



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Buffalo Office
465 Main Street
Buffalo, New York 14203-1780
(716) 551-5755

MAR 6 2020

Mr. Nels Bohn, Director
Ithaca Urban Renewal Agency
108 East Green Street
Ithaca, NY 14850

Ithaca Urban Renewal
Agency

MAR 11 2020

RECEIVED

Dear Mr. Bohn:

SUBJECT: Program Year 2018 Annual Community Assessment (ACA)
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership
Program (HOME)

Enclosed please find HUD's Annual Community Assessment, a review of the City of Ithaca's implementation and performance of CDBG and HOME funds during Program Year 2018. We offer you thirty (30) days to respond to the report with any comments, changes or updates. Please pay special attention to actions requiring follow-up.

In accordance with Consolidated Plan regulations, the ACA Review should be made available to the public through your established citizen participation process. HUD will also make it available to citizens upon request.

If you have any questions about this report or would like to discuss the comments, please contact Jill Casey, Senior CPD Representative, at 716-646-7015 or via email at Jill.M.Casey@hud.gov.

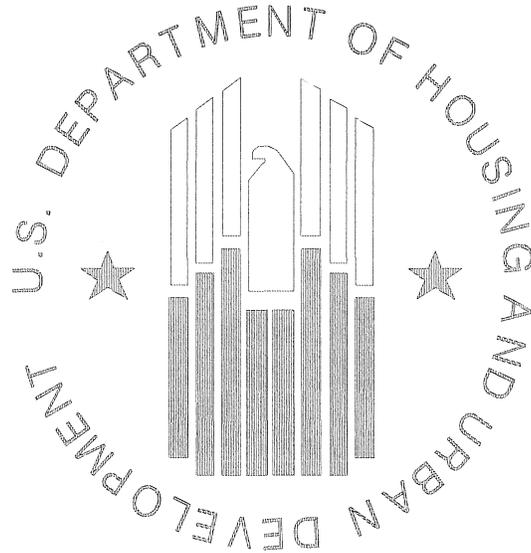
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William T. O'Connell".

William T. O'Connell
Director
Community Planning and
Development Division

Enclosure

**U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
Buffalo, New York Office**



Annual Community Assessment Report

for

City of Ithaca, New York

Covering the Program Year of:

August 1, 2018 – July 31, 2019

INTRODUCTION

As a recipient of HUD Entitlement funds, the City of Ithaca is required to annually report on the progress made in carrying out the goals and priorities of the Consolidated Plan. The Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) is designed to be a tool to report the activities undertaken during the previous year and shared with HUD as well as the local community stakeholders and residents.

The HUD Office is required to conduct an annual assessment of the City's performance to determine whether the planning, activities, and reporting were carried out in accordance with applicable requirements. The City is invited to provide any updates or comments to the HUD Office within the next 30 days. Following the 30-day period, the report will be finalized and sent to the Chief Elected Officer of your community. The report will be available to the public as requested.

Assessment Period: August 1, 2018 – July 31, 2019
5th Year of a 5-year Consolidated Plan

The City applied for and received funding for the following programs:

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	\$ 686,071
Home Investment Partnerships (HOME)	<u>\$ 368,803</u>
Total Funding Awarded:	\$1,054,874

Total funding expended during the reporting period: \$1,064,604

PART I: Summary of Grantee Performance

CPD Programs

The City submitted the 2018 Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) which summarized performance during the reporting periods. The report was submitted in a timely manner. The report revealed that activities were implemented consistent with the goals and objectives set forth in the City's Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans. Any exceptions are noted for additional information or clarification.

Highlights include:

- Citizen participation was conducted during the program year that meets HUD requirements.
- The City was compliant with Admin. caps for CDBG and HOME.
- The City was compliant with the CDBG Low Mod Income beneficiary threshold in 2018.
- Ithaca satisfied the CDBG timeliness test as of 6/1/19 at 1.30.
- Ithaca met the HOME commitment and expenditure deadlines during the reporting period.
- Ithaca's largest CDBG expenditures were for: Economic Development, GIAC Wading Pool and Administration.
- Ithaca's Single Audit Report is current through 12/31/18.

Areas for follow up or clarification:

- The Report noted that \$29,860 was expended for Tenant Based Rental Assistance. An IDIS Report PR05 indicates that \$88,828 was expended on Tenant Assistance (IDIS # 388 – Housing Scholarships & IDIS # 389 – Security Deposit Assistance). Ithaca is requested to review and advise on the discrepancy.
- The City revised the PR26 and submitted it to the HUD Field Office. The Report was determined to be satisfactory. The revised version should be submitted with the CAPER in IDIS.

Compliance Summary and Updates:

- Ithaca has no open monitoring findings.

Other HUD Programs:

Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity:

Our review did not reveal any issues related to non-compliance.

The City has implemented an evaluation of proposed programs and projects against the Contributing Factors to Fair Housing and continues its commitment to the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan adopted in 2017.

PART II: HUD Evaluation and Conclusions

The following determinations have been made relative to the City's capacity to carry out CDBG funded activities:

1. The City has carried out its program substantially as described in its Consolidated Plan submission.
2. The Consolidated Plan submission as implemented complies with the requirements of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, and other applicable laws and regulations.
3. The City has the continuing capacity to carry out the approved program in a timely manner.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the Assessment Report, please feel free to contact Jill M. Casey, Community Planning and Development Representative, at 716-646-7015 or jill.m.casey@hud.gov. If you disagree with this assessment, please respond in writing to: William T. O'Connell, Director of Community Planning & Development – HUD, 465 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14203. Your response should identify any areas of disagreement and corrections or any additional comments you would like HUD to consider.