Introduction

This report represents a summary of accomplishments of the City of Springfield and their partners, made possible through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) entitlement programs (CDBG and HOME) for fiscal year 2017-2018 (July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018).

In total, the City of Springfield expended over $7 million in CDBG Grant, Revolving Loan and Program Income funds during the 2017-18 program year; almost three (3) times the spending level of an average program year (Please note that these figures do not include the over $2 million that was also expended in HOME funds.) This spending adjustment was necessitated by a change in the way that HUD interprets the timeliness ratio, requiring the City to develop an aggressive workout plan, constituting a one-time reset of the City's CDBG funded Commercial Loan Program. This one-time reset resulted in the reallocation of approximately $4.3 million (Public Infrastructure $2.4 million and Affordable Housing Loans $1.9 million) of CDBG funds from the City's Commercial Loan Program. In the past, the City of Springfield's Program Income and Revolving Loan Income from the Loan Program was not included as a part of the timeliness ratio calculations. City staff worked with several borrowers who utilized the Commercial Loan Program fund for its originally intended purpose. The remainder of the funds were expended on "shovel-ready" priority, public facilities and public improvements projects, within low and moderate-income areas of the City. Due to the compressed timeframe to expend the funds, the projects were divided into two (2) tiers. Tier I listed the projects that received priority status to begin immediate implementation. Tier II represented "back-up" projects that could be moved to the Tier I list, if a Tier I project could not be completed during the workout period.

To implement the workout plan, a substantial amendment of both the Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plan was required. The City Council added Public Facilities and Public Improvements goals to the Consolidated Plan and the FY 17 Annual Action Plan; allowing for the inclusion of additional projects. As a part of the substantial amendment, the City Council also suspended the Community Development Revitalization Target Area until June 12, 2018 to include the entire City boundary.

An important partner in the process of allocating CDBG funds is the Citizen Advisory Committee for Community Development (CACCDD) which is appointed through Council action and guided by the Citizen Participation Plan and Council guidance. The Committee reviews all proposals and staff recommendations and forwards them on to Council for final action.
Now you see it, now you don’t. And that is the point! You don’t want to see your sewerage running out on the top of the ground and over into the neighbor’s yard. J C’s line was overflowing and running down her driveway due to blockage caused by tree roots and a partial collapse of the line. CHS, along with generous CDBG funding, was able to make the sewerage go away (or at least back into the main line and underground out of sight).

During the 2017/2018 grant year, CHS completed 8 projects with the help of CDBG funding. The projects included 7 main sewer lines replaced, plus one water heater and one sump pump installed. Thanks!! to everyone who helps us keep folks safe in the CDBG grant area.

OACAC Weatherization
Energy Efficiency Measures

The Weatherization Program sponsored by OACAC is a free service for homeowners or renters who are income eligible. Weatherization crews insulate and air seal homes to make them more energy efficient year-round.

Weatherization measures include:
- Weather-stripping of doors along with air-sealing are effectively guided using a blower door
- Attic, floors, walls and heating ducts are insulated to recommended R-values if it’s cost effective for that home
- All open by-passes are sealed air tight in the attic and crawl
- Indoor air quality is assured by the installation of an ASHRAE approved ventilation fan if necessary for the home
- All gas heating units, water heaters and ovens are tested for efficiency and safety and if necessary repaired or replaced

Using the whole house approach, OACAC will install measures that have the greatest impact on energy efficiency of each home. All energy efficient measures are cost tested using a computerize audit system to ensure that an energy reduction is achieved for each home.

During the last CDBG funding cycle (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018), OACAC completed five (5) homes. The projects included the addition of attic and wall insulation, the update of two (2) heat sources, window replacements, roof and repair / replacement and upgrading wiring.
Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri
Repairing Homes / Repairing Lives
Program

There are many low-income homeowners in our community living in unsafe or unsanitary conditions or with deferred maintenance that can lead to safety and health concerns. Many homeowners are disabled, widowed, or elderly and live on very restricted incomes without the funds to make necessary repairs. Over time, the deferred maintenance allows the damages to accumulate, and the harmful conditions to worsen. The purpose of Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri’s Home Repair and Rebuild Program is to assist these low-income homeowners by providing home repairs that lead to healthier conditions and safer housing and reduce neighborhood blight.

