agencies are best to help an individual in search of housing.

Rose Garcia offered her business card to Cyndi Davis to help her find housing and agencies to help financially.

Cyndi Davis commented that it is difficult to find housing for herself and people she knows who have very low incomes and also discussed that there are elderly people who cannot afford housing.

Theo Lauturner commented that the investors who are interested in building rental properties should be contacted and something should be done to help make it more profitable for the investors to build more.

Tom Hart agreed and indicated that subsidizing developers helps make rent less expensive. He closed the meeting and asked that everyone leave their papers on the table so the data can be collated.

Citizen Participation Plan Public Meeting
for the 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan
January 13, 2016

Following are the summary minutes of the 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan Public Input meeting held on January 13, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. at Henry Benavidez Senior Center, 1045 McClure Road, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Staff Present:	Vera Zamora (Community Development)
	Natalie Green (Community Development)
	Angela Green (Community Development)
	Raymond Burchfield (Community Development)
	Jan Lauterbach (Community Development)
Consultant/Translator:	Magdelena Giron (Interpreting and Translation Services)
Public Present:	Theresa Armendariz
	Juan Owera
	Art Marrujo
	Dolores Gomez
	Jimmy Michael
	Simon Chacon
	Veronica Schulz
	Audrey Hartley
	Evictain Harvey
	Dawn Hommer
	Nicole Martinez
	Lorenzo Alba

Tom Hart gave a PowerPoint presentation of the FY2016-2020 Consolidated Plan (see attached). The following questions and/or comments were made:

Erica L. Harvey asked for clarification of the graph being displayed.

Tom Hart explained and continued his presentation.

Veronica Schultz commented that landlords do not keep up their properties and charge high rates for poor housing.

Nicole Martinez commented that Veronica Schultz is correct and that landlords and tenants are both very uneducated as to their rights and responsibilities.

Tom Hart continued his presentation.

Nicole Martinez commented that residents of Las Cruces do not wish to cooperate with City Council in education efforts as to rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants.

Tom Hart continued his presentation.

Veronica Schultz commented that discrimination is less racially oriented and more financially oriented, that "rich" people discriminate against "poor" people regardless of race.

Teresa Armendariz of La Casa commented that discrimination and domestic violence are very common barriers that keep their clients from getting affordable housing.

Tom Hart continued his presentation.

Art Marrujo commented on difficulties in constructing low-cost housing and the obstructions of costs and codes.

Tom Hart continued his presentation.

Jimmy Michael, a local landlord, commented on the high cost of services such as sewer and garbage making it very difficult to keep rental rates low enough for low-income families to afford.

Dawn Hommer from the Community Action Agency commented that common issues keeping residents from getting housing are poor credit and passing background checks, as any criminal activity on a person's record can keep them from getting financing.

Tom Hart explained how to submit written comments and then continued his presentation.

Delores Gomez commented that people are put on a waiting list with the soonest available housing help coming in three years.

Tom Hart continued his presentation.

Delores Gomez commented on an abandoned house near her home that was burned years ago and asks if the City could not buy the property and use it for affordable housing.

Tom Hart commented that some cities have vacancy and seizure codes and that they might condemn the property and seize it but Las Cruces may not have such a thing.

Citizen Participation Plan Public Meeting
for the 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan
January 13, 2016

Following are the summary minutes of the 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan Public Input meeting held on January 13, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Sage Cafe, 6121 Reynolds, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Staff Present:	Vera Zamora (Community Development) Natalie Green (Community Development) Jan Lauterbach (Community Development)
Consultant/Translator:	Magdalena Giron (Interpreting and Translation Services) Becky Baum (Recording Secretary)
Public Present:	Sharon Thomas Barbara & Arvel Thomas Shannon Jacquez Al Lopez Karla Melanie Schulter Rosenda & George George Charles Wendler

Tom Hart gave a PowerPoint presentation of the FY2016-2020 Consolidated Plan (see attached). The following questions and/or comments were made:

Barbara Thomas requested clarification on the presentation.

Tom Hart clarified.

Barbara Thomas requested further clarification.

