Cumberland County, Maine

Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report

For

HUD Programs
FY 2013

July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014

Community Development Office
Cumberland County Executive Department
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APPENDICIES:

   PUBLIC NOTICE
   CAPER MEMO TO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
   HOUSING REHABILITATION REPORTS
   PR-01, PR-03, PR-06, PR-23, PR-26
   Section 3 Report
Executive Summary

This module is optional but encouraged. If you choose to complete it, provide a brief overview that includes major initiatives and highlights that were proposed and executed throughout the year.

Program Year 2 CAPER Executive Summary response:

The FY2013 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) describes Cumberland County’s Housing & Community Development program accomplishments for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. The Program is funded solely by an annual entitlement allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development.

In 2007 Cumberland County completed its first ever Consolidated Housing & Community Development Plan. That Plan guided the Community Development Program for a five-year period ending June 30, 2012. The current program year marked the 2nd year of the program’s second 5-year Consolidated Plan spanning July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2016.

The Cumberland County Entitlement Jurisdiction’s Community Development Program is three programs in one. The City of South Portland and the Town of Bridgton operate their own independent programs identifying and selecting projects to meet their community priorities and needs. The “balance of Cumberland County” program funds activities in the remaining 23 participating member communities with regionwide and community based projects and programs.

In the 7th program year, projects included housing rehabilitation, public facilities and public infrastructure improvements, public services, and planning.

Activities in the 23 County communities included housing rehabilitation, Domestic Violence Response, Medicare Education and public construction projects. The most notable infrastructure projects were the completion of the New Gloucester Upper Village Water System and streetscape improvements in the South Windham/Little Falls, Gorham neighborhood.

The City of South Portland’s activities included a range of public service activities, housing rehabilitation, and public facilities and infrastructure. Funded public services included Meals-on-Wheels, Domestic Violence Response, Trauma Intervention Program, the Skillin School’s Backpack Program, the Free Bus Pass program,
Recreational Scholarships, Emergency Heating Assistance, and funding for the Redbank Neighborhood Resource Center in the city's poorest neighborhood. South Portland also provided CDBG funding for a home energy efficiency/weatherization program and a housing rehabilitation program for income-qualified residents. Notable public improvements in South Portland included the Hutchins School renovation, construction of the Mill Creek Transit Hub, Redbank Park improvements, and improvements to the Broadway Sidewalk.

The Town of Bridgton funded several public service activities, and completed the first phase of renovations to the Rufus Porter Museum. The Emergency Heating Assistance, Food Pantry Deliveries and Cancer Patient Support program were particularly successful. Completion of façade improvements at the Moses House building on Main Street and the opening of the new store is a heartening sign for the community. The major infrastructure completed was the sewer system inflow and infiltration control project.

**Total program allocation County-wide, Federal Fiscal Year 2013 = $1,534,022**

**Total program funds expended during 2013 = $1,307,648**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Program Funds Expended</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$98,085</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$63,983</td>
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<td>2011</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>$337,060</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>$513,755</td>
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**Program Income Expended = $6,894**

**General Questions**

1. Assessment of the one-year goals and objectives:
   a. Describe the accomplishments in attaining the goals and objectives for the reporting period.
   b. Provide a breakdown of the CPD formula grant funds spent on grant activities for each goal and objective.
   c. If applicable, explain why progress was not made towards meeting the goals and objectives.

2. Describe the manner in which the recipient would change its program as a result of its experiences.

3. Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing:
   a. Provide a summary of impediments to fair housing choice.
   b. Identify actions taken to overcome effects of impediments identified.

4. Describe Other Actions in Strategic Plan or Action Plan taken to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs.

5. Leveraging Resources
   a. Identify progress in obtaining “other” public and private resources to address needs.
   b. How Federal resources from HUD leveraged other public and private resources.
c. How matching requirements were satisfied.

**Program Year 2 CAPER General Questions response:**

1. **Assess one-year goals and objectives**

1.0) **Goal:** Provide Decent Affordable Housing  
**Action:** Funding of Four Housing Rehabilitation/Weatherization Activities

1.1) Regional Housing Rehabilitation Program  
Program Goal: 30 single-family units  
Units Completed: 17 single-family units  
Funded Amount: $158,133 (2013)  
Funds Expended in Program Year 2013: $138,116

Opportunity Alliance completed 17 single-family rehabilitation projects in program year 2013. While the majority of the projects were heating system replacements and home weatherization, five larger projects constituted 60% of total expenditures.

1.2) Alpha One, Critical Access Ramp Program  
Program Goal: 10 ramps  
Completed Ramps: 1 ramp  
Funded Amount: $50,000 (2013 funding)  
Funds Expended in Program Year 2013: $2,383

While this project has been slow in moving forward, at least 4 projects are scheduled for completion in the summer of 2014.

1.3) South Portland Housing Rehabilitation Program  
Program Goal: 2 Units  
Units Completed in 2013: 2 Units  
Funded Amount: $16,000  
Funds Expended in Program Year 2013: $11,097

South Portland funded two housing rehab projects in Program Year 2013, one for a very low income household and one for an extremely low income household. Repairs included installation of a new natural gas heating system, and installation of a new roof, new basement windows and replacement outlets and faucets.

1.4) South Portland Home Energy Efficiency Program (Warm Home, Cool City)  
Program Goal: 25 units  
Units Completed in 2011: 4 units  
Units Completed in 2012: 7 units  
Units Completed in 2013: 6 units  
Funded Amount: $45,620 (2011 funding)  
Funds Expended Program Year 2011: $23,206  
Funds Expended Program Year 2012: $9,017  
Funds Expended Program Year 2013: $6,552

The Warm Home Cool City’s Residential Energy Efficiency program provided weatherization and/or energy audit services to 6 households. Residents received a
free at-home consultation with an energy efficiency expert, a supply of free energy efficient products, such as light bulbs, and improvements such as weather stripping, sealing, caulking, or installation of programmable thermostats.

**NOTE:** Additional housing rehabilitation and homeownership activities are conducted within the boundaries of the Cumberland County Entitlement Jurisdiction with funds provided by the Cumberland County/Portland HOME Consortium. These activities are reported in the CAPER completed by the City of Portland.

2.0) **Goal:** Provide & Expand Community Facilities  
**Actions:** New and/or Improved Community Center facilities

2.1) City of Westbrook – Community Center Gym Floor Replacement, Bleacher Installation & Exercise Room Floor (2012)

   Funded Amount: $100,000  
   Expended Program Year 2012: $94,609  
   Expended Program Year 2013: $5,391

This project is part of the multi-year, multi-phase effort to transform the former Wescott Middle School into an all purpose community, education & recreation facility. The gym floor, gym corridor and exercise floor projects were completed in winter/spring 2013. The installation of gymnasium bleachers was completed in December 2013.

2.2) City of South Portland – Mill Creek Transit Hub (2013)

   Funded Amount: $29,401  
   Expended Program Year 2013: $29,401

The Transit Hub is a new facility located in the Mill Creek/Knightville neighborhood that provides amenities for public transportation riders, including indoor and outdoor waiting areas, seating, and route and schedule information. The facility is a welcoming and comfortable waiting area, encouraging new ridership as well as accommodating frequent riders. Construction began in summer of 2013 and was completed (and final payment made) in spring of 2014. The hub opened for public use in April 2014.

3.0) **Goal:** Provide & Upgrade Public Infrastructure  
**Action:** Funding for 8 infrastructure projects

3.1) Town of Bridgton – Sewer System Inflow & Infiltration Control (2010)

   Funded Amount: $98,000 (2010)  
   Funds Expended Program Year 2010: $8,156  
   Funds Expended Program Year 2011: $25,955  
   Funds Expended Program Year 2012: $1,304  
   Funds Expended Program Year 2013: $62,585

This 2010 project began a multi-year effort to remediate inflow & infiltration of groundwater into the Town of Bridgton sewer system. Inflow and infiltration has caused the system to exceed capacity, requiring repair at access points and line connections. The project was completed November 2014.
3.2) Town of Freeport – Road, Water, Sewer & Storm Drainage for Habitat for Humanity Subdivision

Funded Amount: $143,000 (2012)
Funds Expended in Program Year 2012: $143,000

Habitat for Humanity is constructing 8 housing units at a new subdivision in Freeport Village. The 1st 3-unit home was completed in October 2013. The road, water, sewer, and storm drainage lines paid for with CDBG have all been installed. One unit is now occupied, two units will be occupied summer 2014; two units are under construction spring/summer 2014; three units will be constructed in 2015.

This activity will be reported in the CAPER until all units are occupied, beneficiaries documented and the activity is closed in IDIS.


Funded Amount: $233,165
Funds Expended Program Year 2012: $68,210
Funds Expended Program Year 2013: $164,955

CDBG funds paid for engineering services and specialized industrial equipment for this $2.4 million water system. Funding partners include Rural Development, the Maine State Dept. of Environmental Protection and the Town of New Gloucester. Construction began in July 2013, with completion in May 2014.

3.4) Town of Windham – South Windham/Little Falls, Gorham Streetscape/Pedestrian Improvements (2011)

Funded Amount: $80,000 (Funded in 2011)
Funds Expended Program Year 2013: $71,974

Construction began on this long delayed project on June 10, 2013. Construction was substantially completed by September 30, 2013 with final completion June 30, 2014.

3.5) City of South Portland Infrastructure and Public Facilities Projects

3.5.1) Broadway Sidewalk (2009)

Funded Amount: $193,878 (Funded in 2009)
Funds Expended in Program Year 2009: $2,572
Funds Expended in Program Year 2010: $11,126
Funds Expended in Program Year 2013: $102,248

Replacement of deteriorated concrete sidewalks with bituminous sidewalk and accessibility improvements of this sidewalk located in a target area are complete and final payment made in program year 2014.

3.5.2) Redbank Park Construction (2013)

Funded Amount: $85,000 (Funded in 2013)
Funds Expended in Program Year 2013: $78,211
This park is adjacent to a community center in the low-income Redbank neighborhood. Previously a vacant lot, construction has consisted of landscaping, installation of a permanent pavillion, bike racks, and basketball court improvements. The project should complete in program year 2014.

4.0) **Goal:** Downtown Revitalization & Elimination of Slum/Blight  
**Actions:** Funding for façade improvements and historic preservation

4.1) **Action – Funding for Non-Residential Historic Preservation**

**Town of Bridgton, Façade Improvements (2013)**

Funded Amount: $20,000  
Funds Expended Program Year 2013: $20,000

Restoration of the entrance and front façade at the historic Moses House, was completed. This long unoccupied historic building now contains a home furnishings and fine wine store on the first floor, and an apartment on the second.

**Town of Bridgton, Rufus Porter Museum Renovations (2011, 2012)**

Funded Amount: $24,000 (2011), $13,400 (2012)  
Funds Expended in Program Year 2012: $175  
Funds Expended Program Year 2013: $37,400

The Town of Bridgton is partially funding renovations to the historic property at 121 Main Street as the new home for the Rufus Porter Museum. This blighted property is being painstakingly restored in accordance to requirements established and monitored by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. Phase I of the project was completed in December 2013.

**South Portland, Hutchins School Renovations (2009)**

Funded Amount: $131,241 (Funded in 2009)  
Funds Expended Program Year 2009: $24,539  
Funds Expended Program Year 2010: $2,649  
Funds Expended Program Year 2011: $76,143  
Funds Expended Program Year 2012: $6,874  
Funds Expended Program Year 2013: $21,036

The former Hutchins School is a municipally-owned building in the Ferry Village neighborhood, eligible for listing on the National Register. Restoration of the exterior façade eliminated serious blighted conditions. Renovations included replacement of damaged/rotting fascia, architectural details, and sills. Exterior repainting was completed in November 2013 with final retainage payment made in June 2014.

5.0) **Goal:** Provide Access to Public Services  
**Actions:** Funding for recreation programming, free bus passes, senior programs, food distribution, education, abused spouses, and trauma intervention.
5.1) Action – Funding for Recreation Programming, Adults with Developmental Disabilities

Center for Therapeutic Recreation (County-Wide, 2013)

   Funded Amount: $5,000  
   Funds Expended in Program Year 2013: $5,000

The program provided aquatic recreation sessions to 12 clients from the communities of: Falmouth (3), Gorham (1), South Portland (3), Scarborough (1), Westbrook (1), Windham (1) and Yarmouth (2).