Below are pictures of a homeowner’s property that meets this description. In a bad storm a few years ago, numerous large trees fell and damaged the home’s underground sewer line. Last year’s massive flooding allowed water to enter the broken sewer lines and flooded the home’s basement. In addition, the home’s exterior cracked and separated, allowing rainwater to enter the exterior walls. Over the years, the walls had decayed. Without repairs, the structural damage would continue to increase, and the house would become uninhabitable. The homeowners are a disabled couple without the means to make these repairs. The couple stated that they had nowhere else to go and were very grateful for the CDBG assistance that saved their home.

This year Catholic Charities’ receipt of CDBG funding provided repairs for six homes within the grant boundaries. This represents needed assistance to 17 residents. Six of those residents were disabled; six residents were children; and the balance were low-income or elderly.

For the second year in a row, we are very grateful to all those involved in making these funds available in our community. There are so many residents in need who do not know where to turn. These services are a true blessing to those we are able to assist. Thank You!

For this home, CCSOMO repaired the damaged sewer line and toilet, repaired the exterior cracks and sealed the home with a special rubberized material. In addition, the faulty wiring and dangerous front steps were repaired.
Tonja M. came to Habitat for Humanity’s home repair program while she was in the process of being gifted a family home by her father in 2015. At the time she was a pre-nursing student at OTC and has since been accepted at Cox Nursing School. She lived in the house for a while. We were concerned when learning she lived in a house that was damaged, then vacated by squatters, and had no heat, running water, or secure doors. She applied to the Habitat for Humanity of Springfield, Missouri (HFHS) home repair program in November of 2015 reporting foundation issues, and requesting roof replacement, plumbing and electrical upgrade, and interior renovations.

After an assessment that revealed the extent of problems with the house, HFHS approached Cheri Hagler at the City’s HELP program, knowing that a referral to HELP would provide Tonja access to more programs. Eventually Tonja’s house was renovated with assistance from HELP, OACAC, the HFHS grant through Federal Home Loan Bank, Creating Healthy Homes (CHH), and our regular HFHS program, Critical Home Repair (CHR). The entire project was coordinated by HFHS construction director, Mark Murphy.

The renovation included a new roof and electrical upgrade (CHH); updated plumbing system (HELP); and windows, doors, furnace and insulation (OACAC).

The rest of the work was completed through the HFHS Critical Home Repair program, with staff time funded by the City’s CDBG grant. Staff and volunteers rebuilt the front porch, installed new siding (shown to be necessary when the leaning and detaching rock front was removed), gutted and renovated the one bathroom, and installed flooring and drywall. After basic safety issues were remedied, the bathroom renovation was completed. Tonja was so excited that she no longer needed to walk to Kum & Go down the street for a toilet!

The HFHS Critical Home Repair program allows homeowners to stay in their own homes with dignity and pride, creating stability in their lives and an improved housing stock for future generations. By leveraging the expertise of HFHS construction staff, in-kind donations and a volunteer work force, HFHS can provide repairs to homeowners at 50% or less than the cost of typical contractors for the same service. In addition, smaller projects such as yard clean-ups that utilize volunteers are offered at no cost to homeowners.

Thanks to the City of Springfield and the 2017-2018 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, HFHS was able to serve 40 households in the CDBG footprint.
Community Partnership of the Ozarks

One Door (Coordinated Intake, Assessment, and Referral)

With the launch of the Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness's coordinated entry system in 2017, the One Door program became the primary intake, assessment, and referral entry point into the system of homeless services throughout Springfield/Greene, Christian, and Webster counties. Housed in the Springfield Affordable Housing Center, One Door provides assessments and referrals for shelter and housing programs; referrals to community/agency resources; and a shelter diversion program designed to divert families from the shelter system.

In fiscal year 2017-18, The Springfield Affordable Housing Center received over 39,000 walk-in and phone call contacts; more than 12,000 guests were referred to One Door, which provided resources to those facing a housing crisis and completed over 2,600 client assessments. Of the reasons reported for contacting One Door, 32% were for shelter; 14% were for affordable housing resources; 10% were for rental and utility assistance resources; 10% were for transportation, including bus passes, gas vouchers, and regional/national bus tickets; 9% were for assistance obtaining ID; and 7% were for food resources. More than 40 eligible households were provided financial assistance and/or case management services through the shelter diversion program.