Tom Hart clarified and continued his presentation.

Charles Wendler commented that manufacturing is not shown in the presentation and feels it is a very important aspect and a foundation of the economy.

Shannon Jacquez commented that the presentation helps show what is wrong with housing in the area.

Tom Hart agreed and continued his presentation and gave instructions on how to provide written input.

Shannon Jacquez commented that she was surprised that housing cost is being discussed without including the costs of transportation considering the high number of people who commute long distances to work.

Tom Hart agreed and explained that HUD has not gotten around to including those things although the State is working on a way to quantify and include that information in order to help more people.

George George questioned if the survey he recently filled out in the mail was for the Consolidated Plan.

Tom Hart confirmed that it was.

Charles Wendler asked Tom Hart to compare Las Cruces' economic development and poverty levels with other communities he has worked with.

Tom Hart stated that the poverty level in Las Cruces seems higher than other communities as well as having an oversupply of more expensive housing which makes it difficult for residents to find low-cost housing.

Charles Wendler asked what classification the residents of Tent City would fall into.

Tom Hart said they were considered unsheltered.

Charles Wendler asked if there are plans to expand the Tent City program.

Tom Hart commented that there are discussions about upgrading the tents to make them nicer to live in because there is no way to fund building houses there with HUD money because it would not meet required housing standards.

Shannon Jacquez commented that Tent City allows people to find help more easily and get into proper homes more quickly.

Tom Hart commented that Tent City provides shelter for those people who do not wish to follow the rules in a low-cost apartment or homeless shelter.

Charles Wendler commented that Tent City also provides more security and a feeling of protection and stability for many mentally ill people who are not ready to seek help from available programs.

Terrorism

Many at Gitmo not 'too dangerous'

Review board chips away at detainees at the US base

BEN FOX
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI - In the last comprehensive review of prisoners held at Guantanamo Bay, the U.S. government decided nearly 50 were "too dangerous to transfer but not feasible for prosecution," leaving them in an open-ended legal limbo.

Now it seems many might not be so dangerous after all. A review board that includes military and intelligence officials has been taking a hard look at these men and helping to steadily chip away at the list of indefinite detainees, who are a significant obstacle to President Barack Obama's push to close the detention center at the U.S. military base in Cuba. The first 23 decisions announced by the Periodic Review Board as of this month have skewed heavily in favor of the prisoners. It has unanimously cleared 19 for release and said five will continue to be held but be re-evaluated later. Some of the approved have already left Guantanamo, while the rest are expected to depart over the summer. Lawyers for detainees welcomed the initial results, although they say the men shouldn't have been held without charge for so long.

"These people have not been reviewed in over six years. They have changed, circumstances have changed, and they have needed a fresh look," said Pardiss Kebriaei, a lawyer for the New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights who represented a prisoner cleared by the Periodic Review Board.

The deliberations of the board are private. But David Glazier, a professor at Loyola Law School who has analyzed records of the proceedings released by the Pentagon, said the members appear to be treating past assessments of prisoners "with a healthier degree of skepticism" than officials did in the past.

"If you just care about justice for human beings, it's a little odd that it's taken 14 years to ask the questions in a hard enough way to discover that," said Glazier, a former Navy officer and expert in military law.

BRENNAN LINSLEY/AP

A shackled detainee is transported away from his annual Administrative Review Board hearing with U.S. officials in 2006, at the Guantanamo Bay U.S. Naval Base in Cuba.

Legislation

Lawmakers propose registries for refugees

JEFFREY COLLINS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA, S.C. - While Republican front-runner Donald Trump continues to make waves nationally for his comments about banning Muslims from traveling to the country, lawmakers in two very different states are proposing that all refugees register with the government.

Registration bills are being proposed in both New York state and South Carolina, where if refugees commit an act of terrorism, their sponsors, under the bill, could be held liable.

The South Carolina lawmakers say they are less concerned about a possible constitutional challenge than a possible terrorist threat.

Opponents, however, say the measure is out of character for a state that often espouses the importance of Christian hospitality and loving your neighbor.

"I want us to be who we have always been — a welcoming people," said state Sen. Kevin Johnson, D-Manning, who is helping lead the fight against the bill.