5.2) Action – Funding for Elder Medicare Education Program

Town of Gorham (lead community), Town of Standish (2013) Contract with Southern Maine Area Agency on Aging

   Funded Amount: $35,507  
   Funds Expended in Program Year 2013: $35,507

Confusion about Medicare benefits among new Medicare enrollees is common. This program provides three services: Group sessions for new enrollees, individual counseling for new or enrolled Medicare recipients, and training of seniors (or “pren-seniors”) to assist Medicare recipients. 268 seniors were assisted, saving the average household hundreds and in a few instances thousands of dollars. 815.5 hours of Medicare benefits counseling services were provided.

5.3) Action – Funding for Domestic Violence, Case Management Services

Towns of Cape Elizabeth (lead community), Casco, Gorham, Gray, Naples, Scarborough, Standish, Raymond (2013) Contract with Family Crisis Services

   Funds Expended in Program Year 2013: $51,884.97

The program provides case management services in conjunction with local Police Departments. This activity serves the towns of Cape Elizabeth, Casco, Gorham, Gray, Naples, Scarborough, Standish, and Raymond. Cape Elizabeth is the "lead" community for administrative purposes. 318 clients were served in 2013 with funds reallocated from their 2012 grant and new grant for 2013.

City of South Portland, Family Crisis Services: Enhanced Police Intervention Collaborative (EPIC) (2013)

   Funded Amount: $4,900  
   Funds Expended in Program Year 2013: $4,900

This activity provided 135 individuals (presumed benefit: battered spouses) with domestic violence counseling services. The EPIC staff made 199 follow-up visits to domestic violence victims in 2013.
5.4) Action – Funding for Bus Purchase for Senior Transportation

Towns Freeport

Funded Amount: $15,000 (2013)
Expended Amount Program Year 2013: $15,000

The acquisition of a new bus by the Freeport Elders Association was a long deferred dream. The association raised over $35,000 in a four year period utilizing CDBG funds to put them "over the top". The 14 passenger bus transports Freeport elders to the Freeport Community Center for their typical social gatherings, luncheons and meetings, and to events far and wide. Freeport Elders has 357 members.

5.5) Action – Support for Food Pantries & Meals Programs

Town of Bridgton
Food Pantry Deliveries (2013)

Funded Amount: $1,500.00 (2013)
Funds Expended Program Year 2013: $1,500

The grant funded deliveries from the Good Shepherd Food Bank in Auburn to the Bridgton Food Pantry. 280 people were served by the food pantry.

Town of Bridgton
Community “Kettle” Dinners (2013)

Funded Amount: $2,000
Funds Expended Program Year 2013: $2,000

This grant enabled the Bridgton Community Center to host weekly community dinners for the town’s poorest residents. The “Kettle” dinners funded by the Community Center had 1,177 attendees. Dinners paid for by community groups, churches and local businesses combined with those funded by the Community Center fed 2,680 patrons.

City of South Portland, Skillin Elementary School PTA – Backpack Program (2013)

Funded Amount: $4,900
Funds Expended in Program Year 2013: $4,900

This activity provides backpacks of food for children of low-income families at the Skillin School. These children receive free or reduced lunch during school, and were identified by a guidance counselor as "food insecure" on weekends and during school breaks. 25 households received backpacks each Friday during the school year to ensure proper nutrition when school is not in session.

5.6) Action – Recreational Scholarship Program

City of South Portland, Recreation Scholarship Program (2013)

Funded Amount: $9,900
Funds Expended in Program Year 2013: $9,900
Thirty (30) children received full or partial scholarships to participate in South Portland’s summer recreation programs. All (100%) were from households at or below the 30% median income threshold (extremely low income.) Funds for the 2013 program year were drawn down July 2013.

5.7) Action – Provision of Free Bus Passes

City of South Portland, Dept. of Transportation - Bus Pass Program (2013)

Funded Amount: $4,100
Funds Expended in Program Year 2013: $4,100

The South Portland Bus Service provided free bus passes to 430 low/moderate income residents to travel to work, medical appointments, school, and shopping. South Portland Bus Service worked closely with the School Department, General Assistance Office, and other organizations whose clients use public transportation, to provide the passes to the most in need.

5.8) Action – Senior Services in the City of South Portland

South Portland, Southern Maine Agency on Aging – Meals-on-Wheels (2013)

Funded Amount: $9,000
Funds Expended Program Year 2013: $9,000

Southern Maine Agency on Aging’s (SMAA) Meals-on-Wheels program delivered 11,292 meals to 310 homebound seniors in South Portland. 128 seniors and disabled individuals joined the program in the 2013 program year.

5.9) Action – Personnel for Low/Moderate Income Neighborhood Resource Center

City of South Portland, Redbank Community Center – Personnel (2013)

Funded Amount: $15,000
Funds Expended Program Year 2013: $15,000

This public service project covers personnel costs for the Redbank Neighborhood Center, or “Hub.” The Hub serves as a resource for this low-income neighborhood, helping individuals to identify and navigate assistance programs or other resources, coordinating community events, and hosting a farm stand in the summer. The Hub also holds community dinners at the Redbank Community Center, and runs a summer breakfast program in conjunction with the Boys and Girls Club bus pick-up. In addition to funding Opportunity Alliance staff at the Hub, a small portion of funds are used to reimburse the City for operating costs of the Center.

5.10) Action – Assistance for Persons Undergoing Traumatic Events in the City Of South Portland

City of South Portland, Community Counseling Services – TIP Program (2013)

Funded Amount: $4,900
Funds Expended Program Year 2013: $4,900
The Trauma Intervention Program (TIP) provides counseling services to South Portland’s low/income neighborhoods in the aftermath of a traumatic event such as unexpected or unattended death, burglary, assault, or accident. The presence of trained volunteers providing emotional support and guidance during and after a traumatic event allows Police & Fire personnel to focus on and complete their primary duties. 40 residents of the city’s low/moderate income target neighborhoods were served. The balance of program funds was drawn in July 2014.

5.11) Action – Emergency Heating Assistance

Town of Bridgton, Community Center Fuel Collaborative: Emergency Heating Assistance (2013)

Funded Amount: $5,000
Funds Expended Program Year 2013: $5,000

This activity provided emergency home heating assistance to low/moderate income households in the Town of Bridgton. 21 households with a total of 60 individuals received home heating oil with $5,000 of 2013 CDBG funds. CDBG funds augment local charitable and municipal resources.

City of South P ortland, General Assistance: Emergency Heating Assistance (2013)

Funded Amount: $13,000
Funds Expended in Program Year 2013: $13,000

This activity provided emergency home heating oil to low/moderate income households in the City of South Portland. 3,720 gallons of one-time emergency heating oil was distributed to 35 income-qualified households facing no-heat emergencies. 87 individuals benefited from this public service.

5.12) Action – Pro vision of clothing, household items, and other non-food items to low-income residents

Town of Bridgton, Community HELP Program (2013)

Funded Amount: $2,000
Funds Expended in Program Year 2013: $1,272

This project is a non-profit program that provided 110 households and 293 individuals, all of whom were low income, with household items, such as furnishings, appliances, and clothing.

5.13) Action – Cancer Patient Support Services

Town of Bridgton, On Eagles Wings: Massage Therapy for Cancer Patients (2013)

Funded Amount: $5,000
Funds Expended in Program Year 2013: $5,000

This activity funded wellness treatments for 16 low-income cancer patients.
2. Change As A Result of Experience

Learning from experience is a critical component of Cumberland County’s Community Development program for two important reasons. First, the County’s program is the first ever Urban County CDBG Entitlement Program located in New England. Second, the County’s program, with 2013 as its seventh year, is relatively new.

Various programmatic design changes from the period 2007-2011 have been documented in previous Annual Action Plans and CAPERs. Program year 2013 brought few changes. While flexibility and adaptation are valuable traits, consistency also has its merits. Several modest policy/programmatic changes will be considered in the fall 2014. None of the proposed changes floated to date are substantial.

The program continues to play close attention to activity draw down rates and sub-recipient progress.

3. Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

Cumberland County completed and submitted to HUD its “Analysis to Impediments to Fair Housing Choice” on September 1, 2010.

Actions taken during the 2013 program year to address the Fair Housing Choice Impediments include:

1) A Regional Analysis to Impediments to Fair Housing Choice was completed August 28, 2013.

2) Fair Housing trainings were conducted by the Portland Continuum of Care and the City of Portland’s Division of Housing & Community Development on April 18, 2014 in Portland. The training featured a presentation by attorney Pat Ender of Pine Tree Legal Assistance. The Fair Housing training session was broadly advertised by the Cumberland County Community Development office to all the communities within the Entitlement Jurisdiction.

3) Brochures outlining the rights of home buyers and renters under non-discrimination and fair housing laws were distributed to each community in the Entitlement Jurisdiction.

4) Written information was provided to landlords and tenants on the provision of reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities.

5) The Community Development program continues to fund affordable housing activities including housing rehabilitation, home weatherization, and access ramps for persons with mobility disabilities.

6) The application/RFP for the Cumberland County portion of our HOME Consortium’s CHDO funds will be released in August 2014.

7) The program provided 2012 CDBG infrastructure funds for Habitat-for-Humanity sponsored subdivisions in the Towns of Freeport and Scarborough. The project in Freeport is well underway with 3 housing units near completed and one occupied by June 30, 2013.
8) We have provided links on the County’s website to the Maine Housing Authorities section on Fair Housing and Maine Housing’s “Mainely Landlords” newsletter. We have requested that our 25 member communities install the same links on their websites as well.

4. Actions to Address Obstacles to Meet Underserved Needs

In every possible program activity, available funding is the primary obstacle to meeting underserved needs. To address this issue Cumberland County joined with the City of Portland and the Town of Brunswick to form the City of Portland/Cumberland County HOME Consortium. The HOME Consortium brings approximately $350,000 in new funds to the region each year to address affordable housing issues. This additional funding allows the County to redirect a portion of CDBG resources currently funding housing rehabilitation activities to public services, public infrastructure, public facilities, downtown revitalization or economic development.

But ultimately the CDBG resources represent an extremely small amount of funds for the size of our population, territory, number of communities, and needs.

5. Leveraging Resources

The Cumberland County Community Development program leveraged the following resources in 2013:

City of Westbrook—Community Center Floors & Bleachers - $25,003 (municipal match)

Opportunity Alliance—Regional Housing Rehabilitation Program - $15,527 (match from MaineHousing and ME Department of Environmental Protection programs)

Towns of Cape Elizabeth, Gorham, Scarborough, Naples, Standish, Gray, Casco & Raymond—Enhanced Police Intervention Collaboration II - $11,500 (agency & municipal match)

Town of Gorham, Southern Maine Agency on Aging (SMAA)—Medicare Benefits Counseling - $25,729.50 (matching funds expended by SMAA)

Town of Gorham—Downtown Village Planning Study - $4,000 (municipal match)

Town of Naples—Water System Planning Study - $33,000 (municipal match)

Town of New Gloucester—Public Water System - $2,462,323 (Rural Development grant & loan, Town funds & Maine DEP funds)

Town of Scarborough—Affordable Housing Infrastructure - $810,000 (municipal & Habitat for Humanity matching funds commitment)

City of South Portland – Mill Creek Transit Hub - $175,300 (Federal Transit Administration), $40,000 (City Bus Capital Reserve Funds), $30,000 (City General Funds)
City of South Portland – Public Service Activities:

- South Portland – Family Crisis Services - $500 (United Way funds)
- South Portland – Free Bus Pass Program - $10,000 (City general funds)
- South Portland – Meals-on-Wheels - $139,260 (SMAA matching funds)
- South Portland – Redbank Hub Personnel - $21,380 (OA matching funds)

Towns of Windham & Gorham – South Windham/Little Falls Gorham Pedestrian and Streetscape Improvements - $14,394 (municipal match)

Total and Social Service Agency Funds Leveraged - $3,817,916

Although the decision was made locally by the County’s Municipal Oversight Committee to require a 20% matching for community-based projects, there are no HUD “matching requirements” that the County must satisfy for the CDBG program. Match is required for the HOME program.

Managing the Process

1. Describe actions taken during the last year to ensure compliance with program and comprehensive planning requirements.