One Door collaborates with various partners within the community, including other non-profits, civic organizations, local churches, and advocacy groups to provide a multitude of services.
The Housing Authority of the City of Springfield (HAS) received CDBG funds for an 80-unit low-income housing development located at 811 N. Cedarbrook Avenue for families receiving less than 80% of area median income. Due to the age of this low-income housing development, the water/sewer pipes are collapsing which reduces units available for low-income residents of Springfield, Missouri. With insufficient funding from HUD for operations and capital improvements, HAS needed assistance with the cost of repairing the water/sewer pipes and relocating low-income residents during the process. The CDBG funds helped with supplies and labor to repair 4 housing units at Cedarbrook. The goal of HAS was to complete 12 housing units utilizing our in house-master plumber, and 4 units utilizing an outside contractor. With the help of the CDBG grant, this was accomplished.

Each of the low-income units located within our Cedarbrook Avenue Apartments is in need of repair for water/sewer. We are doing the repairs as needed but have found that each building is “going down” within a matter of months. This development was constructed in the early 1970’s and the plumbing is completely under concrete.

Thankfully, the Housing Authority of Springfield was funded through the CDBG grant for the first time as applied for in 2017. We have applied for funds again in 2018 to help with Cedarbrook and another 4-units of repairs.
Isabel's House is here for any crisis, at any time. Our dedicated team provides loving care 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year, and families voluntarily request our services at any time, day or night. When families come to Isabel's House, children are loved and families are supported—helping them manage their crisis, stabilize their home, and strengthen their family. The mission of Isabel's House is to provide immediate refuge for children ages birth to 12 whose families are in crisis. By partnering with families and the community, we will strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect.

At Isabel's House, kids ages birth to 12 find a safe place when their family is experiencing a crisis, creating an unsafe situation for the child. Isabel's House provides each child with the opportunity to engage and succeed in a structured environment that prepares the child for a bright future in educational and social areas. Our highly-trained direct care team has provided more than 30,000 nights of care to children in our community. Isabel's House continues to prevent child abuse and neglect in the community by providing families with resources, educating parents, and supporting families through their crisis. Starting with the initial contact, families seeking services from Isabel's House collaborate with our Family Advocates to put a plan in place to begin solving the crisis. Our Family Advocates provide families with the resources, tools, family support, connections to local agencies, and encouragement they need to help resolve the crisis and create a safe environment for the child to be reunited with the family. CDBG funds provide salary support for our Family Advocates who work with families Isabel's House serves, and are crucial to strengthening families during vulnerable times of crisis. Isabel's House has a 95% success rate in keeping families together, and an 84% success rate in reducing parent stress. We are thankful for the community support that strengthens families!

In spring 2018, our Board of Directors watched the film, “Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope.” This film explores the long-term effects of traumatic stress, which many children served by Isabel's House may have experienced.

Pinwheel gardens sprung up around Springfield in April 2018 to raise awareness about Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month. Our Associate Board of young professionals held its first-ever First Friday Art Walk exhibit, featuring works of art created by kiddos at Isabel’s House.
Great Circle’s Empowering Youth program serves children and youth, including pregnant and parenting youth ages birth to 18 in crisis with issues pertaining to homelessness, abuse, neglect, domestic violence, poverty and abandonment. Since its inception in 2006, the Empowering Youth program has provided shelter services to 716 youth. During the 2017-2018 grant cycle seventy-three homeless and unsafely housed youth were served.

During the youth's stay in the Empowering Youth program all of their basic physical and emotional needs are addressed by providing services such as emergency shelter, food, clothing, assessments for trauma and sexual exploitation, treatment planning, referrals to community resources, case management, individual, family, and group therapy, and access to school while working toward ensuring a safe-exit and aftercare services for each youth. Empowering Youth also provides a 24-hour, 365 days-a-year help line that is accessible to youth in crisis.

Youth homelessness continues to be a serious issue in the Springfield area with 1,739 students identified as homeless through the Springfield School District during the 2017-2018 school year. Additionally, the increasing homeless population continues to be a Red Flag issue per the 2017 Community Focus Report recently released for the Springfield and Greene County area.
The Salvation Army Emergency Social Services Program

The Salvation Army Emergency Social Services Program is a program for individuals and families in our community. This program has been in operation in Springfield, Missouri since 1890. This program provides the following services: emergency food pantry, prescription assistance, back to school supplies, rental assistance, bus passes for individuals with new employment who have not received their first paycheck, diapers, Christmas assistance, and other seasonal assistance. The Emergency Social Services Program diligently networks with other agencies in the area so that they can better provide for those-in-need. Referrals are often made to other agencies to help the client locate additional resources and services that could benefit his/her situation. CDBG funds are used for emergency assistance to individuals and families living in Springfield, Missouri who are in need of rental assistance.