Sponsoring state Sen. Kevin Bryant said the bill has three components: a registry of all refugees, civil liability for sponsors of refugees from countries considered state sponsors of terror by the federal government (currently Iran, Sudan and Syria) for crimes committed by refugees, and a prohibition on the state spending any money on refugees and their families.

Bryant said the bill is intended to protect public safety. Nearly 850 refugees from a number of countries in Europe, Africa and the Middle East have come to South Carolina since 2010, with 87 arriving since last summer. The Anderson Republican said if only one of them were to conduct a terrorist attack, it would be devastating. Instead, he said state residents can show their compassion by giving to relief organizations that help refugees elsewhere.

"Why should we bring one refugee here when we could spend the same money and help 10 in their part of the world?" Bryant said.

A challenge to the South Carolina bill is likely because it singles out people by country of origin and seems aimed at discriminating against Muslims, said Ibrahim Hooper, spokesman for the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

"If it is not illegal, it is at least un-American," Hooper said.

South Carolina senators debated the bill Wednesday and Thursday and would likely come back to it next Tuesday. Bryant is talking to Democrats about tweaking the proposal to allow some state money to be spent on refugee families, such as for public education.

The bill was introduced as the civil war in Syria has created thousands of refugees and European countries have pressured the U.S. to take in some of the people fleeing the violence. But terror attacks in Paris and California have heightened worries that refugees angry with the United States could get into the country. The New York bill was introduced by state Sen. Terrence Murphy, a Republican who represents a district in the lower Hudson Valley.

It requires refugees to register with the state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, be fingerprinted, and have the office monitor their activities for a year or until they become permanent residents, whichever happens first.

But the New York Immigration Coalition, composed of almost 200 groups, has called on senators to kill the measure, calling it a "heinous bill that treats refugees who are fleeing from violence and conflict like criminals."

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PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

– PUBLIC NOTICE • AVISO PUBLICO –

2016 -2020 CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND 2016 CITY OF LAS CRUCES ACTION PLAN

Plan de Consolidación 2016-2020 y Plan de Acción 2016 de la Ciudad de Las Cruces

Notice is hereby given that the City of Las Cruces will hold three public hearings on the draft needs, priorities, and strategies for the 2016-2020 City of Las Cruces Consolidated Plan, Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, and the 2016 City of Las Cruces Action Plan.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires cities receiving Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) entitlement funds to submit a five-year Consolidated Plan and an annual Action Plan describing the City's one-year planned use of grant funds. The Plan will be available for review and comment for 30 days beginning Tuesday, March 22, 2016. These documents will be submitted to HUD no later than May 15, 2016.

Program year 2016 Action Plan anticipated funding is recommended to be allocated for activities that include home rehabilitation, public facility/infrastructure improvements, acquisition of vacant land and new construction of single family affordable housing, program support to various public service nonprofit agencies for the provision of food rescue, child, health and homeless services, and tenant based rental assistance for victims of domestic violence.

Se notifica por medio de la presente, que la Ciudad de Las Cruces llevará a cabo tres juntas públicas para presentar el borrador de necesidades, prioridades, y estrategias del Plan de Consolidación 2016-2020 de la Ciudad de Las Cruces acerca de los impedimentos de Opciones de la Vivienda Pública, y del Plan de Acción 2016 de la Ciudad de Las Cruces.

El Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los Estados Unidos (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD) requiere que las ciudades que reciben Fondos para Desarrollo Comunitario (Community Development Block Grant CDBG) y HOME Investment Partnership, deben de entregar un Plan de Consolidación para un periodo de cinco años y un Plan de Acción Anualmente describiendo en el Plan de la Ciudad el uso de los fondos. el Plan va estar disponible para su revisión y comentarios durante 30 días a partir del Martes 22 de Marzo del 2016. Estos documentos se entregarán a HUD no después del 15 de Mayo del 2016.

