CITY OF LENOIR
FY-2026 Action Plan

City of Lenoir

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ACTION PLAN 2026
CITY OF LENOIR, NORTH CAROLINA

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II. INTRODUCTION

The Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Program allows the City of Lenoir to address the housing affordability, community and economic development needs for the low and moderate-income residents of Lenoir. The Consolidated Plan is a planning document which guides the development of affordable housing, community and economic development strategies. The Consolidated Plan serves as a guide to be used in decision making for investors, non-profit organizations, community organizations, program administrators, City officials and concerned citizens. The Consolidated Plan, required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, is designed to promote and coordinate citizen participation in the development of local priority needs and objectives.

This year the City of Lenoir will be utilizing the entitlement funds from the CDBG program for public facilities renovations and storm water improvements at the Old Lenoir High School Campus Project, which includes the Gym, the Auditorium, Mack Cooke Stadium. Farmer's Market Pavilion, and Over the Mountain Victory Trail Visitor Center.

Mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Consolidated Plan, developed in FY 2025 for a five year period, set forth a five-year plan for addressing the City's housing, community development and economic development needs of its low and moderate – income residents. The following is the summary of the five-year plan and the strategies for the FY 2026 CDBG program year.

III. FIVE YEAR STRATEGY

Summary of the Five Strategy. The City of Lenoir has established the following significant elements for achieving its strategic purposes and objectives through this consolidated plan.

- Installation of streets and sidewalks in CDBG eligible areas.
- Installation of greenways paths and/or bridges in CDBG eligible areas.
- Streets improvements in CDBG eligible areas.
- Installation of water & sewer and storm water improvements in CDBG eligible areas.
- Elimination of slum and blight housing units and vacant buildings in the city through the acquisition and demolition and/or condemned structures.
- Increase economic and job opportunities for low and moderate income persons.
- Stimulating homeownership opportunities for low and moderate income homebuyers by providing downpayment assistance through the HOME Unifour Consortium Program.
- Increase the supply of standard, affordable housing through the rehabilitation of existing structures.
- Continue supporting programs offered by non-profits that benefit low and moderate income people and meet the requirements of CDBG Program.
- Encourage efforts on a regional basis to further study and address homelessness.
- Continue efforts to create, maintain or improve new or existing parks, recreational and other public facilities in CDBG eligible areas.
- Continue efforts to reduce and eliminate lead-based paint hazards through education and testing, utilizing services of the Caldwell County Health Department.
- Continuation of efforts to further Fair Housing and minimize relocation or displacement in all programs.

Priority Analysis and Strategy Development. The City of Lenoir has established its general priorities for allocating federal, state and private resources expected to be available over the five-year period of the consolidated plan. The data obtained from the 2020 Census and HUD Databooks indicate that low-income small related, low-income large related and elderly owner households were more likely to experience housing problems than other sub-populations. The growing number of severe housing problems in the 0 to 80% income categories, indicate the need for rehabilitation assistance. The City will continue to support applications for elderly and low-income housing rehabilitation and construction.

The City also supports any applications for funds which goals are to provide affordable, safe and decent housing to low and moderate income individuals and families.

Sources of Funds. All program activities will be paid by federal CDBG funds

IV. SECOND YEAR ACTION PLAN 2026

Strategy Implementation-Year 2

Total CDBG Funding **$118,886**
Total Resources **$118,886**

In accordance with 24 CFR Part 91.220 of Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development act

of 1974, as amended, the City of Lenoir's One Year Action Plan outlines the activities that will be funded using CDBG funds.

A. Resources

1. Federal

Federal resources are expected to be available to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the strategic plan of the CDBG Program. The City anticipates receiving $118,886.00 in FY 2026.

B. Activities to be Undertaken

Priority 1. Public Facilities - $95,108.80 public facilities renovations and storm water improvements at the Old Lenoir High School Campus Project, which includes the Gym, the Auditorium, Mack Cooke Stadium. Farmer's Market Pavilion, and Over the Mountain Victory Trail Visitor Center.

Geographic Distribution. Low Income Census Tract

Priority 2. Program Administration - $23,777.20 in CDBG funds to provide efficient and timely administrative services. Administration will be a key component to the success of the City of Lenoir programs. The staff will be responsible for preparing all documents required of the CDBG Program, monitoring and other requirements of the Program.

V. OTHER ACTIONS

A. Affordable Housing. The City of Lenoir has established its general priorities for allocating federal, state and private resources expected to be available over the five year period. The data obtained from the 2020 Census of Population and Housing and HUD Databooks indicate low-income households are more likely to experience housing problems. Older adults will continue to experience housing problems due to that population's decreased incomes, the age of their homes and their increasing frailty as they age. The City of Lenoir will continue to support individual applications for HOME, CDBG and Rural Development Corporation funds to address these needs.

Priority has been given to improving areas of the city through infrastructure improvements and improvements to public facilities. The City of Lenoir supports any applications, which have goals of providing affordable, safe and decent housing to low and moderate-income families and individuals.

B. Homelessness and Other Special Needs. The City of Lenoir will work closely with the existing network of agencies and organizations that are addressing the needs of the homeless and those threatened with homelessness and those with special needs housing. The City of Lenoir will work with regional efforts by the Western Piedmont Council of Governments or the Unifour Consortium to study the causes and possible remedies for homelessness.

C. Non-Housing Community Development Needs. The City of Lenoir will seek to improve the downtown business area. This revitalization of this area is of extreme importance in maintaining the character of the City. New businesses, restaurants, and industry are needed to create new jobs and to increase the viability of the City.