During the last CDBG cycle (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018), The Salvation Army was able to assist 33 households. These funds allowed The Salvation Army to assist a single mother with two young children during a transition from temporary housing to permanent housing. She was working full-time to save money to pay the deposit, but she could not afford the rent as she only had her single income with no child support. This mother has been able to maintain her job and her permanent housing situation because of these CDBG funds. Another family with two young children lost their food stamps due to increased income, but the income was not consistent. This caused them a financial hardship, as they had to choose between food to feed their family or a stable place for their family to reside. The Salvation Army was able to utilize CDBG funds to allow this family to remain housed during this difficult period. Both families have retained their housing and have stated that they would not have been able to do it without these funds.

Without the help we were able to provide with the CDBG funding many families would have lost their housing, we and those we assist are grateful for programs such as this!
Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri

LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home

**LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home** is a 24/7 residential program for homeless pregnant women and their infants/children providing safe shelter, food, comprehensive case management, prenatal and post-delivery health and wellness education, individual and group counseling, and assistance with educational needs and employment – all resulting in improved pregnancy outcomes, nurturing self-sufficient families, and a reduction in child abuse/neglect. Pregnant women eighteen and older come to LifeHouse at various times during their pregnancy but may stay at LifeHouse for up to a year following delivery as they continue to work towards self-sufficiency and achievement of personal goals. Upon program completion, they also have the opportunity to move into a 2-year LifeHouse Aftercare program where services continue to help stabilize families after they move into their own housing. Mothers that already have another child under the age of five are able to bring that child with them.

All of the LifeHouse residents are homeless and over half are chronically homeless. Over 60% have a history of domestic violence and over 70% have histories of substance abuse with many using drugs during their pregnancy prior to LifeHouse. They come to LifeHouse with poor physical, dental, and mental health after years of little or no health care and years of abuse. LifeHouse assists these women in getting needed treatment and in staying sober. Some residents also have developmental disabilities. Everyone receives intensive case management.

The staff works diligently to foster empowerment and accountability. Residents attend medical/dental/behavioral health appointments, as well as health/wellness, parenting, and budgeting classes. They also agree to complete their high school equivalency if needed and to obtain employment, pay off debts, save money, and more.

During the past grant award year, 30 women, 4 toddlers, and 20 infants lived at LifeHouse with 15 of the 20 infants being born during the grant cycle - healthy deliveries! Many of the women who came to LifeHouse during the last CDBG grant cycle are still with us working on obtaining self-sufficiency. However, 13 women participated in substance abuse treatment, 17 women gained employment, three women worked on their high school equivalency, three women in college/vocational classes, five obtained their own vehicles, and 10 women were able to move into safe affordable housing. All 30 women participated in prenatal, nutrition, and life skills classes. An additional 17 adults and 26 infants and children participated in the AfterCare Program and LifeHouse provided resources and information to 97 women per telephone.

The women of LifeHouse work hard to make positive changes in their lives and the lives of their infants and children. They know that people like you have helped to make this possible. On behalf of the women and children of LifeHouse, we want to say “Thank You”!
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Ozarks

_Lunch Buddies Program_

Thirty minutes may seem like a small amount of time, but to a Little in our program, it can be huge. Having a caring adult show up consistently to read, play games, ask thoughtful questions and simply listen can make a life-changing impact on a Little’s life. All in just 30 minutes per week.

At Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Ozarks (BBBSO), we believe that adversity shouldn’t define a child’s opportunity to tap into his or her potential to thrive and become a productive citizen. Our mission drives this vision to provide one-to-one mentoring opportunities to children in our Lunch Buddies program.

Lunch Buddies is a unique partnership between Springfield Public Schools and BBBSO where professionally screened volunteers come to the school to spend their lunch break with a Little.

This mentorship helps improve grades, boost self-esteem, and may even prevent child abuse while creating the bonding needed to lift children and families out of poverty.