El Programa del Plan de Acción del 2016 anticipa que los fondos sean recomendados para asignación de actividades que incluyen: la rehabilitación de casas, mejoras a las instalaciones/infraestructuras de uso público, adquisición de terrenos vacantes y la nueva construcción de vivienda a precio accesible para familias, un programa para apoyar a varias agencias sin fines de lucro para servicio público en la distribución de alimentos , servicios a la niñez, salud e individuos desamparados, así como ayuda con la renta a personas que pasan por incidentes de violencia doméstica

Public hearings to receive comments on the 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan, Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, and Annual Action Plan will be held the following dates:

Las juntas públicas para recibir sus comentarios durante (2016-2020) Plan de Consolidación, Análisis de impedimentos para escoger una vivienda accesible y el Plan de Acción Anual, se llevarán a cabo:

WEDNESDAY / MIÉRCOLES
APRIL 6 / 6 DE ABRIL
6 -7:30 p.m.
Sage Café, 6121 Reynolds Dr.

THURSDAY / JUEVES
APRIL 7 / 7 DE ABRIL
9-10:30 a.m.
Las Cruces City Hall
(Edificio Municipal)
Council Chambers, 700 N. Main St.

2-3:30 p.m.
Mesilla Valley Community of Hope
Resource Room, Building 3
999 W. Amador Ave.

Public comments must be received by Thursday, April 21, 2016, by 5:00 p.m.

Los comentarios del público deberán de ser recibidos para el Jueves 21 de Abril del 2016, a las 5:00 p.m.

The draft 2016 -2020 Consolidated Plan will be available for public review starting on Wednesday, March 22, 2016, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Las Cruces City Hall, Community Development Department, 700 N. Main, Suite 1100; City Clerk's Office, Suite 1200; and the Branigan Library, 200 E. Picacho. It will also be on the City's website at www.las-cruces.org. Upon request, the draft plan will be made available in alternative formats. If the public is unable to attend the public hearing, they may submit written comments concerning the 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan to the City of Las Cruces during the 30-day public comment period between March 22 and April 21, 2016.

El borrador del Plan de Consolidación 2016-2020 estará disponible para repaso del público a partir del Miércoles 22 de Marzo del 2016, de 8:00 am a 5:00 p.m., de Lunes a Viernes en el Edificio Municipal de Las Cruces (City Hall), en el Departamento de Desarrollo Comunitarios (Community Development Department), 700 N. Main, Suite 1100; en la Oficina del Secretario de la Ciudad (City Clerk's Office), Suite 1200; y en la Biblioteca Branigan, 200 E. Picacho. También estará en la página de Internet de la Ciudad www.las-cruces.org. Si usted lo pide, el borrador del plan será accesible en diferentes formatos. Si el público no puede asistir a las juntas públicas, estos pueden someter sus comentarios por escrito acerca del Plan de Consolidación 2016-2020 a la Ciudad de Las Cruces durante el periodo de 30 días para comentarios públicos (del 22 de Marzo al 21 de Abril del 2016).

Written comments may be submitted via any of the following methods:
Los comentarios por escrito deberán de ser entregados por medio de cualquiera de los siguientes medios:
By Mail / *Por Correspondencia*:
Community Development Department, Neighborhood Services Section
ATTN: 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan, P.O. Box 20000, Las Cruces, NM 88004
By E-mail / *Por Correo Electrónico*: vzamora@las-cruces.org
By Phone / *Por Teléfono*: 575-528-3194 (voice)
or 575-528-3157 (TTY, *para personas con algún impedimento auditivo*).

These facilities meet the requirements for handicapped accessibility. A Spanish-speaking interpreter will be available, and upon request, sign language interpreters and other auxiliary aids. If you need an accommodation for a disability to enable you to fully participate in this event, please contact us 72 hours before the event at 575-528-3194 or TTY at 575-528-3157. The City of Las Cruces does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, familial status, spousal affiliation, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

Estos edificios cumplen los requisitos de accesibilidad para persona con discapacidades fiscos. Servicios de traducción en español estarán disponibles y con petición intérpretes de lenguaje de señas y otras ayudas auxiliares. La Ciudad de Las Cruces acomodara razonablemente a individuos con discapacidades que deseen atender esta reunión pública. Por favor notifique al Departamento de Desarrollo de la Comunidad 72 horas antes de la reunión llamando al (575) 528-3022 (voz) o al 575-528-3157 (TTY). Este documento puede ser presentado en formas alterativas si usted lo pide, llamando a los números anteriores. La Ciudad de Las Cruces no discrimina en base de raza, origen étnico, color, religión, origen nacional, ascendencia, sexo, orientación sexual, identidad de género, condición familiar, conyugal afiliación, edad o discapacidad en el empleo y la prestación de servicios.