D. Lead Based Paint Hazard Reduction. The number of homes built before 1970 is 4563 all of which can be classified as potential hazards. Any units assisted with CDBG funds will be addressed for lead hazards on a unit-by-unit basis in accordance with all D-HUD regulations. With limited funds available, the abatement of lead from all units within the city is not possible. Lead based paint hazard and abatement information is made available at the CDBG office for all city residents upon request. Approved measures such as wet scraping to reduce the amount of lead disturbed during rehabilitation will be used.

E. Public Housing Improvements. The Lenoir Housing Authority plans to improve the management and operation of the public housing units by applying for funds to refinance the 97 units currently managed by a private management company. Further, the LHA cooperates with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments to increase homeownership among residents, and encouraging residents to apply for homebuyer assistance funds. The LHA also coordinates efforts with the Lenoir Police Department to reduce crime in at their units.

F. Public Housing Resident Initiatives. The LHA will work in the coming five-year period to increase resident awareness of energy factors, homeownership possibilities, credit counseling, drug elimination, and community activities. Together with the City of Lenoir, the Western Piedmont Council of Governments, Blue Ridge Community Action the LHA hopes the residents of the authority will be able to accomplish more self-reliance and independence expenditures.

VI. MONITORING. The City of Lenoir will take every measure to ensure the City of Lenoir's long-term compliance, completely and correctly, with provisions of this consolidated plan and all of the provisions of the CDBG program.

The City of Lenoir is committed in its efforts to develop and provide affordable housing and to meet the goals of their five-year strategy outlined in the consolidated plan. The City of Lenoir will review the goals of their one-year strategy on a quarterly basis to determine progress made toward reaching the goals. The City of Lenoir shall be responsible for monitoring only those funds that it receives from DHUD.

All persons receiving assistance under the CDBG program must meet low and moderate-income requirements as determined annually by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Any acquisition and relocation will comply with the Uniform Relocation Act.

Any demolition/clearance/construction/site preparation work will be monitored in accordance with Davis-Bacon requirements. Environmental clearance will be received prior to expenditure of any HUD funds. Any asbestos and/or lead-based paint abatements will be done in accordance with applicable state and federal governing laws.

For every $30,000 in CDBG funds spent on economic development, at least 1 new job will be created for low and moderate-income residents. All required procedures will be followed to ensure compliance with national objective to benefit low to moderate-income persons.

All construction work will be monitored in accordance with any Davis-Bacon requirements.

In order to ensure compliance the Western Piedmont Council of Governments will conduct the monitoring for this program.

VII. Fair Housing – Barriers to Affordable Housing. The City of Lenoir makes every effort in supporting affordable housing. The City serves as the Lead Entity for the Unifour Consortium which has 28 participating local governments. Within the Consortium, there are varying degrees of adopted zoning and land use controls, fees and other costs that will affect the cost of housing. Adopted zoning and subdivision codes that are currently in force are not considered to be excessive or exclusionary. The Consortium staff, the Western Piedmont Council of Governments, will administer an Individual Development Account program with CDBG funds received by counties. These IDA program will be administered and available throughout the Unifour. The Western Piedmont Council of Governments is a HUD-approved comprehensive housing counseling agency, and as such, it will also continue to provide Home Equity Conversion Mortgage counseling to older adult homeowners.

Lack of education about purchasing home can be a barrier to affordable housing. The lack of a job, money, or even a person's language can be a barrier to fair housing. An analysis of impediments to fair housing has identified various hurdles to fair housing and suggest ways to make housing opportunities more fair.

The City of Lenoir will take an active role in affirmatively furthering fair housing in its jurisdiction through these activities:

- The City of Lenoir will participate in the Unifour Consortium HOME Program, which assists low and moderate-income persons with down payment assistance.
- The City of Lenoir will promote education of housing rights and housing responsibilities through flyers translated into Spanish for our Hispanic population.
- The City of Lenoir will participate in various forums to provide housing and fair housing information to its citizens.
- The City of Lenoir Continued will place handicap accessible sidewalks and improved parking to provide equal access to the city for the handicap and disabled persons of Lenoir.
- The City will observe April as “Fair Housing Month” by the city adopting a fair housing resolution each April to recognize and support fair housing The City will sponsor public service announcements regarding fair housing and “Fair Housing Month” in local newspaper and/or radio.
- The City of Lenoir will supply informational posters, brochures and/or flyers to historically black churched and community centers to inform citizens about their fair housing rights.
- The Unifour Consortium will provide down payment assistance for first-time homebuyers, to qualifying low to moderate income minorities and will specifically

affirmatively market the down payment assistance program to minority and/or predominately black communities by placing down payment assistance and fair housing posters, brochures, and/or flyers in minority and/or predominately black communities, churches, libraries, and community centers.

VIII. ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY. The City of Lenoir is seeking new and diverse industries and commercial businesses for the City. Data from the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina states that unemployment in Caldwell County averaged 6.3% in 2015 due to the loss of furniture and textile jobs to overseas labor market. Job-training and job placement is provided through the Workforce Investment Act provide skill training and job placement assistance to over 150 adults and youth each year within Caldwell County.

IX. COORDINATION OF EFFORTS. The City of Lenoir has a strong network of private institutions, non-profit and public agencies that carry out the distribution of funds allocated to help the very-low and low-income families of the City. The staff of the Lenoir Community Development Department has accumulated experience in carrying out these programs. Reporting directly to the city manager and the city council the community development department receives valuable input into most of their activities. The City of Lenoir will continue to work with area service providers and agencies to remain aware of existing programs and make referrals as needed to individuals and families. The WPCOG staff assigned to the City of Lenoir will continue to be involved with various housing, aging, social service and non-profit agencies in order to stay abreast of other activities.

X. SUMMARY OF CITIZEN COMMENTS. A summary of citizen comments regarding the proposed 2026 Action Plan from the February 26, 2026 public meeting and the May 19, 2026 public hearing will be included here:

XI. CERTIFICATIONS