The funding BBBSO received through the CDBG in the 2017-18 school year helped support 266 Lunch Buddy matches in 18 Springfield elementary schools where more than 90 percent of children are on free-or-reduced lunch rates.
The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) of $17,928 was a tremendous asset to the Boys & Girls Clubs from July 2017 to June 2018. The grant helped pay the wages of the youth development professionals who directly provided supervision and educational programs to the youth who need us the most. Also, the grant covered the cost of fuel for transporting youth to and from summer school and also for afterschool transportation. Plus, the CDBG Grant assisted with other exciting projects as illustrated below.

**Day for Kids Festival**
Over 100 youth from the Boys & Girls Clubs and from the neighborhood enjoyed carnival games, inflatables, food, and face painting on Saturday, September 16, 2017.

**Wonders of Wildlife**
On April 20 during a school holiday, 39 deserving youth were able to attend Bass Pro Shop’s Wonders of Wildlife. For many of these youth, it was the very first time to see one of Springfield's premier attractions. The youth learned about all of the different aquatic species and gained a better appreciation for the protection of them.

**Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math**
Thanks to the CDBG Grant, the Club was able to purchase new STEM materials to engage the youth. When the Club members participate in STEM activities, they are definitely being educated beyond the typical school classroom. Pictured below are members working with Snap Circuits, K’NEX Simple Machines, and KEVA planks.

**TouchDown Recognition Dinner**
In April 2018, 90 members from the Henderson, Musgrave, and Stalnaker Units were recognized for their academic achievements and community service at the fourth annual TouchDown Dinner at Touch Restaurant. Owner Mike Jalili covers the cost of feeding these children a wonderful meal and dessert. Awards and recognition are given out throughout the evening. In order to qualify for the TouchDown Dinner, members had to make grades of B or higher and also volunteer 10 hours of community service. CDBG funds paid for the staffing and supplies of our learning centers to help our members with their academic success.
Harmony House
Domestic Violence Sustainable Shelter Project

Harmony House is Springfield/Greene County’s only domestic violence shelter. Established in 1976, the mission of Harmony House is to provide emergency shelter, advocacy and education to survivors of domestic violence, while promoting the principle that all individuals have the right to a life free from abuse. In carrying out that mission, Harmony House provides emergency shelter; meals, clothing and personal care items; 24/7 crisis hotline; case management; on-site counseling; court advocacy; childcare; life skills classes and support groups; transportation assistance and other support services as needed. In February 2017, we moved to our new location, which expanded our capacity from 110 to 162 beds and also provides additional space for expanded programs and services.

Since 1976, Harmony House has:
- Sheltered and protected the lives of 17,904 survivors
- Provided 469,214 safe bed nights
- Answered 81,425 hotline calls
- Served 496,187 meals

As part of our emergency shelter program, Harmony House provides three meals a day to shelter residents. Because of the very real safety issues that many of our residents continue to confront even after coming into shelter, it’s not feasible for them to eat meals at restaurants. In addition, dining out for all meals is both cost-prohibitive and unhealthy. For these reasons, Harmony House believes it’s important and necessary to provide residents with meals that will nourish both their bodies and spirits.

The CDBG grant funds are used to partially cover the salary of our full-time Kitchen Coordinator, who develops a weekly menu, orders food and dairy items, leads the preparation of shelter meals and generally oversees the kitchen. The Kitchen Coordinator also coordinates with organizations that regularly donate food and kitchen supplies to Harmony House, including Ozarks Food Harvest, Panera Bread Company, Schweitzer United Methodist Church, University Plaza, Kum & Go, Little Caesar’s Pizza and Andy’s Frozen Custard to name just a few.

The Kitchen Coordinator is supported by two part-time kitchen assistants and a team of over 25 kitchen volunteers who assist with meal preparation, meal service and meal clean up. From July 1, 2017 – Jun 30, 2018, the Kitchen Coordinator and her team of assistants and volunteers prepared and served 29,877 meals to Harmony House residents, representing a nearly 34% increase in meals served over the previous year.