/CityofLasCruces CLCGOV CLCTV.com Equal Housing Opportunity / Igual de Oportunidad en las Vivenda

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LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

SEE ATTACHED

I, being duly sworn, Diana Jaramillo deposes and says that she is the Legal Coordinator of the Las Cruces Sun-News, a newspaper published daily in the county of Dona Ana, State of New Mexico; that the ROP DISPLAY is an exact duplicate of the notice that was published once a week/day in regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof for 1 consecutive week(s)/day(s), the first publication was in the issue dated March 20, 2016, the last publication was March 20, 2016. Despondent further states this newspaper is duly qualified to publish legal notice or advertisements within the meaning of Sec. Chapter 167, Laws of 1937.

Signed

Diana Jaramillo

Legal Coordinator
Official Position

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ss.
County of Dona Ana
Subscribed and sworn before me this

7th **day of** April '2016

Diana Jaramillo

Notary Public in and for
Dona Ana County, New Mexico

June 24, 2019

My Term Expires

OFFICIAL SEAL
DIANA JARAMILLO
Notary Public
State of New Mexico
My Comm. Expires 6/24/19

2016 Consolidated Plan Public Hearing

April 7, 2016 at 2 PM

Mesilla Valley Community of Hope

Sign- In Sheet

Name	Organization	Email / Phone
Christina Werner	MVCH	cwerner5907@gmail.com
Aide Lechuga	MVCH	alechuga999@gmail.com
Erin Boyd	MVCH	erinboyd999@gmail.com
NICOLE MARTINEZ	MVCH	hope@zianet.com
Nicole Fuchs	MVCH Keeping Families Together	nfuchs999@gmail.com
Armida Hernandez	Interpreter	fed.interpreter@yahoo.com
Martin Rede		marremc@yahoo.com
Pam Angell	St. Luke's Health Clinic	pangell@sthcc.info
Sara Mischler	MVCH	smischler999@gmail.com
Angela Green	CLC	528-3179
Jan Laubenbach	CLC	528-3131
Natalie Green	CLC	528-3086
Kevin Wilson	CLC	528-3177
Vera Zamora	CLC	528-3194

2016 Consolidated Plan Public Hearing

April 7, 2016 at 9 AM

Council Chambers

Sign- In Sheet

Name	Organization	Email / Phone
Christine Little	Interagency Council	cslittle@zianet.com 528-373-1882
Srijana Basnyat	CLC	sbasnyat@las-cruces.org
Jan Lauterbach	CLC	528-3134
Kevin Wilson	CLC	
Natalie Green	CLC	8X-30860
Armida Hernandez	Interpreter	(505) 977-6336
Vera Zamora	CLC	528-3194

2016 Consolidated Plan Public Hearing

April 6, 2016 at 6 PM

Sage Café

Sign- In Sheet

Name	Organization	Email / Phone
Gary Gail		WD8AJJ@yahoo.com
Rocio Dominguez	CLC	528-3071
Ray Burchfield	CLC	528-3094
Vera Zamora	CLC	528-3194
Angela Green	CLC	528-3179
Jan Lauterbach	CLC	528-3134
N. Green	CLC	3086
Ray Sartin	CLC	3027

2016-2020 CONSOLIDATED PLAN PUBLIC HEARING
April 6, 2016

Following are the summary minutes of the 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan heard on April 6, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Sage Café, 6121 Reynolds Dr., Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Present: Vera Zamora (Community Development)
Natalie Green (Community Development)
Ray Burchfield (Community Development)
Jan Lauterbach (Community Development)
Rocio Dominguez - Translator (Community Development)
Ray Sartin (Community Development)
Angela Green - Recording Secretary (Community Development)

Public Present: Gary Gail

Mr. Hart made his presentation (see attached).