Program Year 2 CAPER Managing the Process response:

As outlined in the 5-year Consolidated Plan and 2013 Annual Action Plan, the Cumberland County Community Development Office is the lead agent for the implementation of the CDBG program. The Office coordinates the effort with an Oversight Committee composed of one representative of our 25 member communities. The County Commissioners are the County’s legislative body and hold ultimate authority over the program’s operation.

The selection of projects and activities to receive funding followed the plan and process outlined in the 2013 Annual Action Plan. All projects and activities address one of three primary objectives: (1) suitable living environments; (2) decent housing; and (3) economic opportunity. All projects and activities address one of three outcomes: (1) improve availability/accessibility; (2) improve affordability; and/or (3) improve sustainability.

Citizen Participation

1. Provide a summary of citizen comments.

2. In addition, the performance report provided to citizens must identify the Federal funds made available for furthering the objectives of the Consolidated Plan. For each formula grant program, the grantee shall identify the total amount of funds available (including estimated program income), the total amount of funds committed during the reporting period, the total amount expended during the reporting period, and the geographic distribution and location of expenditures. Jurisdictions are encouraged to include maps in describing the geographic distribution and location of investment (including areas of minority concentration). The geographic distribution and expenditure requirement may also be satisfied by specifying the census tracts where expenditures were
concentrated.

*Please note that Citizen Comments and Responses may be included as additional files within the CPMP Tool.

Program Year 2 CAPER Citizen Participation response:

1. **Citizen Comments**

No comments received. A notice of the 15-day CAPER comment period was posted in the September 2, 2014 Portland Press Herald. The CAPER report was presented at the August 18, 2014 County Commissioner’s meeting, posted on the County web-site on September 4, 2014. A summary of the CAPER was sent to the program’s Municipal Oversight Committee on August 28, 2014.

2. **Identified Federal Funds**

   2010 CDBG Allocation - $1,849,093  
   2010 CDBG Allocation - Total Funds Committed - $1,849,093

   2011 CDBG Allocation - $1,543,926  
   2011 CDBG Allocation - Total Funds Committed - $1,543,926

   2012 CDBG Allocation - $1,439,335  
   2012 CDBG Allocation - Total Funds Committed - $1,439,335

   2013 CDBG Allocation - $1,534,022  
   2013 CDBG Allocation - Total Funds Committed - $1,378,559

Total Funds Expended July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014 - $1,314,542

**Location of expenditures for 2013**

1) **Town of Bridgton**

   Program Administration (2013) - $29,216  
   Cancer Support Program (2013) - $5,000  
   Heating Assistance Program (2013) - $5,000  
   Food Pantry Deliveries (2013) - $1,500  
   Community Kettle Dinner (2013) - $2,000  
   Community HELP (2013) - $1,272  
   Inflow-Infiltration Project (2010) - $62,584.56  
   Rufus Porter Museum Historical Renovation (2013) - $37,400  
   Façade Improvement Program, Moses House (2013) - $11,031  
   Opportunity Alliance (OA) Single Family Housing Rehabilitation (2013) - 1 project - $4,529.41

2) **Cape Elizabeth**

   Domestic Violence Response - $51,884.97

   * Cape Elizabeth serves as the “lead community”. Services were delivered in the communities of Cape Elizabeth, Casco, Gorham, Gray, Naples, Raymond, Scarborough and Standish.

3) **Town of Casco**

   OA Single Family Housing Rehabilitation, 1 project - $19,794
4) Town of Gorham
   OA Single Family Housing Rehabilitation, 1 project - $10,180
   Medicare/Senior Education Program - $35,433
   * Gorham serves as the “lead community”. Services were delivered in
     Gorham and in the Town of Standish.
     Little Falls Streetscape Improvements (see Town of Windham)

5) Town of Gray
   OA Single Family Housing Rehabilitation, 1 project - $10,5/4

6) Town of Harrison
   OA Single Family Housing Rehabilitation, 1 project - $12,853

7) Town of Naples
   OA Single Family Housing Rehabilitation, 1 project - $4,865

8) Town of New Gloucester
   OA Single Family Housing Rehabilitation, 1 project - $4,310
   Upper Village Water System Engineering & Equipment - $164,955

9) Town of Raymond
   OA Single Family Housing Rehabilitation, 1 project - $1,912

10) Town of Scarborough
    OA Single Family Housing Rehabilitation, 2 projects - $8,222

11) City of South Portland
    Program Administration: $30,791
    Mill Creek Transit Hub - $29,401
    Redbank Park Construction - $78,211
    Broadway Sidewalks - $102,248
    Home Energy Efficiency (WHCC) - $6,552
    Housing Rehab - $11,097
    Various Public Service Activities - $65,700

12) Town of Standish
    OA Single Family Housing Rehabilitation, 2 projects - $7,722

14) City of Westbrook
    OA Single Family Housing Rehabilitation, 1 project - $4,735
    Community Center Renovations, Bridge Street - $5,391

15) Town of Windham
    OA Single Family Housing Rehabilitation, 4 projects - $48,419
    Streetscape/Pedestrian Improvements, South Windham/Little Falls, Gorham
    $61,975

16) Regional Activities
    Cumberland County Program Administration - $137,049
    Center for Therapeutic Recreation - $5,000
Institutional Structure

1. Describe actions taken during the last year to overcome gaps in institutional structures and enhance coordination.

Program Year 2 CAPER Institutional Structure response:

The Cumberland County Community Development program, completing its seventh program year, is still relatively new. While some modest changes have already been made to the program application and review process no significant changes have been made or proposed to the program’s institutional structure.

The County’s Community Development Office is an integral partner in the City of Portland/Cumberland County HOME Program Consortium. This initiative has led to significantly enhanced cooperation among Consortium members.

Monitoring

1. Describe how and the frequency with which you monitored your activities.

2. Describe the results of your monitoring including any improvements.

3. Self Evaluation
   a. Describe the effect programs have in solving neighborhood and community problems.
   b. Describe progress in meeting priority needs and specific objectives and help make community’s vision of the future a reality.
   c. Describe how you provided decent housing and a suitable living environment and expended economic opportunity principally for low and moderate-income persons.
   d. Indicate any activities falling behind schedule.
   e. Describe how activities and strategies made an impact on identified needs.
   f. Identify indicators that would best describe the results.
   g. Identify barriers that had a negative impact on fulfilling the strategies and overall vision.
   h. Identify whether major goals are on target and discuss reasons for those that are not on target.
   i. Identify any adjustments or improvements to strategies and activities that might meet your needs more effectively.

Program Year 2 CAPER Monitoring response:

1. Describe how and the frequency with which you monitored your activities

Monitoring of projects and activities was conducted on a frequent and regular basis:

1.1) The 2013 Alpha One Critical Access Ramp program has not yet been monitored. At this juncture only one project has been completed. It is anticipated that monitoring will occur in October 2014 when at least 4 projects have been completed. The only completed project located in South
Portland was visited on June 10, 2014. The project was found to be well done and in order.

1.2) Every project case file for Regional Housing Rehabilitation program operated by Opportunity Alliance was reviewed prior to funding by the County Community Development Office. Four project sites in the towns of Bridgton, Windham (2 sites), and Gorham were visited on May 9, 2013.

1.3) Community visits were made to The Town of Bridgton to support their Economic/Community Development Director and review projects on July 9, September 9 and December 10, 2013 and January 30, February 14 and June 11, 2014. A formal monitoring visit occurred on March 7, 2014. All project files were examined in detail.

1.4) South Portland’s activities are overseen by its professional Community Development Coordinator. Public facilities and infrastructure projects are regularly monitored and inspected by the City’s Public Works Department and expenditures by its Finance Department. The County Community Development Director conducted a formal monitoring of the South Portland program on March 26, 2014. The County CD Director meets with the City of South Portland quarterly and communicates regularly by phone and e-mail.

1.5) Community site visits were conducted for ongoing projects in Bridgton, Freeport, Gorham, New Gloucester, Westbrook and Windham. The County’s Community Development Director was present at pre-construction, construction inspection and fund draw down meetings for community facility/infrastructure projects in the Towns of Bridgton, Freeport, New Gloucester, Windham and the City of Westbrook.

1.6) A visit was made in March 6, 2014 to the activity site for the Center for Therapeutic Recreation – aquatic recreation program. Karen McPhee, the Center’s Director brought all program and financial documents to the CD Office for review on July 16, 2014.

1.7) Family Crisis Services was monitored for compliance with programmatic requirements on November 18, 2013. The organization’s program was found to be properly functioning. FCS’s financial and benefit reporting systems provide excellent documentation.

1.8) Site visits were made on September 4, 2013 (Town of Standish) and March 9, 2014 (Town of Gorham) to Southern Maine Agency on Aging’s (SMAA) activity sites for the Medicare Education Program. The program was observed in action assisting clients. A formal monitoring visit was held at the Agency’s office in Scarborough with program staff and administrators on February 21, 2014.

2. Describe the results of your monitoring including any improvements

Monitoring revealed that programs are being well managed. Suggestions made to the City of South Portland to improve operations have been implemented under the direction of City Manager Jim Gailey and Community Development Coordinator Emily Freedman. Ms. Freedman has left to assume the position of Community Development Director in Gloucester, MA. The position is now held by Maeve Pistrang.
The Town of Bridgton has made improvements in program operations and management. County staff created an “operations manual” for town staff to follow with clear objectives, timelines and reporting standards. The timeliness of program expenditures, reporting and project implementation is improving. Further improvements are needed and are in the process of being implemented.

3. Self Evaluation

3a. Describe the effect programs are having in solving neighborhood and community problems.

Now in its seventh year, the County Community Development program has implemented many projects addressing community problems. Outstanding community-based public facility, infrastructure and public service projects completed in 2013 include:

1. City of Westbrook Community Center gym floor renovations (2012): The gym floor, completed in the winter of 2013, is part of a multi-year, multi-phase effort to transform the former Wescott Middle School into an all-purpose community, education & recreation facility. The gym floor, gym corridor and exercise floor projects were completed and reported in the 2012 CAPER. The installation of gymnasium bleachers will occur in October 2013. This facility offers recreation programs, a food pantry, senior services, and day care services to the people of Westbrook, which is a predominately low-income city.

2. Town of New Gloucester Water System (2012): Homes in the Upper Village neighborhood had wells that had been polluted by salt infiltration and petroleum spills for decades. This project helped provide access to a new water system and drinking supply in the community.

3. Town of Freeport, Infrastructure for Habitat for Humanity Subdivision: The Town provided property, a short distance from the large local employer L.L. Bean, to Habitat to construct 3 buildings with 9 ownership housing units. The CDBG program provided $143,000 to construct the road, water, sewer & storm drainage lines for the subdivision. As of June 30, 2014 one unit is occupied, 2 units are ready for occupancy, 1 duplex is under construction and the final tri-plex will be constructed in 2015.

4. Towns of Cape Elizabeth (lead), Casco, Gorham, Gray, Naples, Raymond, Scarborough & Standish; Domestic Violence Response: Police Departments and a local crisis services agency recognized a need for more intensive collaboration to address the needs of victims of domestic violence. This program has been a successful response and is slated for renewal and expansion in 2014.

5. Town of Gorham (lead) & Town of Standish: These two adjacent communities realized that many of their senior residents required assistance to understand and access the Federal Medicare program. They also realized that many could not easily travel to Scarborough to receive this service. The project provided this service locally and trained residents as Medicare educators to assist their neighbors in the coming years.
6. Towns of Windham & Gorham: The neighborhood of South Windham/Little Falls, Gorham is shared the two adjacent communities. The neighborhood is among the poorest in the region with heavy traffic on the main roadway. Newly installed landscaping, crosswalks, sidewalk tip-downs, signage and park benches represent a good first step toward revitalization of the area.

7. City of South Portland Redbank Park Construction (2013): The Redbank neighborhood is a very low income neighborhood in the city. In recent years, a former school property in Redbank Village that had stood vacant and vandalized was rehabilitated into a new Community Center and in the 2013 program year, the empty lot next to it was turned into the new Redbank Park thanks to CDBG funds. The park now features a permanent pavilion, bike racks, a basketball court, benches and trees, and has become a new focal point and amenity for this low income neighborhood as it works towards revitalization.

8. Town of Bridgton: The completion of the Sewer System Inflow and Infiltration Control Project goes a long way toward solving a major community problem in Bridgton. The reduction in extraneous water leaking into the system now permits the expansion of existing businesses, the location of new businesses and new housing to be developed in the downtown village.

The County-wide housing rehabilitation program and the South Portland weatherization and housing rehabilitation programs are also continuing to improve the quality and energy efficiency of low income households in the jurisdiction.

Public Service activities funded this year addressed a variety of community needs and issues such as food insecurity, transportation, domestic violence, heating fuel costs, access to healthcare, and access to household items and other community resources.

3b. **Describe progress in meeting priority needs and specific objectives and help make community's vision of the future a reality.**

Housing rehabilitation has been, and still remains, a priority need in Cumberland County. A total of 17 single-family projects were completed through the Regional Rehabilitation Program in 2013. 1 project was completed through the Alpha One Critical Access RAMP Program during the seventh program year. 2 rehabilitation projects were completed through the South Portland Housing Rehabilitation program in addition to 6 energy audits and weatherization upgrades.

Community facilities have been a major component of the County CD program. Projects completed in 2013 (or nearing completion) which are great examples of using CDBG to help a community reach its vision for the future include: 1) the completion of affordable housing infrastructure for a new affordable housing complex in the Town of Freeport; 2) completion of streetscape improvements in South Windham and Little Falls (Town of Gorham); 3) installation of bleachers at the gymnasium of the Westbrook Community Center (which has become a hub of activity for City residents), and the City of South Portland's Redbank Resource Hub, which provides services and community engagement opportunities to the City's lowest income neighborhood. CDBG funds a staff person to provide a wide array of community services at the Redbank facility year-round.
The City of South Portland also constructed two new facilities in this program year, the Mill Creek Transit Hub and Redbank Park. Both of these projects are located in target neighborhoods and created new resources for low-income residents and improved their neighborhoods. The Transit Hub created a waiting area and bus shelter for public transportation riders and the park created a new open and recreation space adjacent to the Community Center in the Redbank neighborhood. In addition, the sidewalks along Broadway have been improved for more pedestrian access.

3c. Describe how you provided decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanded economic opportunity principally for low and moderate-income persons.

Decent Housing

The Cumberland County Regional Housing Rehabilitation program completed 17 housing rehabilitation projects. The City of South Portland completed 2 housing rehabilitation projects and 6 weatherization projects. Alpha One constructed 1 critical access ramp.

Suitable Living Environment

In the Cumberland County communities the most significant improvements were seen in New Gloucester (new water system in the Upper Village) and streetscape improvements in the South Windham/Little Falls (Gorham) neighborhood. In South Portland improvements continued at Mill Creek Park and new sidewalks on Broadway. In the Town of Bridgton the completion of the Inflow and Infiltration control project is a major step in continual sewer system improvements.

Expanded Economic Opportunity

The Cumberland County Community Development Program – including the City of South Portland and the Town of Bridgton does not operate a specific Economic Development program. We do not operate micro-enterprise or business loan programs. Nonetheless several of our activities and projects expand economic opportunity. In Bridgton the sewer system Inflow and Infiltration control project permits the expansion of business activity downtown including new restaurants and taverns. The façade Improvement projects in Bridgton have spurred enterprise and business development downtown. In New Gloucester the new water system provides the opportunity for business development in the upper village. In South Portland the Redbank HUD provides services to the largely low-income African immigrant community including direction to educational and job training services.

3d. Indicate any activities falling behind schedule.

Cumberland County:

1. Town of Scarborough: Sewer line for Habitat for Humanity subdivision. This project was delayed pending environmental clearance. The project is now on track for an early fall 2014 construction start with completion late fall 2014.
2. City of Westbrook: Downtown streetscape and pedestrian improvements. Because the DOT funded reconstruction of the Bridge Street bridge, which will not begin until spring 2015, the CDBG funded project will not begin until summer 2015.

3. Critical Access Ramps, Alpha One: By June 30, 2014 only one project had been completed, but 4 new projects are on tap for the summer of 2014. Alpha One is stepping up its marketing and outreach efforts.

Bridgton:

1. The Depot Street Sidewalk project will not begin construction until the spring of 2015. The project went out to bid in July 2014 but the bid prices exceeded the available funds. The project will be redefined and rebid in the winter of 2014/20.5.

2. Community Center Windows: Repair of primary windows and installation of new internal storm window project was delayed pending historic preservation clearance. The project is now under contract (June 2013) with completion anticipated November 2013.

South Portland:

1. The South Portland Broadway Sidewalks project was delayed from 2009 until 2013 due to problems with funding sources and work conflicts with the Portland Water District. Great progress was made during the 2013 program year and final completion will occur during the 2014 program year.

2. The South Portland Single-Family Home Weatherization program has been slow to expend all funds. There has been a spate of recent activity post June 30, 2014. It is fully anticipated funds will be expended in the fall of 2014.

3e. Describe how activities and strategies made an impact on identified needs

Cumberland County

- Homeless case management services:

This program was initially funded with CDBG funds (2007 & 2008), and then funded 2009-2011 with HPRP funds. The program was effective in placing at risk county residents in permanent housing. HPRP is not reported in this CAPER. In 2012 a limited homeless case management services program was be funded with $45,450 in CDBG funds. In 2013, an analysis of our previous homeless services and ongoing needs was conducted as a planning activity. Upcoming in program year 2014 the case management program will be re-established.

- Housing rehabilitation:

Rehab services have been funded since the program's inception spanning the years 2007-2013. In 2013 the program focused on heating system replacements,
weatherization and emergency repairs. 17 single-family housing rehabilitation projects were completed in program year 2013.

- Services for handicap persons:

One critical access ramp was installed during the 2013 program year for residents in the City of South Portland.

The Center for Therapeutic Recreation's aquatic recreation program served 12 clients in program year 2013, and provided 125 hours of services.

- Community focus on improving local facilities:

Renovations to the Westbrook Community Center have made a remarkable difference in this community. In program year 2013 the final phase of the gym/exercise room project – the installation of the gym bleachers – was completed. This facility is now heavily used from early morning through late in the evening.

- Downtown/Village Revitalization:

Revitalization of our village centers is an overarching goal of Cumberland County's community development initiative. Enhancing pedestrian access and safety is an important component of this effort. Installation of new lighting, landscaping, crosswalks (with sidewalk tip downs) and park benches were completed in the South Windham/Little Foll Gorham neighborhood.

**Town of Bridgton**

Downtown improvement is the greatest identified need in Bridgton. Investments in the downtown sewer system, storm drainage, sidewalks, pocket parks, façade improvements and the Bridgton Community Center facility all focus on revitalizing Main Street, Depot Street, and Pondicherry Square, which together comprise Bridgton's downtown.

**City of South Portland**

- Downtown Infrastructure:

Along with previous street, sewer, storm drainage and sidewalk reconstruction in the Knightville/Mill Creek neighborhood, construction of the Mill Creek Transit Hub has made the area more accessible by pedestrians and public transportation, and thus more of a community center, with the City seeing an influx of new businesses into the Knightville area. Sidewalks along Broadway have also expanded pedestrian access to downtown.

- Housing Rehabilitation:

Rehab services have been funded since 2007. In recent years, the program has focused on emergency repairs and installation of heating systems, as well as weatherization. In 2013, 6 homes received weatherization services, one home had a new natural gas heating system installed for a low income resident, and an extremely low income resident received installation of a new roof, new basement windows and replacement outlets and faucets.
• Social Services for Low Income Residents:

The City of South Portland continues its focus on assisting low/moderate income residents with a particular focus on seniors, children, victims of domestic violence, and others going through traumatic events. The City also helps to staff the Redbank Resource Hub, which is a community center that provides services to the residents of the Redbank neighborhood, which is a low-income, high crime, and predominately rental housing area.

3f. **Identify indicators that would best describe the results of completed projects.**

Residents of Westbrook now have a safe, refurbished gymnasium with new bleachers at their community center. Hundreds of residents are now participating in physical and social activities at the center.

Residents of the Redbank neighborhood in South Portland have access to a new park with open space and recreation facilities.

Public transportation riders in South Portland have access to a safe, dry transit shelter and information resource through the Mill Creek Transit Hub, located in the Mill Creek/Knightville neighborhood.

Residents in New Gloucester now have access to safe, clean drinking water in their homes as a result of the new public water system.

Homeowners throughout Cumberland County who received home weatherization and energy efficiency improvements will save thousands of dollars in heating costs:

- Bridgton: 1
- Casco: 1
- Gorham: 1
- Gray: 1
- Naples: 1
- New Gloucester: 1

• Harrison: 1
• Raymond: 1
• Scarborough: 2
• Standish: 2
• Westbrook: 1
• Windham: 4

Progress is occurring to eliminate blight in downtown Bridgton. Investments in the historic Moses House, Webb House, William Perry House and the pocket park in front of the Town Library are spurring additional investment, foot traffic and increased business activity.

3g. **Identify barriers that had a negative impact on fulfilling the strategies and overall vision.**

The greatest single factor in fulfilling the vision of the Cumberland County Community Development program is extremely limited program funds. The needs of the County are expansive particularly in the areas of affordable housing, housing rehabilitation and weatherization, provision of social services, and the creation of community facilities. CDBG resources, while extremely appreciated, can address only a small fraction of the region’s needs.
3h. **Identify whether major goals are on target and discuss reasons for those that are not on target.**

Major goals are on target. This CAPER reports on the 2nd year of the five-year Consolidated Plan and at this juncture the program is working toward achieving its goals.

3i. **Identify any adjustments or improvements to strategies and activities that might meet your needs more effectively.**

At this time no significant adjustments or improvements are anticipated. Minor changes will occur particularly in the program's application competition. We continually struggle to meet expanding needs with minimal resources.

**Lead-based Paint**

1. Describe actions taken during the last year to evaluate and reduce lead-based paint hazards.

**Program Year 2 CAPER Lead-based Paint response:**

All housing rehabilitation projects comply with the lead based paint requirements. All contractors must have the E.P.A. Firm Certification to Conduct Lead-based Paint Activities and/or Renovations. Each worker must be trained in lead-safe practices. The housing rehabilitation program insists that lead-safe work practices are in place. If paint is disturbed, it is presumed to be lead-paint. Appropriate clean-up and dust free practices must be followed.

The Cumberlanc County Community Development Office in partnership with the City of Portland received a Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program Grant in 2007. Unfortunately, the renewal application for that program and subsequent applications, annually submitted to HUD, to re-start the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program have been unsuccessful.

**HOUSING**

**Housing Needs**

*Please also refer to the Housing Needs Table in the Needs.xls workbook.*

1. Describe Actions taken during the last year to foster and maintain affordable housing.

**Program Year 2 CAPER Housing Needs response:**

The Year 7 program focused on Housing Rehabilitation activities including heating system replacement and home weatherization. High heating and energy costs, and thus home weatherization and improved energy efficiency, have become a critical issue for low income residents in our region.
Our regional housing rehabilitation program completed the following projects:

- Town of Bridgton: 1 project completed
- Town of Casco: 1 project completed
- Town of Gorham: 1 project completed
- Town of Gray: 1 project completed
- Town of Harrison: 1 project completed
- Town of Naples: 1 project completed
- Town of New Gloucester: 1 project completed
- Town of Raymond: 1 project completed
- Town of Scarborough: 2 projects completed
- Town of Standish: 2 projects completed
- City of Westbrook: 1 project completed
- Town of Windham: 4 projects completed

The regional Critical Access Ramp program managed by the non-profit Alpha One completed one project, in South Portland.

In addition to the regional housing rehabilitation program, the City of South Portland also completed 2 housing rehab projects and 6 energy efficiency projects for low-income residents with its own home energy efficiency/weatherization program.

**Specific Housing Objectives**

1. Evaluate progress in meeting specific objective of providing affordable housing, including the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income renter and owner households comparing actual accomplishments with proposed goals during the reporting period.

2. Evaluate progress in providing affordable housing that meets the Section 215 definition of affordable housing for rental and owner households comparing actual accomplishments with proposed goals during the reporting period.

3. Describe efforts to address "worst-case" housing needs and housing needs of persons with disabilities.

**Program Year 2 CAPER Specific Housing Objectives response:**

1. Evaluate progress in meeting specific objective of providing affordable housing

During the July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 program year, 17 housing rehabilitation projects were completed and 1 critical access ramp project was completed. The projected 2013 unit goal was 30. The reason the numeric goal was not attained is simple – four of the rehabilitation projects undertaken were much larger than average and consumed a considerable portion of the allocated funds.

Of these 17 units, 9 were occupied by households <30% AMI (extremely low-income); 4 were households between 30% & 50% LMI (very low income) and 4 were households between 50% & 80% LMI (low income).
During the same period as above, 2 rehabilitation projects and 6 home energy audits and weatherization activities (8 total units) were completed in the City of the South Portland. Of these 8 projects, 5 were occupied by households <30% AMI (extremely low-income) and 3 were households at 50-80% LMI (low income). These South Portland activities were designed to improve housing and to save low-income homeowners money on their monthly energy costs, keeping their housing affordable.

CDBG funds assisted with the construction of the road, Benequist Way, at the Town of Harpswell’s affordable housing subdivision. Through the end of program year 2013 (June 30, 2014) seven families have purchased house lots and new homes at the subdivision – one household <80% AMI; two households <60% AMI and: four households <50% AMI.

2. **Evaluate progress in providing affordable housing that meets the Section 215 definition**

During the grant period, the program did not assist in the construction of new rental or ownership properties as defined under Section 215.

3. **Describe efforts to address “worst-case” housing needs and housing needs of persons with disabilities**

The 2013 Regional Housing Rehabilitation program focused on emergency repairs and rehabilitation to support housing weatherization efforts. Of 17 completed projects, 9 clients (53%) had incomes below 30% AMI, 4 clients (23%) had incomes between 30-50% AMI, and the remaining 4 (23%) had incomes at 50-80% AMI.

In South Portland two (2) rehabilitation projects addressed emergency repairs critical to maintaining the residents in their homes.

Alpha One has completed 1 Critical Access Ramp project during the past year, which served a person with a disability.

**Public Housing Strategy**

1. Describe actions taken during the last year to improve public housing and resident initiatives.

**Program Year 2 CAPER Public Housing Strategy response:**

No actions were taken by the program concerning Public Housing. Both the South Portland and Westbrook Housing Authorities are high performing housing authority organizations.

**Barriers to Affordable Housing**

1. Describe actions taken during the last year to eliminate barriers to affordable housing.
Program Year 2 CAPER Barriers to Affordable Housing response:

The 2013 Cumberland County program devoted a significant percentage of its limited CDBG resources to housing rehabilitation. 17% of 2013 CDBG funding was devoted to housing program activities, primarily housing rehabilitation. 12% of CDBG expenditures, were devoted to housing related program activities during the program year. All these funds contribute to making housing available and affordable to persons of low/moderate income.

The 25 member communities of the Cumberland County Community Development Program have formed a HOME Program Consortium Partnership with the City of Portland and the Town of Brunswick. The Cumberland County program’s communities now utilize HUD HOME program funds for housing rehabilitation and homeownership activities. These activities are reported in the CAPER of the City of Portland, lead entity of the HOME Consortium. In August 2013 Avesta Housing was awarded $125,000 in HOME CHDO funds to replace the heating system and complete weatherization activities at Sandy Creek Apartments in Bridgton.

HOME/ American Dream Down Payment Initiative (ADDI)

1. Assessment of Relationship of HOME Funds to Goals and Objectives
   a. Evaluate progress made toward meeting goals for providing affordable housing using HOME funds, including the number and types of households served.

2. HOME Match Report
   a. Use HOME Match Report HUD-40107-A to report on match contributions for the period covered by the Consolidated Plan program year.

3. HOME MBE and WBE Report
   a. Use Part III of HUD Form 40107 to report contracts and subcontracts with Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) and Women’s Business Enterprises (WBEs).

4. Assessments
   a. Detail results of on-site inspections of rental housing.
   b. Describe the HOME jurisdiction’s affirmative marketing actions.
   c. Describe outreach to minority and women owned businesses.

Program Year 2 CAPER HOME/ADDI response:

Not applicable to the Cumberland County Community Development Program for 2013. Match report for the Cumberland/City of Portland HOME Consortium completed by the City of Portland.
Homeless Needs

*Please also refer to the Homeless Needs Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Identify actions taken to address needs of homeless persons.

2. Identify actions to help homeless persons make the transition to permanent housing and independent living.

3. Identify new Federal resources obtained from Homeless SuperNOFA.

Program Year 2 CAPER Homeless Needs response:

1. **Identify actions taken to address needs of homeless persons**

   The Cumberland County Community Development Office administered a three-year $605,763 Homelessness Prevention Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) grant from July 2009 – June 2012. When the HPRP grant ended the largest resource available to Cumberland County communities (excluding the City of Portland) to address the needs of homeless persons is gone. A 2012 CDBG grant of $45,000 to the Opportunity Alliance paid the salary of one Case Manager. While the Case Manager was able to provide assistance to 99 individuals, the program lacked the expansive resources of the HPRP program.

   For the 2013 program year the Opportunity Alliance utilized a $14,000 planning grant to study the effectiveness of their homeless prevention and assistance services. For the upcoming 2014 program year Opportunity Alliance procured a $47,500 CDBG grant to continue their homeless case management prevention and assistance services.

2. **Identify actions to help homeless persons make the transition to permanent housing and independent living**

   The primary activity of the Opportunity Alliance’s Homeless Case Management program was to prevent persons from becoming homeless. There are no homeless shelters in the Cumberland County Entitlement Jurisdiction. The transition from homelessness to permanent housing and independent living occurs in our region primarily at services provided by the City of Portland.

   South Portland’s General Assistance Director initiated a major policy change in 2011 so that persons applying for GA Housing Assistance no longer automatically receive a housing voucher, which was typically used to pay for shelter at area motels. Past practice provided little impetus for homeless persons to transition to more permanent and independent living arrangements. Intake now requires first option for a shelter placement, typically in conjunction with City of Portland services. This has drastically reduced both the number and length of stay in shelters. More often than not, this has resulted in assistance from GA as a pathway to permanent housing.
3. **Identify new Federal resources obtained from Homeless SuperNOFA**

No resources were obtained from the Homeless SuperNOFA.

**Specific Homeless Prevention Elements**

1. Identify actions taken to prevent homelessness.

**Program Year 2 CAPER Specific Homeless Prevention Elements response:**

During program years 2009-2011 Cumberland County was the recipient of a $605,000 Homeless Prevention Rapid Re-housing (HPRP) grant. In program year 2012 the Opportunity Alliance was awarded a modest $45,450 CDBG grant to continue a modest case management program. This program assisted 99 households outside of the City of Portland with accessing services, housing and assistance to prevent homelessness. After reviewing their activities with the assistance of a $14,000 2013 CDBG planning grant Opportunity Alliance procured a $47,500 2014 CDBG grant to continue case management service to assist homeless household and prevent households from becoming homeless.

The CDBG program has consistently funded housing rehabilitation activities for each of the past 7 years. In 2013 the program also funded the Critical Access Ramp program. Both programs play a role in assisting households to remain safely housed.

**Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG) — now “Emergency Solution Grants”**

1. Identify actions to address emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless individuals and families (including significant subpopulations such as those living on the streets).

2. **Assessment of Relationship of ESG Funds to Goals and Objectives**
   a. Evaluate progress made in using ESG funds to address homeless and homeless prevention needs, goals, and specific objectives established in the Consolidated Plan.
   b. Detail how ESG projects are related to implementation of comprehensive homeless planning strategy, including the number and types of individuals and persons in households served with ESG funds.

3. **Matching Resources**
   a. Provide specific sources and amounts of new funding used to meet match as required by 42 USC 11375(a)(1), including cash resources, grants, and staff salaries, as well as in-kind contributions such as the value of a building or lease, donated materials, or volunteer time.

4. **State Method of Distribution**
   a. States must describe their method of distribution and how it rated and selected its local government agencies and private nonprofit organizations acting as sub-recipients.
5. Activity and Beneficiary Data
   a. Completion of attached Emergency Shelter Grant Program Performance Chart
      or other reports showing ESGP expenditures by type of activity. Also describe
      any problems in collecting, reporting, and evaluating the reliability of this
      information.
   b. Homeless Discharge Coordination
      i. As part of the government developing and implementing a homeless
         discharge coordination policy, ESG homeless prevention funds may be
         used to assist very-low income individuals and families at risk of becoming
         homeless after being released from publicly funded institutions such as
         health care facilities, foster care or other youth facilities, or corrections
         institutions or programs.
   c. Explain how your government is instituting a homeless discharge coordination
      policy, and how ESG homeless prevention funds are being used in this effort.

Program Year 2 CAPER ESG response:

Cumberland County does not receive Emergency Shelter (now “Solution”) Grant funds.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development

*Please also refer to the Community Development Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Assessment of Relationship of CDBG Funds to Goals and Objectives
   a. Assess use of CDBG funds in relation to the priorities, needs, goals, and
      specific objectives in the Consolidated Plan, particularly the highest priority
      activities.

The 2013 program focused on addressing the highest priority needs as identified in
the Consolidated Plan – housing rehabilitation, affordable housing, homeless
assistance, public service needs, public infrastructure and facilities, downtown
revitalization, and planning. This is evidenced by the activities undertaken: regional
housing rehabilitation & critical access ramp program; infrastructure to support
affordable housing in Freeport and Scarborough; renovations to the community
center in the City of Westbrook; downtown/village infrastructure in Bridgton and
South Windham/Little Falls (Gorham); the Water System in New Gloucester;
infrastructure and facilities in South Portland; many public service activities in South
Portland; Gorham & Standish (Medicare education); Cape Elizabeth, et.al. (domestic
violence case management) and region-wide (aquatic recreation for developmentally
disabled adults).

b. Evaluate progress made toward meeting goals for providing affordable
   housing using CDBG funds, including the number and types of households
   served.

The program goal for the 2013 Cumberland County program funds was the
completion of 3C housing rehabilitation projects with a focus on heating system
repair & replacement. Through June 30, 2013, 17 housing rehabilitation projects
were completed. Of the $135,999 expended by the regional housing rehabilitation program administered by the Opportunity Alliance, five projects utilized 50% of the program funds - with two of those five consuming 31% of funds. The remaining 12 projects, primarily heating system replacements averaged $6,000 per unit. Income breakdown: 9 households were extremely low-income households (<30% AMI); 4 households were very-low income (>30%<50% AMI) and; 4 were low-income (>50%<80% AMI)

South Portland’s program sought to address emerging energy efficiency issues, particularly in LMI households, where energy costs represent a large percentage of household expenditures. 6 energy audits and energy efficiency win addition to 2 extensive home repairs (heating systems and windows/doors).

c. Indicate the extent to which CDBG funds were used for activities that benefited extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income persons.

Westbrook – Westbrook Community Center

While this facility qualifies for CDBG program funds as an area-wide activity, many services supporting extremely low and very low-income persons occur at the center. These include: Meals-On-Wheels kitchen, HeadStart classrooms, a food pantry, and community clothing bank.

Freeport – Habitat-For-Humanity Subdivision

Only one household has moved into their new home but the vast majority, if not all, of eight new homeowners will be very low-income (>30%<50% AMI).

Freeport – Elder Transportation Bus

The Freeport Elders Association services 357 members. During the course of any given year at least 1/2 will be using the bus for transport to the Freeport Community Center or special events or activities. Elders are a presumed service group classified as moderate income (>50%<80% AMI)

New Gloucester Water System

New Gloucester Upper Village is a low-income neighborhood with many private water wells polluted by salt infiltration and petroleum spills. The completion of the water system and public drinking water supply brings enormous benefits to these households.

Bridgton – Food Pantry Deliveries

This 2013 grant paid $1,500 for deliveries from the Good Shepherd food bank to the Town of Bridgton Food Pantry. A total of 280 persons were served by the pantry, 195 being extremely-low income (<30%AMI), 68 very low-income (>30%<50%AMI), and 9 moderate income (>50%<80%AMI) and 8 not reporting (counted as >80%AMI).

Town of Bridgton – Community Center Fuel Collaborative

This activity provided emergency home heating oil to low/moderate income households in the Town of Bridgton. A total of 60 households received home heating
oil with 2013 CDBG funds—39 extremely low income households (<30%AMI), and 21 very low income households (>30<50%AMI).

Regional – Housing Rehabilitation Program

Through June 30, 2013, 17 housing rehabilitation projects (17 units) were completed. Income breakdown: 9 were extremely low-income households (<30% AMI); 4 were very low income (>30<50% AMI) and; 4 were low-income (>50<80% AMI).

Regional – Alpha One Handicap Access Ramps

One residential handicap access ramp was completed during the 2013 program year. The household was income verified to be very-low income (>30<50%AMI)

Regional – Center for Therapeutic Recreation

This program served 11 adults (unduplicated count) and 1 child with disabilities. 125 hours of service, primarily aquatic recreation was provided during the program year. As an activity serving severely disabled adults, all clients are presumed to be low income (>30-<50 area median income). The child’s family was income certified as low income (>30-<50 area median income).

Gorham (lead) & Standish – Elder Services, Medicare Benefits Counseling & Education

This program served a total of 268 seniors in both group classes and individual counseling sessions. As a “non-senior center based” activity serving a senior population, all clients are presumed to be low income (>30-<50% area median income).

South Portland Activities

South Portland undertook several projects in the Redbank neighborhood, the lowest income neighborhood in the city. These projects included, Redbank Park Construction and Redbank Resource Hub. The Community Counseling Center operated its Trauma Intervention Program in the seven low-income neighborhoods of the city and the Mill Creek Transit Hub was built in the Mill Creek/Knightville target neighborhood. Sidewalks along Broadway were improved in the low income Thornton Heights neighborhood.

Public Service activities in South Portland assisted low income residents or presumed benefit groups, end the housing rehabilitation and weatherization programs assisted low income households.

The Cumberland County Entitlement Program operates under the exception rule (24 CFR 570.208(a)(1)(ii) to determine a low/moderate income area-wide benefit location. For program years 2011, 2012 & 2013 the standard is that 43% of residents must reside in households with incomes at or below 80% of area median income.
2. Changes in Program Objectives
   a. Identify the nature of and the reasons for any changes in program objectives and how the jurisdiction would change its program as a result of its experiences.
      
      No changes in program objectives.

3. Assessment of Efforts in Carrying Out Planned Actions
   a. Indicate how grantee pursued all resources indicated in the Consolidated Plan.
      
      Consistent with efforts to leverage funds wherever possible CDBG program funds were heavily matched in conjunction with three activities:
      
      Westbrook Community Center Renovations
      CDBG = $100,000  Match = $25,003

      South Windham/Little Fall Gorham Streetscape Improvements
      CDBG = $71,974.74  Match = $14,394.26

      South Portland Mill Creek Transit Hub
      CDBG = $29,401  Match = $245,300
      
   b. Indicate how grantee provided certifications of consistency in a fair and impartial manner.
      
      Grantee did not receive any requests for certifications of consistency with the Consolidated Plan during the program year.

   c. Indicate how grantee did not hinder Consolidated Plan implementation by action or willful inaction.
      
      Grantee did not hinder Consolidated Plan implementation.

4. For Funds Not Used for National Objectives
   a. Indicate how use of CDBG funds did not meet national objectives.
      
      All CDBG funds met national objectives

   b. Indicate how did not comply with overall benefit certification.
      
      Not applicable

5. Anti-displacement and Relocation – for activities that involve acquisition, rehabilitation or demolition of occupied real property
   a. Describe steps actually taken to minimize the amount of displacement resulting from the CDBG-assisted activities.
      
      No displacement occurred during the 2013 program year.
b. Describe steps taken to identify households, businesses, farms or nonprofit organizations who occupied properties subject to the Uniform Relocation Act or Section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and whether or not they were displaced, and the nature of their needs and preferences.

No displacement occurred during the 2013 program year.

c. Describe steps taken to ensure the timely issuance of information notices to displaced households, businesses, farms, or nonprofit organizations.

No displacement occurred during the 2013 program year.

6. Low/Mod Job Activities – for economic development activities undertaken where jobs were made available but not taken by low- or moderate-income persons

a. Describe actions taken by grantee and businesses to ensure first consideration was or will be given to low/mod persons.

No job creation activities occurred where jobs were made available but not taken by low- or moderate income persons.

b. List by job title of all the permanent jobs created/retained and those that were made available to low/mod persons.

No job creation activities occurred where jobs were made available but not taken by low- or moderate income persons.

c. If any of jobs claimed as being available to low/mod persons require special skill, work experience, or education, provide a description of steps being taken or that will be taken to provide such skills, experience, or education.

Not applicable.

7. Low/Mod Limited Clientele Activities – for activities not falling within one of the categories of presumed limited clientele low and moderate income benefit, describe how the nature, location, or other information demonstrates the activities benefit a limited clientele at least 51% of whom are low- and moderate-income.

Cumberland County Program:

- The Center for Therapeutic Recreation provided aquatic recreation services for 12 adults with disabilities. Eleven individuals qualified as low/moderate income as a member of the “presumed group” – severely disabled adults. One individual under the age of 18 provided income certification demonstrating their household was income-qualified. All clients served were developmentally disabled.

The Town of Bridgton administered five public service activities in 2013.

- The Community Center Fuel Collaborative provided emergency home heating oil to low/moderate income households in the Town of Bridgton. A total of 60
residents received home heating assistance, 100% of whom were certified to be low/moderate income.

- The Food Pantry Deliveries program financed deliveries the Good Shepherd food bank to the Town of Bridgton Food Pantry. A total of 280 persons received assistance from the pantry, 195 being extremely-low income (<30%AMI), 68 very low-income (>30<50%AMI), and 9 moderate income (>50<80%AMI) and 8 not reported (counted as >80% AMI).

- A program called “On Eagle’s Wings” provided massage therapy and counseling support to 16 low income women undergoing cancer treatments, primarily chemotherapy.

- Community Kettle Dinners in Bridgton, which is a community-wide low income area, served a total of 2,680 dinners funded by CDBG program and local businesses, organizations and churches. Dinners funded by the Community Center (CDBG funds) were served to 1,177 persons.

- Community HELP Program in Bridgton provided household items to 110 households and 293 individuals, 278 being extremely-low income (<30%AMI), 11 very low-income (>30<50%AMI), and 4 moderate income (>50<80%AMI).

South Portland administered eight Public Service activities in 2013, four of which were limited clientele activities. The remaining activities (Meals on Wheels, Domestic Violence Counseling, Community Counseling, and Redbank Hub Staffing) are area-wide activities or for presumed benefit groups.

- The South Portland Transportation Department supplied free bus passes to 430 low/moderate income South Portland residents. Many bus pass recipients are General Assistance clients, or low-income students lacking transportation to area high schools.
- The South Portland Parks & Recreation and Public Works Departments provided full recreational scholarships to 30 children, all of whom (100%) were from extremely low income households.
- South Portland General Assistance provided emergency heating fuel assistance to 35 households with a total of 87 residents- all of whom (100%) were low/moderate income households.
- The Skillin Elementary Parent–Teacher Association (PTA) provided free, nutritious meals to children from low/moderate income households at Skillin Elementary School who were determined by the guidance counselor to be “food insecure.” 25 children received free meals to bring home in order to be properly fed over weekends and breaks.

8. Program income received

a. Detail the amount of program income reported that was returned to each individual revolving fund, e.g., housing rehabilitation, economic development, or other type of revolving fund.

No program income received or expended from a revolving loan fund in 2013.

b. Detail the amount repaid on each float-funded activity.
Not applicable

c. Detail all other loan repayments broken down by the categories of housing rehabilitation, economic development, or other.

Housing Rehabilitation

Hollingsworth project, Cumberland County - $1,041.96 (payoff)
Renna project, South Portland - $5,852 (payoff)
Devlin project, South Portland - $2,312 (payoff)
Wiles project, South Portland - $1,662.50 (loan repayment)

d. Detail the amount of income received from the sale of property by parcel.

$2,646.35 of weatherization supplies purchased by the City of South Portland returned for reimbursement.

9. Prior period adjustments – where reimbursement was made this reporting period for expenditures (made in previous reporting periods) that have been disallowed, provide the following information:

a. The activity name and number as shown in IDIS;
b. The program year(s) in which the expenditure(s) for the disallowed activity(ies) was reported;
c. The amount returned to line-of-credit or program account; and
d. Total amount to be reimbursed and the time period over which the reimbursement is to be made, if the reimbursement is made with multi-year payments.

a-d – Not applicable.

10. Loans and other receivables

a. List the principal balance for each float-funded activity outstanding as of the end of the reporting period and the date(s) by which the funds are expected to be received.
b. List the total number of other loans outstanding and the principal balance owed as of the end of the reporting period.
c. List separately the total number of outstanding loans that are deferred or forgivable, the principal balance owed as of the end of the reporting period, and the terms of the deferral or forgiveness.
d. Detail the total number and amount of loans made with CDBG funds that have gone into default and for which the balance was forgiven or written off during the reporting period.
e. Provide a List of the parcels of property owned by the grantee or its sub-recipients that have been acquired or improved using CDBG funds and that are available for sale as of the end of the reporting period.

a-e – Not applicable.
11. Lump sum agreements
   a. Provide the name of the financial institution.
   b. Provide the date the funds were deposited.
   c. Provide the date the use of funds commenced.
   d. Provide the percentage of funds disbursed within 180 days of deposit in the Institution.

   a-d – Not applicable.

12. Housing Rehabilitation – for each type of rehabilitation program for which projects/units were reported as completed during the program year:
   a. Identify the type of program and number of projects/units completed for each program.

   Region-wide housing rehabilitation, 17 projects completed
   Alpha Ore Critical Access Ramps, 1 project completed.
   South Portland housing rehabilitation, 2 projects completed
   South Portland home energy audits/weatherization, 6 projects completed

   b. Provide the total CDBG funds involved in the program.

   Regional Housing Rehabilitation:
   Total funds expended - $138,116.37

   Critical Access Ramps:
   Total funds expended - $2,383.31

   South Portland Housing Rehabilitation:
   Total funds expended - $11,097

   South Portland Weatherization:
   Total funds expended - $6,552

   c. Detail other public and private funds involved in the project.

   Maine State Housing Authority - $ 15,527

13. Neighborhood Revitalization Strategies – for grantees that have HUD-approved neighborhood revitalization strategies
   a. Describe progress against benchmarks for the program year. For grantees with Federally-designated EZs or ECs that received HUD approval for a neighborhood revitalization strategy, reports that are required as part of the EZ/EC process shall suffice for purposes of reporting progress.

   Program Year 2 CAPER Community Development response:

   Not applicable.
Antipoverty Strategy

1. Describe actions taken during the last year to reduce the number of persons living below the poverty level.

Program Year 2 CAPER Antipoverty Strategy response:

Given the enormous geography (over 800 square miles) and population (approaching 200,000) of Cumberland County, there is little a small community development program can do to reduce the number of persons in poverty. However, we can make the lives of a small number of people living in poverty a little bit better.

These programs did that:

- The delivery of food to the food pantry in Bridgton;
- The establishment of Community HELP in Bridgton to provide basic household items to the poorest households in town;
- The provision of supplemental heating assistance in Bridgton and South Portland;
- The installation of new heating systems to replace ones that were no longer safe or operable;
- Improvements at the Westbrook Community Center, home to Headstart classrooms, a food pantry, and a community clothing bank.
- Staffing of the Redbank Resource Hub, which connects low income residents to services and resources, and organizes community meals and programs.
- Provision of bus passes for low income South Portland residents to access transportation for work, medical care, and necessities.

NON-HOMELESS SPECIAL NEEDS

Non-homeless Special Needs

*Please also refer to the Non-homeless Special Needs Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Identify actions taken to address special needs of persons that are not homeless but require supportive housing, (including persons with HIV/AIDS and their families).

Program Year 2 CAPER Non-homeless Special Needs response:

The program provided funds to Alpha One in 2013 ($50,000) to install handicap access ramps at the homes of persons with physical disabilities. One ramp was completed during program year 2013 with at least four lined up and ready to go during the summer of 2014. Cumberland County funded the Center for Therapeutic Recreation providing aquatic recreational opportunities to 11 adults and one teenager with developmental and physical disabilities.

The program did not provide funds for any supportive housing activities. There are simply limited resources and only so many activities can be attended to.
Specific HOPWA Objectives

*Please also refer to the HOPWA Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. Overall Assessment of Relationship of HOPWA Funds to Goals and Objectives
   Grantees should demonstrate through the CAPER and related IDIS reports the progress they are making at accomplishing identified goals and objectives with HOPWA funding. Grantees should demonstrate:
   a. That progress is being made toward meeting the HOPWA goal for providing affordable housing using HOPWA funds and other resources for persons with HIV/AIDS and their families through a comprehensive community plan;
   b. That community-wide HIV/AIDS housing strategies are meeting HUD's national goal of increasing the availability of decent, safe, and affordable housing for low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS;
   c. That community partnerships between State and local governments and community-based non-profits are creating models and innovative strategies to serve the housing and related supportive service needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families;
   d. That through community-wide strategies Federal, State, local, and other resources are matched with HOPWA funding to create comprehensive housing strategies;
   e. That community strategies produce and support actual units of housing for persons living with HIV/AIDS; and finally,
   f. What community strategies identify and supply related supportive services in conjunction with housing to ensure the needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families are met.

2. This should be accomplished by providing an executive summary (1-5 pages) that includes:
   a. Grantee Narrative
      i. Grantee and Community Overview
         (1) A brief description of your organization, the area of service, the name of each project sponsor and a broad overview of the range/type of housing activities and related services
         (2) How grant management oversight of project sponsor activities is conducted and how project sponsors are selected
         (3) A description of the local jurisdiction, its need, and the estimated number of persons living with HIV/AIDS
         (4) A brief description of the planning and public consultations involved in the use of HOPWA funds including reference to any appropriate planning document or advisory body
         (5) What other resources were used in conjunction with HOPWA funded activities, including cash resources and in-kind contributions, such as the value of services or materials provided by volunteers or by other individuals or organizations
         (6) Collaborative efforts with related programs including coordination and planning with clients, advocates, Ryan White CARE Act planning bodies, AIDS Drug Assistance Programs, homeless assistance programs, or other efforts that assist persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

   ii. Project Accomplishment Overview
(1) A brief summary of all housing activities broken down by three types: emergency or short-term rent, mortgage or utility payments to prevent homelessness; rental assistance; facility based housing, including development cost, operating cost for those facilities and community residences
(2) The number of units of housing which have been created through acquisition, rehabilitation, or new construction since 1993 with any HOPWA funds
(3) A brief description of any unique supportive service or other service delivery models or efforts
(4) Any other accomplishments recognized in your community due to the use of HOPWA funds, including any projects in developmental stages that are not operational.

iii. Barriers or Trends Overview
(1) Describe any barriers encountered, actions in response to barriers, and recommendations for program improvement
(2) Trends you expect your community to face in meeting the needs of persons with HIV/AIDS, and
(3) Any other information you feel may be important as you look at (4) providing services to persons with HIV/AIDS in the next 5-10 years

b. Accomplishment Data
i. Completion of CAPER Performance Chart 1 of Actual Performance in the provision of housing (Table II-1 to be submitted with CAPER).
ii. Completion of CAPER Performance Chart 2 of Comparison to Planned Housing Actions (Table II-2 to be submitted with CAPER).

Program Year 2 CAPER Specific HOPWA Objectives response:
Cumberland County does not receive HOPWA Program funds.

OTHER NARRATIVE

Include any CAPER information that was not covered by narratives in any other section.

Program Year 2 CAPER Other Narrative response:
No additional narrative response.
CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REPORT

PUBLIC NOTICE: SEPTEMBER 2, 2014
15-DAY COMMENT PERIOD

The Cumberland County Community Development Program has developed its FY2013 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) in accordance with Federal Regulation 24 CFR Part 91. The CAPER summarizes programmatic accomplishments and provides an assessment of progress toward meeting priority needs and specific objectives identified in the County’s CDBG 2012-2016 Consolidated Plan.

The CAPER is available for review at the Community Development Office, 142 Federal St., Portland, ME between the hours of 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday - Friday. Written comments may be mailed to the Cumberland County Community Development Office, 142 Federal Street, Portland, Maine 04101-4196 or submitted by e-mail to Shapiro@cumberlandcounty.org.

For more information or questions concerning the CAPER, contact Aaron Shapiro Cumberland County Community Development Director: tel. 207-699-1905; e-mail Shapiro@cumberlandcounty.org
MEMORANDUM

TO: Commissioners: Chairman Cloutier, Coward, Grover, Jamieson, Wilonis
CC: Peter Crichton, County Manager
FROM: Aaron Shapiro, Community Development Director
DATE: August 7, 2014
RE: 2013 HUD Report

By September 30th of each year the Cumberland County Community Development Office must submit a Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) to HUD. The CAPER details the expenditure of HUD funds and accomplishments achieved during the past program year (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014). Be mindful that the report is a snapshot taken on June 30, 2014. Accomplishments and funds expended during July & August 2014 are not documented.

2013 Program Highlights & Accomplishments:

During the 2013 program year we administered our standard CDBG allocation and participated in the City of Portland/Cumberland County HOME Program Consortium. South Portland and Bridgton operate as set-asides under the umbrella of the County program, selecting and managing their own community development activities.

Three Highlights for the Year 2013:

Freeport: Freeport Elder Association – New Bus

While “big ticket” items have grand openings and ribbon cuttings sometimes it’s the little projects that are the most gratifying. That’s certainly the case with the new bus now transporting Freeport’s elders to their weekly gatherings, luncheons and out on the town (and out of town) events. The County CDBG program provided $15,000 with the Elders Association raising over $35,000. Acquisition of the new bus is the capstone of an effort almost 5 years in the making. That’s quite a few bake sales to be sure.
New Gloucester: Upper Village Water System

I introduced the groundbreaking of this project in last year's report. Today the project is complete with clean safe drinking water flowing through the pumps and pipes of the New Gloucester Upper Village water system. This was the largest project the County CDBG program has participated in to date. Funding for the $2.4 million water system came from Maine DEP, USDA Rural Development (grant & loan), the Town and CDBG. Project highlights included strong town support, cooperation among the funders, superb contractors and solid engineering services.

South Portland: Mill Creek/Knightville Transit Hub

The new transit hub building in South Portland is architecturally stunning and built to last. With indoor and outdoor seating areas and schedule/route information, the facility is one that bus riders and community residents can be proud of. $275K funds were provided by the FTA, City Bus Company reserve funds, South Portland general fund and CDBG.
2013 Goals and Accomplishments:

1.0) **Goal:** Provide Decent Affordable Housing
**Action:** Funding Four Housing Rehabilitation Activities

1.1) Regional Housing Rehabilitation Program
Program Goal: 30 single-family units
Units Completed: 17 single-family units

Funded Amount: $158,133 (2013)
Funds Expended Program Year 2013: $138,116

Opportunity Alliance completed 17 single-family rehabilitation projects in program year 2013. The majority of the projects were heating system replacements and home weatherization averaging about $5,000. Five larger rehabilitation projects constituted 60% of total expenditures.

1.2) Alpha One, Critical Access Ramp Program
Program Goal: 10 ramps
Completed Ramps: 1 ramp

Funded Amount: $50,000 (2013)
Funds Expended Program Year 2013: $2,383

While this project has been slow in moving forward at least 4 projects are scheduled for completion in the summer of 2014.

1.3) South Portland Housing Rehabilitation Program
Program Goal: 2 Units
Units Completed in 2013: 2 Units

Funded Amount: $16,000
Funds Expended Program Year 2013: $11,097

South Portland funded two housing rehab projects in Program Year 2013, one for a very low income household and one for an extremely low income household. Repairs included installation of a new natural gas heating system, and installation of a new roof, new basement windows and replacement outlets and faucets.

1.4) South Portland Home Energy Efficiency Program (Warm Home, Cool City)
Program Goal: 25 units
Units Completed in 2011: 4 units
Units Completed in 2012: 7 units
Units Completed in 2013: 6 units

Funded Amount: $45,620 (2011 funding)
Funds Expended Program Year 2011: $23,206
Funds Expended Program Year 2012: $9,017
Funds Expended Program Year 2013: $6,552

The Warm Home Cool City’s Residential Energy Efficiency program provided weatherization and/or energy audit services to 6 households. Residents received a free at-home consultation with an energy efficiency expert, a supply of free energy
efficient products, such as light bulbs, and improvements such as weather stripping, sealing, caulking, or installation of programmable thermostats.

HOME Consortium Activities

Total HOME Consortium "Non-Portland" funds expended 2013 $320,240

Homeownership Assistance:

- Funds Expended: $79,776
- 4 projects: Falmouth (1); Gray (1); Naplee (1); Westbrook (1)

Housing Rehabilitation:

- Funds Expended: $240,464
- 9 projects: Cumberland (1); New Gloucester (1); North Yarmouth (1)
  Scarborough (1), South Portland (2), Standish (1), Windham (1); Yarmouth (17
  units at Yarmouth Senior Housing)

Rental Housing Development or Rehabilitation -- (CHDO Set-Aside Funds)

No funds were expended for rental housing development or rehabilitation during the 2013 program year. A new heating system and weatherization activities will begin in September 2014 at the Avesta Housing Sandy Creek family housing development in Bridgton. The project is expected to cost $125,000.

2.0) Goal: Provide & Expand Community Facilities

Actions: New and/or improved Community Center facilities

2.1) City of Westbrook – Community Center Gym Floor Replacement, Bleacher
     Installation & Exercise Room Floor (2012)

     Funded Amount: $100,000
     Expended Program Year 2012: $94,609
     Expended Program Year 2013: $5,391

This project is part of the multi-year, multi-phase effort to transform the former Wescott Middle School into an all-purpose community, education & recreation facility. The gym floor, gym corridor and exercise floor projects were completed in winter/spring 2013. The installation of gymnasium bleachers was completed in December 2013.

2.2) City of South Portland – Mill Creek Transit Hub (2013)

     Funded Amount: $29,401
     Expended Program Year 2013: $29,401

The Transit Hub is a new facility located in the Mill Creek/Knightville neighborhood that provides amenities for public transportation riders, including indoor and outdoor waiting areas, seating, and route and schedule information. Construction began in summer of 2013 and was completed (and final payment made) in spring of 2014. The hub opened for public use in April 2014.
3.0) Goal: Provide & Upgrade Public Infrastructure
Action: Funding for 7 infrastructure projects

3.1) Town of Freeport – Road, Water, Sewer & Storm Drainage for Habitat for Humanity Subdivision

Funded Amount: $143,000 (2012)
Funds Expended in Program Year 2012: $143,000

Habitat for Humanity is constructing 8 housing units at a new subdivision in Freeport Village. The 1st 3 unit home was completed over the winter of 2013/14. The road, water, sewer, and storm drainage lines paid for with CDBG have all been installed. One unit is now occupied; two units will be occupied summer 2014; two units are under construction spring/summer/fall 2014; the final three units will be built in 2015.

This activity will be reported in the CAPER until all units are sold and occupied.


Funded Amount: $233,165
Funds Expended Program Year 2012: $68,210
Funds Expended Program Year 2013: $164,955

CDBG funds paid for engineering services and specialized industrial equipment for this $2.4 million water system. Funding partners include Rural Development, the Maine State Dept. of Environmental Protection and the Town of New Gloucester. Construction began in July 2013, with completion in May 2014.

3.3) Town of Windham – South Windham/Little Falls, Gorham Streetscape/Pedestrian Improvements (2011)

Funded Amount: $80,000 (Funded in 2011)
Funds Expended Program Year 2013: $71,974.74

Construction began on this long delayed project on June 10, 2013. Construction was substantially completed by September 30, 2013 with final completion June 30, 2014.

3.4) City of South Portland Infrastructure and Public Facilities Projects

3.4.1) Broadway Sidewalk (2009)

Funded Amount: $193,878 (Funded in 2009)
Funds Expended Program Year 2009: $2,572
Funds Expended Program Year 2010: $11,126
Funds Expended Program Year 2013: $102,248

Replacement of deteriorated concrete sidewalks with bituminous sidewalk and accessibility improvements of this sidewalk located in a target area are ongoing and should complete in program year 2014.
3.4.2) Redbank Park Construction (2013)

Funded Amount: $85,000 (Funded in 2013)
Funds Expended in Program Year 2013: $78,211

This park is adjacent to a community center in the low-income Redbank neighborhood. Previously a vacant lot, construction has consisted of landscaping, installation of a permanent pavilion, bike racks, and basketball court improvements. The project should complete in program year 2014.

3.4.3) Projects Reported in the 2012 CAPER with final payments in 2013:

High & Sawyer Street Park (2009), $56,247

Funds Expended in Program Year 2011: $6,604
Funds Expended in Program Year 2012: $45,253
Funds Expended in Program Year 2013: $4,390

The High/Sawyer Street Park is a pocket-park consisting almost entirely of a basketball court, located in a low/moderate income target neighborhood. Improvements included resurfacing of the basketball court, fencing, and landscaping around the edges of the court. The project was completed in November 2012 and final payment was made in August 2013 after determination that plantings had survived the winter.

Knightville Sidewalk Reconstruction, Phase I (2010), $285,434

Funds Expended in Program Year 2010: $28,961
Funds Expended in Program Year 2011: $172,923
Funds Expended in Program Year 2012: $82,151
Funds Expended in Program Year 2013: $1,398

This project was the 1st phase of a 2-phase sidewalk and combined sewer separation project in downtown South Portland along busy city streets. Phase I was completed fall of 2011 with installation of new sidewalks in 2 project areas in the Knightville neighborhood. Phase II of the project was completed in program year 2012. Final retainage was paid out in fall of 2013.

Legere Park Improvements (2011), $21,584

Funds Expended in Program Year 2011: $5,745
Funds Expended in Program Year 2012: $14,754
Funds Expended in Program Year 2013: $1,085

Legere Park is a heavily used public facility, located in the Knightville/Mill Creek neighborhood and includes a playground, basketball court, and open green space. Improvements included a resurfaced basketball court, replacement of the basketball post and backboard, and installation of new benches. Work began spring 2012 and was completed in June 2013 with final payment made in August of 2013.
Mill Creek Park Improvements Phase III (2012), $89,247

Funds Expended Program Year 2012: $70,948
Funds Expended Program Year 2013: $18,299

Phase III of major improvements to the park in the Knightville/Mill Creek neighborhood have been completed. Improvements included, pond reclamation, an enhanced entrance, a Veteran's Memorial, and new pathways.

3.5) Town of Bridgton Infrastructure and Public Facilities Projects

3.5.1) Sewer System Inflow and Infiltration

Funded Amount: $98,000 (2010)
Funds Expended Program Year 2010: $8,156
Funds Expended Program Year 2011: $25,855
Funds Expended Program Year 2012: $1,304
Funds Expended Program Year 2013: $82,585

This 2010 project began a multi-year effort to remediate inflow & infiltration of groundwater into the Town of Bridgton sewer system. Inflow and infiltration has caused the system to exceed capacity, requiring repair at access points and line connections. The project was completed November 2014.

3.5.2) Depot Street Sidewalks

Funded Amount (2012) $250,675
Funds Expended Program Year 2013: $22,780


4.0) Goal: Downtown Revitalization & Elimination of Slum/Blight
Action: Funding for façade improvements and historic preservation

4.1) Action – Funding for Non-Residential Historic Preservation

Town of Bridgton, Façade Improvements (2013)

Funded Amount: $20,000
Funds Expended Program Year 2013: $20,000

 Restoration of the entrance and front façade at the historic Moses House, was completed. This once unoccupied historic building now contains a store on the first floor and an apartment on the second.

Town of Bridgton, Rufus Porter Museum Renovations (2011, 2012)

Funded Amount: $24,000 (2011), $13,400 (2012)
Funds Expended in Program Year 2012: $175
Funds Expended Program Year 2013: $37,400
The Town of Bridgton is partially funding renovations to the historic property at 121 Main Street as the new home for the Rufus Porter Museum. This blighted property is being painstakingly restored in accordance to requirements established and monitored by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. Phase I of the project was completed in December 2013.

South Portland, Hutchins School Renovations (2009)

- **Funded Amount:** $131,241 (Funded in 2009)
- **Funds Expended Program Year 2009:** $24,539
- **Funds Expended Program Year 2010:** $2,649
- **Funds Expended Program Year 2011:** $76,143
- **Funds Expended Program Year 2012:** $6,874
- **Funds Expended Program Year 2013:** $21,036

The former Hutchins School is a municipally-owned building, eligible for listing on the National Register, in the Ferry Village neighborhood. Restoration of the exterior facade eliminated serious blighting conditions. Renovations completed include replacement of damaged/rotting fascia, architectural details, and sills. Exterior repainting was completed in November 2013 with final retainage payment made in June 2014.

5.0) **Goal:** Provide Access to Public Services

5.1) **Action:** Funding for Recreation Programming, Adults with Developmental Disabilities

Center for Therapeutic Recreation (County-Wide, 2013)

- **Funded Amount:** $5,000
- **Funds Expended in Program Year 2013:** $5,000

The program provided aquatic recreation sessions to 12 clients from the communities of: Falmouth (3), Gorham (1), South Portland (3), Scarborough (1), Westbrook (1), Windham (1) and Yarmouth (2).

5.2) **Action:** Funding for Elder Medicare Education Program

Town of Gorham (lead community), Town of Standish (2013) Contract with Southern Maine Area Agency on Aging

- **Funded Amount:** $35,507
- **Funds Expended in Program Year 2013:** $35,507

Confusion about Medicare benefits among new Medicare enrollees is common. This program provides three services: Group sessions for new enrollees, individual counseling for new or enrolled Medicare recipients, and training of seniors (or "pre-seniors") to assist Medicare recipients. 268 seniors were assisted, saving the average household hundreds and in a few instances thousands of dollars. 815.5 hours of Medicare benefits counseling services were provided.
5.3) Action – Funding for Domestic Violence, Case Management Services

Towns of Cape Elizabeth, Casco, Gorham, Gray, Naples, Scarborough, Standish, Raymond, Contract with Family Crisis Services (2013)

Funds Expended in Program Year 2013: $51,884.97

The program provides case management services in conjunction with local Police Departments. This activity serves the towns of Cape Elizabeth, Casco, Gorham, Gray, Naples, Scarborough, Standish, and Raymond. Cape Elizabeth is the "lead" community for administrative purposes. 318 clients were served in 2013 with funds reallocated from their 2012 grant and new grant for 2013.


Funded Amount: $4,900
Funds Expended in Program Year 2013: $4,900

This activity provided 135 individuals (presumed benefit: battered spouses) with domestic violence counseling services. The EPIC staff made 199 follow-up visits to domestic violence victims in 2013.

5.4) Action – Funding for Bus Purchase for Senior Transportation

Towns Freeport

Funded Amount: $15,000 (2013)
Expended Amount Program Year 2013: $15,000

The acquisition of a new bus by the Freeport Elders Association was a long deferred dream. The association raised over $35,000 in a four year period utilizing CDBG funds to put them "over the top". The 14 passenger bus transports Freeport elders to the Freeport Community Center for their typical social gatherings, luncheons and meetings and to events far and wide. Freeport Elders has 357 members.

5.5) Action – Support for Food Pantries & Meals Programs

Town of Bridgton - Food Pantry Deliveries (2013)

Funded Amount: $1,500.00
Funds Expended Program Year 2013: 1,500.00

The grant funded deliveries from the Good Shepherd Food Bank in Auburn to the Bridgton Food Pantry. 280 adults and children were served by the food pantry.

Town of Bridgton - Community "Kettle" Dinners (2013)

Funded Amount: $2,000
Funds Expended Program Year 2013: $2,000
This small grant enabled the Bridgton Community Center to host weekly community dinners for the town’s poorest residence. Over the course of the year 2,680 meals were served with funds provided by the CDBG grant, churches, service organizations and local businesses.

City of South Portland, Skillin Elementary School PTA – Backpack Program (2013)

Funded Amount: $4,900
Funds Expended in Program Year 2013: $4,900

This activity provides backpacks of food for children of low-income families at the Skillin School. These children receive free or reduced lunch during school, and were identified by a guidance counselor as "food insecure" on weekends and during school breaks. 25 households received backpacks each Friday during the school year to ensure proper nutrition when school is not in session.

5.6) Action – Recreational Scholarship Program

City of South Portland - Recreation Scholarship Program (2013)

Funded Amount: $9,900
Funds Expended in Program Year 2013: $9,900

Thirty (30) children received full or partial scholarships to participate in South Portland’s summer recreation programs. All (100%) were from households at or below the 30% median income threshold (extremely low income.) Funds for the 2013 program year were drawn down July 2013.

5.7) Action – Provision of Free Bus Passes

City of South Portland, Dept. of Transportation - Bus Pass Program (2013)

Funded Amount: $4,100
Funds Expended in Program Year 2013: $4,100

The South Portland Bus Service provided free bus passes to 430 low/moderate income residents to travel to work, medical appointments, school, and shopping. South Portland Bus Service worked closely with the School Department, General Assistance Office, and other organizations whose clients use public transportation, to provide the passes to the most in need.

5.8) Action – Senior Services in the City of South Portland

South Portland, Southern Maine Agency on Aging – Meals-on-Wheels (2013)

Funded Amount: $9,000
Funds Expended Program Year 2013: $9,000

Southern Maine Agency on Aging’s (SMAA) Meals-on-Wheels program delivered 11,292 meals to 310 homebound seniors in South Portland. 128 seniors and disabled individuals joined the program in the 2013 program year.
5.9) Action – Personnel for Low/Moderate Income Neighborhood Resource Center

City of South Portland, Redbank Community Center – Personnel (2013)

Funded Amount: $15,000
Funds Expended Program Year 2013: $15,000

This public service project covers personnel costs for the Redbank Neighborhood Center, or "Hub." The Hub serves as a resource for this low-income neighborhood, helping individuals to identify and navigate assistance programs or other resources, coordinating community events, and hosting a farm stand in the summer. The Hub also holds community dinners at the Redbank Community Center, and runs a summer breakfast program in conjunction with the Boys and Girls Club bus pick-up. In addition to funding Opportunity Alliance staff at the Hub, a small portion of funds are used to reimburse the City for operating costs of the Center.

5.10) Action – Assistance for Persons Undergoing Traumatic Events in the City Of South Portland

City of South Portland, Community Counseling Services – TIP Program (2013)

Funded Amount: $4,900
Funds Expended Program Year 2013: $4,900

The Trauma Intervention Program (TIP) provides counseling services to South Portland’s low-income neighborhoods in the aftermath of a traumatic event such as unexpected or unattended death, burglary, assault, or accident. The presence of trained volunteers providing emotional support and guidance during and after a traumatic event allows Police & Fire personnel to focus on and complete their primary duties. 40 residents of the city’s low/moderate income target neighborhoods were served. The balance of program funds was drawn in July 2014.

5.11) Action – Emergency Heating Assistance

Town of Bridgton, Community Center Fuel Collaborative: Emergency Heating Assistance (2013)

Funded Amount: $5,000
Funds Expended Program Year 2013: $5,000

This activity provided emergency home heating assistance to low/moderate income households in the Town of Bridgton. 21 households with a total of 60 individuals received home heating oil with $5,000 of 2013 CDBG funds. CDBG funds augment local charitable and municipal resources.

City of South Portland, General Assistance: Emergency Heating Assistance (2013)

Funded Amount: $13,000
Funds Expended in Program Year 2013: $13,000
This activity provided emergency home heating oil to low/mod income households in the City of South Portland. 3,720 gallons of one-time emergency heating oil was distributed to 35 income-qualified households facing no-heat emergencies. 87 individuals benefited from this public service.

5.12) Action – Provision of clothing, household items, and other non-food items to low-income residents

Town of Bridgton, Community HELP Program (2013)

- Funded Amount: $2,000
- Funds Expended in Program Year 2013: $2,000

HELP is a new non-profit program in Bridgton that provides clothing and non-food household necessities to low-income residents. 293 persons were served in program year 2013.

5.14) Action – Cancer Patient Support Services

Town of Bridgton, On Eagles Wings: Massage Therapy for Cancer Patients (2013)

- Funded Amount: $5,000
- Funds Expended in Program Year 2013: $5,000

This activity funded massage treatments for 16 low-income cancer patients.

Wrap-Up

The entire Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (the “CAPER”) is available for your review. It will be posted on the Community Development Program website by September 1st.

And a hearty welcome and appreciation to Maeve Pistrang who began work in June. Maeve serves in the dual role as Community Development Assistant for Cumberland County and South Portland’s Community Development Program Administrator.
HOUSING REHABILITATION REPORT
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Program Year 2014: Checked: 7/1/2014

OPPORTUNITY ALLOCATION PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014