We sincerely appreciate the support of the City of Springfield in making the CDBG grant available to Harmony House. These funds enable Harmony House to continue providing an essential service to our emergency shelter residents. Thank you for helping us to nourish both bodies and spirits with the healing comfort of good food!
The Kitchen, Inc.'s Rare Breed Youth Housing Program provides long-term housing (2+ years) and rapid rehousing services (up to 18 months) to homeless youth, helping them make successful transitions to independent, self-sufficient living. The Youth Housing program serves males, females, couples, LGBTQ youth, pregnant and parenting youth between the ages of 17-24. As per our goals for 2016/2017 we continue to maintain 25 units for youth as well as funding for underserved youth.

From July of 2017 to June of 2018, the Rare Breed Youth Housing program has served 34 youth and 10 children. The funds from CDBG help provide case management salary for a Rare Breed Youth Housing case manager. Currently we employ two housing case managers who have between 8-15 clients on their case load. Case managers work hard to develop a healthy relationship with our housing clients to best serve their goals. We know that just one healthy adult relationship can make a huge difference in a youth’s life; a youth needs someone who will listen, support them, provide access to resources and cheer them on no matter what. Outreach case managers continue to help provide the same needed services for our homeless and unsafely housed clients. With the hard work of Rare Breed case managers and other youth providers in the area youth engaging in risky behaviors to remain housed has dropped from 93% to 64%. We plan to continue offering the same services our housing clients receive. The issues our case managers work on with clients range from mental health, domestic violence, and drug addiction to a lack of life skills. Of the 31 clients our outreach case managers worked with between July 2017 and June 2018, 38% of them reported having mental health issues and 45% were fleeing domestic violence. Case managers use evidence-based best practices with clients like trauma informed care, motivational interviewing and harm reduction. Our clients and case managers continue to work hard in our new CDBG grant cycle and we are excited to see the continued progress and celebrate their successes.
Betty and Bobby Allison Ozarks Counseling Center

Mental Healthcare for Low Income Springfieldians

Our mission is to provide quality mental health services regardless of ability to pay. As a nation, we are beginning to recognize access to mental health services is an essential part of well-being for both individuals and the community. For more than 60 years, the Betty and Bobby Allison Ozarks Counseling Center has been ensuring that people in our community who need help with their problems do have access to therapy. As a nonprofit and United Way partner, we are able to offer services on a sliding-fee scale based on income. The bottom line is, we do not turn anyone away for inability to pay. We are proud of being the safety net for counseling in Springfield and the surrounding area. Our goal is to help each client progress toward their fullest potential in the area of psychological, emotional and relational functioning, regardless of their financial resources.

During the 2016/2017 CDBG grant cycle, we meet our goal to subsidize one hour of professional counseling treatment for 240 low-income Springfield residents who would not otherwise be able to afford to get help for their mental health issues. In fact, we served more than 660 individuals with multiple hours of counseling during this time period which further illustrates just how important CDBG funds were to fulfilling our mission. Therapeutic intervention for this population means better outcomes for adults, children, and families, but it also means better outcomes for Springfield. Healthier relationships can put both adults and children on the path to healthier functioning at home, at work, and at school, thereby improving the community as a whole.
For children in the Ozarks who are hungry, every day brings a new struggle. Concentrating in school, finishing homework in the evenings and even playing outside with friends is not easy or fun with an empty stomach. The only meals many of these children can count on are breakfast and lunch at school.

Fortunately, there’s hope for these children. Ozarks Food Harvest’s Weekend Backpack Program provides area kids with food bags to take home over the weekend when they might otherwise go hungry. Each Friday, at-risk children receive six nutritious, balanced meals to supplement their diets and keep them from going hungry over the weekend.

FY2017 CDBG funding was used to provide weekly bags, filled with 6 nutritious meals, to 150 children attending Campbell, Weaver & Westport Elementary Schools. Funds helped provide 5,400 backpacks containing 32,400 meals distributed during the 2017-2018 school year. These inner-city schools have some of the highest incidences of poverty in Springfield, each with astonishingly high free/reduced meal rates – 95, 93, & 89 percent respectively during the 2017-2018 school year.

One school administrator from Westport Elementary told us, “There's hungry students everywhere we go. Parents are trying the best that they can. They're working hard to support their families. But a lot of them just need a little extra support and the Backpack Program is a great way to give those parents that support and help them and their child just get through the next day.”