No public comments or questions.

2016-2020 CONSOLIDATED PLAN PUBLIC INPUT MEETING
April 7, 2016

Following are the summary minutes of the 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan heard on April 7, 2016 at 9:00 am at City Hall, 700 N. Main Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

PRESENT:	Vera Zamora (Community Development)
	Natalie Green (Community Development)
	Jan Lauterbach (City of Las Cruces)
	Kevin Wilson (City of Las Cruces)
	Srijana Basnyat (City of Las Cruces)
	Armida Hernandez - Interpreting and Translation Services
	Becky Baum - Recording Secretary
PUBLIC PRESENT:	Christine Little

Mr. Hart made his presentation (see attached).

No public or other input was recorded.

2016-2020 CONSOLIDATED PLAN PUBLIC HEARING
April 7, 2016

Following are the summary minutes of the 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan heard on April 7, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. at the Mesilla Valley Community of Hope, 999 W. Amador, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

PRESENT: Vera Zamora (Community Development)
Natalie Green (Community Development)
Kevin Wilson (Community Development)
Jan Lauterbach (Community Development)
Angela Green - Recording Secretary (Community Development)

PUBLIC PRESENT: Christine Werner (Mesilla Valley Community of Hope)
Aide Lechuga (Mesilla Valley Community of Hope)
Erin Boyd (Mesilla Valley Community of Hope)
Nicole Martinez (Mesilla Valley Community of Hope)
Nicole Fuchs ((Mesilla Valley Community of Hope)
Martin Rede
Pamela Angell (St. Lukes Health Clinic)
Sara Mischler (Mesilla Valley Community of Hope)
Armida Hernandez - Interpreter

Mr. Hart made his presentation (see attached).

Armida Hernandez: Is immigration status ever taken into account when, as factors, in determining whether a particular individual or family can access any of the assistance programs, for example the tenant based rental assistance program?

Tom Hart: Generally if you, if you are not, if you don't have some legal status in the country you can't participate in any of these programs.

Armida Hernandez: I ask the question, only because, it's pretty common to have what we call mixed families, where often one parent may be documented, the other not, or children, and so U.S citizen born children are probably found in families that have one or both parents that are not documented. And, certainly, that contributes to the danger of homelessness of those children.

Tom Hart: Yes, and that actually is an issue that's being discussed. Um, and given the current political environment I don't know whether congress and the HUD are going to do anything about it, but that is an issue of concern. And I know in this community part of the way it's dealt with is they have some other sources of non-federal funding to help, you know, non-registered people so that if they

need something there is still a way of helping them. Cause basically it's kinda like the same thing with, um, uh with people with a legal record. A lot of the HUD programs, you have to do a criminal background check and they're not eligible.

Armida Hernandez: Second question, public outreach. Is there, uh, currently or is there plans in the future, if it doesn't already exist already, any public outreach through radio or other means other than the printed word. I say that because, uh, a lot of folks either don't like to read or don't want to read, or don't have time to read, and they prefer to get all of their information, uh, simply by watching television or listening to the radio. And there is also a problem of literacy or semi-literacy. For example, you know, a flier like this a semi-literate person, doesn't matter whether it's in in English, Spanish, Japanese, Korean, if the person is semi-literate you're not reaching them. So that's why I'm asking.

Tom Hart: Right. Right. Right, they're limited proficiency. I think that's a good question. I don't know, does the City have a City-based television channel?

Vera Zamora: We do have, uh, Ch.20 Comcast where we could possibly put something there, but then again we haven't actually, we don't have anything in place right now that translates it from English to Spanish. And if we did it would probably mainly be a notification of the meeting. But we also have our Public Information Officer and he goes and has a segment on one or two of the talk shows on the radio. But at this point I'm not sure if it's on any of the Spanish radios. Does anybody know? But if you have a suggestion as to a particular radio station we could possibly have some, even them, probably make an announcement. Even if they charge a fee, I mean it's a good recommendation or suggestion that we would definitely consider.

Armida Hernandez: PSA's would probably be charged a lower rate for air time, wouldn't they?

Vera Zamora: Probably. But I'm just saying we don't have any in place right now.

Armida Hernandez: Okay.

Martin Rede: I can tell you this. PSA's are in the backwoods so much in the last three months. You're going to get one shot, once a year, and it's gonna be a three second shot. Otherwise, it's $3,000. That's their PSA, so...and that's nationwide.

Tom Hart: I think, too, one of the things that HUD is putting more emphasis on is these alternative forms of communication and I think that again I think you're going to see more video, more other kind of electronic means of communication than just the printed word in order to address the variety of needs people have and if they're going to be part of the community, you know how they can receive communication. You know, maybe next time we do this we'll be doing...(inaudible).

Nicole Martinez: There's also KRWG for, um, news and radio and tv, but...

Vera: In English.

Nicole Martinez: In English. And you don't...it's free.

Vera: But still. It would reach out. It may reach out further than what we do right now with the publications in the newspapers.

Tom: I would say this cycle you're going through now, really the Community Development department has done one of the more vigorous outreach efforts I've seen in trying to involve the largest number in the community whether it's through attendance in meetings, doing the survey, having access to stuff online or in printed material. Um, so I think the City really does have a commitment trying to keep the public involved which is admirable. Any other comments or questions? Well, thank you for attending. And hopefully check out all these documents online. Or in paper depending on what your preference is.

Kevin Wilson: Thanks Tom!

Date	Name/Title	Submission type	Comment
12/10/2015	Kathy Apodaca, LBSW	Email	Good morning Ms. Zamora! I just wanted to put in my two cents about the housing situation in Las Cruces. We do not have enough affordable housing for individuals who are on SSI/SSDI. It would be wonderful if there was a housing complex made up of one bedroom efficiency apartments for our homeless and mentally ill. Some type of transitional housing/apartments that is modeled after the Transitional Living Program for Juveniles (located next to the community of hope) would make a huge difference in the lives of those barely able to make ends meet. This type of living arrangement would allow for on-site case management and overall activities of daily living assistance. Thank you for the opportunity to provide my input! :o)
1/21/2016	Audrey Marion Hartley, M.A. Executive Director Jardin de los Niños 999 West Amador Avenue 1300-G El Paseo, PMB #272 Las Cruces, NM 88001 575-522-2111—phone 575-522-3595—fax 575-650-0768—cell www.jardinlc.org	Email	As you know, I attended the City Consolidated Plan at Benavidez center on January 13. I listened with interest the information presented by your consultant. However, I was rather taken aback that children were only mentioned once in the last five minutes of the presentation. According to Project Link in the Las Cruces Public Schools, there were approximately 650 homeless and near homeless children who reside within the city limits. Jardin de los Ninos serves and average of 250 of these children and their families annually, and we partner with Project Link and other community agencies to work to help these families break the cycle of homelessness and live healthy, productive lives. If not for the services we provide, these children and their families would fall through the cracks and have nowhere else to turn. I urge you and members of the city staff who make decisions about CDBG funding to make children—especially those who are homeless and near homeless—a high priority when it comes to deciding which organizations receive these very necessary funds.
1/28/2016	Martha Roditti	Email	I am a member of the Board of Jardin de Los Ninos, a very special child care program that serves homeless and near homeless children and their parents. All of our children are poor and extremely in need of developmental services. They live in one of the poorest counties in the 2nd poorest state in the US. Thirty eight percent of Dona Ana County's children live in poverty and too many of them are homeless or near homeless. At Jardin we expect that of our children are traumatized by their life experiences. Yet there are not enough services for them. CDBG funding needs to be prioritized for the children of our community. Please encourage the city staff who make the decisions about CDBG funding to prioritize children, especially young, poor, homeless and near homeless children. CDBG funds are limited and need to be targeted at those who can benefit the most, young children who have a window of time to develop into productive citizens. Thank you.
2/5/2016	Elizabeth Abrams	email	Thanks for your work on behalf of Las Cruces. I'm writing as a member of the Jardin de Los Ninos Board of Directors. I wanted to ask that our community's children rise to the top of the list as you and other city staff consider how to priorize CDBG funds this year. There are many children in need in las Cruces, and seeing that they have a better start would have a long-term impact on how our community develops and functions. thanks again for your work on this.
2/8/2016	Bernadette Sanchez	phone call	The Councilor in the University Hills area should earn their keep as an elected official * There are a number of dilapidated homes on Treviz and Boise that the City isn't doing anything about * The neighborhood is deteriorated * The Councilors or their designees should go neighborhood to neighborhood to see it for themselves