We truly believe that these bags are filled with more than nutritious food. They contain hope for the thousands of families who struggle to put food on the table, especially during the weekends.
The City’s recently completed multi-year program for emergency home repairs has transitioned to the Homeowner Emergency Loan Program (H.E.L.P.) for low-income homeowners to foster stronger neighborhoods with homeownership. This is a partnership with OACAC’s weatherization program, Habitat for Humanity’s Critical Home Repair, Catholic Charities home repair programs and Council of Churches Connections Handyman Services. Twenty-six (26) homeowners received repairs including new roofs, accessibility improvement, energy-efficiency upgrades among other minor emergency repairs that improved the viability of the structure, reduced utility costs, and fostered aging in place improvements.

1419 N. Rogers Avenue

(Before)  
(After)

915 N. Pickwick Avenue

(Before)  
(After)
This year’s rental development program, using both HOME and CDBG funds, continued to focus on improvements within the CDBG target area. Housing projects included the addition of 20 newly constructed, 4 reconstructed, 5 rehabilitated and the acquisition of 24 rental units, by partnering with several for-profit and non-profit developers. The reallocation of loan program income that was accrued from previous loans allowed for this large quantity to be funded in a timely manner.

1316 & 1320 E. Blaine Street – 1st solar homes for the Affordable Housing Program
During the fiscal year, the Commercial Loan Program made a total of seven (7) loans, for a total of $892,086 to businesses creating new jobs. Through these loans, the businesses committed to the creation of 29 full time equivalent new jobs and have two years to fulfill this commitment. A little over ten (10) full time equivalent jobs were documented from new loans made during this fiscal year. All of these jobs are held by low to moderate income persons.
Public Improvements

*Eden Village*

The City provided CDBG loan funding for improvements and the rehabilitation of private infrastructure facilities (i.e., private roadway improvements, installation of fire hydrants, water line repair/replacement and a new, paved parking area) within an existing, abandoned mobile home park. The mobile home park has now been developed as Eden Village; a new, tiny home community, which is to be an all-inclusive program addressing the needs of the chronically disabled homeless. Eden Village will consist of a total of thirty-one (31) tiny homes upon completion.

Residents who will be living in the Village are individuals who due to their mental health, physical health, criminal background and other extenuating circumstances, are incapable of "graduating" from a program and gaining full time stable independence. Residents may live at the Village as long as they are a good neighbor to the rest of the Village community.
Public Improvements
Tom Watkins, Nichols, Meador and Cooper
Park Improvements

The City utilized CDBG funding to make public improvements at four (4) parks, located within areas where at least 51 percent of the residents are low and moderate-income persons.

**Tom Watkins Park Improvements:**
New Playground equipment, a walking trail loop and new restrooms/support facilities.

**Nichols Park Improvements:**
New Playground equipment, a walking trail loop, new picnic tables & park benches, and semi-permanent soccer goals.

**Meador Park Improvements:**
New Playground equipment, tennis court/pickle ball improvements: including new lighting and fencing and a walking trail loop around playground.

**Cooper Park Improvements:**
New Playground equipment, new picnic tables and new park benches.
This project completed streetscape improvements along College Street between Grant Avenue and Market Avenue. This project included the construction of ADA compliant sidewalks, new storm sewer, new roadway improvements, tree wells, lighting enhancements and an upgrade of City Utilities (CU) Gas & Water.
This project consisted of sidewalk improvements within the following locations:

- 1300 Block N West Ave. – Around Utility Pole
- 1600 Block E Central – 950’ in length
- Commercial Street – Gaps from Pacific Ave. to Missouri Ave. north side 500’ in length
- Grand Street – Park Ave. to West Ave. South side 910’ in length
- Jefferson Avenue – Kearney Street to Turner Street – 650’ in length
- Kansas Expressway – Talmage Ave. to Kearney St. East Side – 1,250’ in length
- Turner Street – Benton Ave. to Robberson Ave. – 950’ in length
In June 2018 CDBG loan funds were utilized to purchase the historic Pepperdine School facility, which will serve as the new home for the Springfield Affordable Housing Center (containing One Door), the Springfield Community Land Trust, and partner services which will include Burrell Behavioral Health, the Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation (OACAC), Legal Services of Southern Missouri, Habitat for Humanity, Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, Family Support Division, the Springfield Police Department and more. The rehabilitation of this facility has begun with the mitigation of lead-based paint and asbestos. CDBG funding for the purchase and rehabilitation of the new facility (O'Reilly Center for Hope) has been leveraged by private donations.