Date	Name/Title	Submission type	Comment
12/17/2015	Lisa LaRocque	Email	Comments on Citizen Participation Plan Lisa LaRocque, CLC Sustainability 1. Provide simple bilingual fliers with the organizations that service the target population.

League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces
P.O. Box 8322, Las Cruces, NM 88006
Tel: (575) 524-VOTE (8683) *Web: www.lwvglc.org*

April 21, 2016

TESTIMONY ON CONSOLIDATED HOUSING PLAN

The League of Women Voters has long been involved in Affordable Housing issues at all levels of government. The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces supports current and future efforts to increase the availability of safe, decent and affordable housing for moderate and low income households. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Affairs (HUD) Draft Consolidated Housing Plan for Las Cruces is a good start to examine all sorts of strategies to meet the increased need for affordable housing in the next 5 years. We appreciate this opportunity to comment on the Draft 2016-2021 Consolidated Housing Plan.

The Plan is very comprehensive and well done. It seems to meet all of HUD's requirements. It will be very helpful to the community, City Council and Staff, as we work to increase "Affordable Housing" (using HUD's definitions) in Las Cruces over the next 5 years.

There are format errors that created reading difficulties. We trust these will not appear in the final version. The lack of pagination, indexes, and references were hindering. Also, we did not understand the meaning of the graphic symbols used in charts concerning "Occupations in Las Cruces."

The statistics in this Plan will be cited many times and in many places in the future. Figures that will be quoted frequently are poverty rates for various groups over time. Your text is very clear but the accompanying charts and graphs are incomplete and misleading. Charts that show data expressed in actual numbers with their percentages overlaid is a useful format. But when the trend of these visuals seem to go in opposite directions, the average citizen becomes confused.

The existence of Tent City should not be seen as an illustration of the lack of affordable housing. Tent City's existence is the result of mental health, drugs, culture, religion, and personal issues. Tent City is a way to give people that live on the streets a safer place. Even if we had no need for more affordable housing, we would still need Tent City.

Problems occur when dividing people into ethnic or racial groups. Because of differences in definitions, discrepancies in data occur in efforts to separate White from Hispanic people. Blacks from Hispanics. Indigenous Indians from White or Hispanic people. Data from different sources cannot be combined. Also, in Las Cruces cultural blending is considerable. Perhaps a general consolidation of the data could be achieved in a statement rather than in charts.

The "Anticipated Resources Chart" in SP-35 is compacted so much that analysis and verification is too difficult. Also it seems that all of our CDBG money is going into housing. Is this realistic considering other needs in the community?

One of our members attended a public meeting using a Power Point that was very good. However, it showed a slide of what money would be available this year. We could not find the same numbers in the Draft Plan.

The Plan seems to devote more attention to the Fair Housing Laws and Special Needs. We could find very little on what the City should do to increase the total number of affordable units involving programs that are not already in place. The real barrier is lack of money; not the lack of will or ideas. We do acknowledge that increased local taxation is not an option at this time.

It was very clear in the previous Consolidated Plan that we needed approximately 4700 more rental units. Previous CAPERs indicate that less than 500 Units were funded. We could not find, in this Plan, a comparable number. Do we now need 4200 units? Or less? Even with different preparers of the Plans, they should relate to each other.

Affordable housing remains a very important issue in our community. We appreciate all of the effort expended.

Jane B. Carter, Christina Little, Charlotte McCarthy, Victoria Simons
Affordable Housing Committee

Gwendolyn Hanson
President
League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces