WILLIAMSPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

CONSOLIDATED PLAN
FY 2010 - 2014

JANUARY 1, 2010 – DECEMBER 31, 2014

and

FY 2010 Annual Action Plan Submission

SUBMITTED TO:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

PHILADELPHIA FIELD OFFICE

---PUBLIC DISPLAY DRAFT---

Consolidated Plan
Management Process

CPMP Version 2.0

Conplan Cover Sheet

Williamsport

Pennsylvania

Consolidated Plan

Strategic Plan for Years 2010 to 2014

Annual Action Plan and

Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report

Presented to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Philadelphia | Field Office of Community Planning and Development

Strategic Plan Submission Date	11/15/2009

Amendments:

	MM/DD/YY	Name:
	MM/DD/YY	Name:
	MM/DD/YY	Name:
	MM/DD/YY	Name:
	MM/DD/YY	Name:

* If Necessary

Consolidated Plan Management Process

CPMP Version 2.0

Grantee Information Worksheet

Williamsport			UOG: PA427962 WILLIAMSPORT
245 West Fourth Street			52545357
Street Address Line 2			Organizational Unit
Williamsport			Office of Economic & Community Developmer
Pennsylvania	17701	Country U.S.A.	Division
Lycoming County			1/1

Employer Identification Number (EIN):	24-6000719
Applicant Type: Other	Municipal

Person to be contacted regarding this application:

John	J.	Grado	
Community Development Director	570-327-7516		570-327-7509
cddirector@cityofwilliamsport.org	www.cityofwilliamsport.org		Other Contact

"To the best of my knowledge and belief, all data in this application are true and correct, the document has been duly authorized by the governing body of the applicant, and the applicant will comply with the attached assurances if the assistance is awarded." Please update the date with each new Action Plan and CAPER submission.

Name:	John J. Grado	Date: (MM/DD/YY)
Title:	Community Development Director	

3-5 Year Strategic Plan

This document includes Narrative Responses to specific questions that grantees of the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership, Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS and Emergency Shelter Grants Programs must respond to in order to be compliant with the Consolidated Planning Regulations.

GENERAL

Executive Summary

The Executive Summary is required. Include the objectives and outcomes identified in the plan and an evaluation of past performance.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Executive Summary:

Williamsport, Pennsylvania has prepared a Five Year Strategic Plan in order to strategically implement federal programs that fund housing, community development, and economic development activities within the municipality. Through a collaborative planning process, involving a broad range of public and private agencies, the City has developed a single, consolidated planning and application document for the use of federal entitlement funds available through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). The City of Williamsport is not an entitlement community under the ESG Program or the HOPWA Program. Williamsport will submit this Five Year Strategic Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The Five Year Consolidated Plan (CP) for Williamsport will serve the following functions:

- A planning document that enables the City to view its HUD funding, not in isolation, but as one tool in a comprehensive strategy to address housing, community development, and economic development needs.
- An application for CDBG and HOME Program funds under HUD's formula grant.
- A strategy document to be followed in carrying out HUD programs.
- An action plan that provides a basis for assessing performance in carrying out use of CDBG and HOME Program funds.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME funds to address the needs outlined in the Strategic Plan are anticipated to be available over the next five years. The three overarching objectives guiding the proposed activities are to:

- Provide decent housing,
- Create suitable living environments, and
- Create economic opportunity.

The ability of the City to successfully implement its activities will be measured by performance outcomes. Outcomes show how programs and activities benefit a community or the people served. The three outcomes that will illustrate the benefits of each activity funded by the CDBG and HOME programs are:

- Improve availability/accessibility

- Improve affordability, and
- Improve sustainability.

All future activities funded in the next five years will support at least one objective and one outcome. The City's framework for realizing the objectives and outcomes include the following goals:

- Improve affordability of decent housing.
- Improve availability/accessibility of decent housing.
- Improve sustainability of decent housing.
- Improve affordability of suitable living environments.
- Improve availability/accessibility of suitable living environments.
- Improve sustainability of suitable living environments.
- Improve affordability of economic opportunity.
- Improve sustainability of economic opportunity.

During the five year period covered by the Consolidated Plan, Williamsport will undertake the following activities to address the City's housing and community development needs:

Housing Needs

Housing needs to be addressed include:

1. Rehabilitation of Renter-Occupied Units
2. New Construction of Renter-Occupied Units
3. Owner-Occupied Single-Family Rehabilitation
4. Homebuyer Assistance – Gap Financing Program
5. Accessibility Improvements to Housing Units
6. Code Enforcement
7. Rehabilitation of Owner/Renter-Occupied Duplexes/Doubles

Community Development Needs

Community Development needs to be addressed include:

1. Parks and Recreation Facility Improvements
2. Assistance to Homeless Facility Providers
3. Water/Sewer Infrastructure Improvements
4. Street Improvements
5. ADA Curb Ramps
6. Blight Elimination
7. Public Services including Youth Services, Child Care Services, Health Services, and others
8. Neighborhood Clean-Up
9. Other Public Services (i.e. Fire Safety)
10. Micro-Enterprise Assistance
11. Commercial Façade Repair

In 2009, Williamsport requested $518,859, or 100% of the amount it was eligible to receive, in Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Funds (HPRP). Through communication with the Homeless Assistance Program provider for Lycoming County, Williamsport decided to utilize STEP, Inc. and the Salvation Army as subrecipients of the funds, as their existing programs are compatible with the activities of the HPRP program. The Coordinated Services Task Force will assist both organizations in the timely and effective use of funds. An estimated budget summary is below.

HPRP Budget - 2009

	Homeless Prevention	Rapid Re-housing	Total Amount Budgeted
Financial Assistance	$175,000	$150,000	$325,000
Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services	$85,000	$60,000	$145,000
Subtotal	$260,000	$210,000	$470,000
Data Collection and Evaluation			$22,917
Administration			$25,942
Total HPRP Amount Budgeted			$518,859

Under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) of 2009, Williamsport was also awarded $339,198 in additional CDBG funds, which it used entirely for street improvements/reconstruction and administration. Additionally, the Lycoming Housing Authority received an additional $1,395,901 in Public Housing Capital Fund dollars and $107,257 in Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance.

The Consolidated Plan Process

Williamsport engaged the consulting firm of Mullin & Lonergan Associates, Inc. to assist in the preparation of the plan. The consultants mailed surveys to various housing and supportive service providers to identify needs for the five year plan. Two public hearings will be held during the Consolidated Plan process. The first meeting was held July 21, 2009, and the second meeting will be held October 13, 2009. These meetings will be advertised in the *Williamsport Sun-Gazette*.

Evaluation of Past Performance

Williamsport prepared a Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for FY 2008 (January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008). The CAPER reported the FY 2008 accomplishments of the City's CDBG and HOME programs. The following is a summary of the accomplishments detailed in the FY 2008 CAPER.

CDBG:

- Administration and planning of the CDBG program ($253,862).
- Street Reconstruction ($101,300).
- Park Improvements at Newberry Park ($271,000).
- Public Services – CAPPA, SPCA, Journey House ($9,043.02).
- Removal of Architectural Barriers ($43,270).
- Owner-Occupied Single-Family Rehabilitation ($49,999.83).
- Handicapped-Accessibility Rehabilitation ($18,179).
- Code Enforcement ($80,000).
- Codes-Related Blight Elimination ($34,749).

HOME:

- Administration and planning of the HOME program ($34,325).
- CHDO LNDC Homebuyer Program ($51,488.10).
- Nichols Court Elderly Housing ($350,000).

In FY 2008, all CDBG funds expended for activities met one of the three national objectives as defined under CDBG and HOME regulations. In FY 2008, 92.4% of the CDBG funds (excluding planning and administration) expended for qualified activities in FY 2008 benefited low- and moderate-income persons. The City met public service and planning/administration expenditure caps in FY 2008. Williamsport also regularly meets the timeliness requirements of HUD and has less than 1.5 times the annual allocation on hand at the end of each program year; this was also true in FY 2008.

Additionally, in FY 2008, the City met the HOME requirements for expenditure by committing all funds to projects within two years and expending funds within five years. The requirement to provide at least 15% of HOME funding to Community Housing Development Organizations has been achieved, and Williamsport reminds grantees that all HOME projects should be closed within 120 days of their final draw.

Strategic Plan

Due every three, four, or five years (length of period is at the grantee's discretion) no less than 45 days prior to the start of the grantee's program year start date. HUD does not accept plans between August 15 and November 15.

Mission:
Williamsport will utilize CDBG, HOME, and other federal funds provided by the U.S. Department of HUD to address community revitalization, affordable and suitable housing, infrastructure improvements, public facilities improvements, and public services in ways that facilitate improvement within the City.

General Questions

1. Describe the geographic areas of the jurisdiction (including areas of low income families and/or racial/minority concentration) in which assistance will be directed.

2. Describe the basis for allocating investments geographically within the jurisdiction (or within the EMSA for HOPWA) (91.215(a)(1)) and the basis for assigning the priority (including the relative priority, where required) given to each category of priority needs (91.215(a)(2)). Where appropriate, the jurisdiction should estimate the percentage of funds the jurisdiction plans to dedicate to target areas.

3. Identify any obstacles to meeting underserved needs (91.215(a)(3)).

3-5 Year Strategic Plan General Questions response:

1. ***Description of the Geographic Area:***

Priority funding areas in Williamsport include those where there is a racial/minority concentration or a high rate of low or moderate income (LMI) persons. The following narrative describes the characteristics of these areas.

Population by Race and Persons of Hispanic Origin

In 1990, there were 2,462 non-White minority persons in the City of Williamsport. Minorities comprised 7.7% of the population. From 1990 to 2000, the minority population nearly doubled, increasing 96.8% to 4,845. In 2000, 15.8% of the population was minority persons.

As shown in the following table, from 1990 to 2000, the City of Williamsport's population by race changed as follows.

- The White population decreased by 3,610 or 12.2%.
- The Black population increased by 1,732 or 81.7%.
- The American Indian population increased by 116 or 173.1%.
- The Asian, Pacific Islander population was unchanged.
- The population of persons of other races increased by 42 or 46.7%.

The City's persons of Hispanic origin numbered 179 in 1990 or 0.6% of the population. Persons of Hispanic origin may give their race as White, Black or other minority. Therefore the number of Hispanic persons is not added to the total number of minority persons. From 1990 to 2000, persons of Hispanic origin increased by 101 persons or 56.4% to 280. In 2000, 0.9% of the population was persons of Hispanic origin. Projections indicate that the Non-White population increased to 5,001 persons in 2008, comprising 16.9% of the total population, and that the Hispanic population increased to 436 persons, comprising 1.5% of the population.

Population by Race and Persons of Hispanic Origin – 1990 and 2000

	White		Minority						Total Population	Hispanic Origin	
	Total	% of Population	Black	Am. Ind. Eskimo	Asian, Pacific Islander	Other	Two or More	% of Population		Total	% of Total
1990	29,471	92.3	2,121	67	184	90	**	7.7	31,933	179	0.6
2000	25,861	84.2	3,853	183	184	132	493	15.8	30,706	280	0.9

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census
***Not reported in 1990*

A trend observed in Williamsport over the last 20 years is that minority households have been moving to the City. During the 1990s there was an increase of about 1,700 Black persons and an increase of about 200 persons of Hispanic origin. The increase offset about half the White population that left Williamsport in the 1990s. The minorities are younger then the White population that they have replaced, evidenced by the unchanged number of the school age persons along with a median age in the City (33.0 years in 2008) that is significantly lower than the County-wide median age of 38.4 years. It is expected, therefore, that the over the next five years, the population in the City of Williamsport will not age as greatly as forecast for the suburban areas of Lycoming County.

Concentrations of Minority and Hispanic Households

The following table presents households by race based on the race of the householder. The data is presented by census tract. As defined by the Census, the householder is the persons, or one of the people, in whose name the home is owned, being bought, or rented. If there is no such person present, for the purposes of the Census any household member 15 years old and over serves as the householder.

Households by Race and Hispanic Origin by Census Tract - 2000

Census Tract	Households	White	Minority Households						Hispanic Origin	
			Black	Am. Ind. Eskimo	Asian, Pacific Islander	Other	Two or More Races	Percent Minority	Total	Percent
1	1,400	1,343	35	11	6	0	5	4.1	0	0.0
2	956	893	55	0	0	0	8	6.6	0	0.0
3	2,485	2,193	249	7	8	16	12	11.8	26	1.0
4	2,275	1,606	569	18	7	25	50	29.4	18	0.8
5	854	775	73	0	0	0	6	9.3	0	0.0
6	1,259	1,139	58	10	36	0	16	9.5	16	1.3
8	587	485	88	6	0	0	8	17.4	0	0.0
9	1,022	983	18	13	0	0	8	3.8	0	0.0
10	1,381	1,237	131	0	3	0	10	10.4	0	0.0
Total	12,219	10,654	1,276	65	60	41	123	12.8	60	0.5

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

HUD defines areas of racial or ethnic concentration as geographical areas where the percentage of racial or ethnic minorities is 10 percentage points higher than the city's or county's percentage. The region defined by this CP for the purpose of determining concentrations is the Williamsport Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which consists of Lycoming County. The 2000 Census reported 47,003 households in the Williamsport MSA. There were 45,033 White households (95.8%) and 1,970 (4.2%) minority households. There were 180 Hispanic households of any origin, which was 0.4% of the households in the MSA.

An area of racial concentration in the City of Williamsport exists in those census tracts where 14.2% or more of the households are minorities. Two of the nine census tracts in the City of Williamsport contain concentrations of minority households.

- CT 4 - 29.4% minority households.
- CT 8 - 17.4% minority households.

None of the census tracts in Williamsport contain a concentration of Hispanic households.

Income

The following table reports on household income in the City of Williamsport. The 2000 Census reported that the median household income in the City was $25,946, up 27.9% from $20,290 in 1990. *Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area* reports that for median household income to have kept pace with inflation during the 1990s, the median household income would have had to increase to $26,334. Median household income in the City in 2000 was 76% of the median household income of $34,016 in the MSA. Within the MSA during the 1990s, the median household income increased by 33.1% from $25,552 in 1990. Projections indicate that the median household income in Williamsport increased to $32,274 by 2008. The following table provides a breakdown of households by household income in Williamsport in 1990 and 2000.

Household Income – 1990 and 2000

	1990		2000	
	Total	**Percent of Total**	**Total**	**Percent of Total**
Less than $10,000	3,297	26.4	2,062	16.9
$10,000 to $14,999	1,552	12.4	1,440	11.8
$15,000 to $24,999	2,792	22.3	2,385	19.5
$25,000 to $34,999	1,996	15.9	1,960	16.0
$35,000 to $49,999	1,702	13.6	2,067	16.9
$50,000 to $74,999	757	6.1	1,282	10.6
$75,000 to $99,999	227	1.8	467	3.8
$100,000 to $149,999	117	0.9	340	2.8
More than $150,000	72	0.6	210	1.7
Total	12,512	100.0	12,213	100.0
Median Household Income ($)	20,290		25,946	

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

In 1990, there were 6,465 persons in the City of Williamsport below poverty, which was 21.1% of the persons for whom poverty was determined. By 2000, persons below poverty decreased by 6% to 6,075. The percentage of persons below poverty, however, was similar in 2000 at 21.5%. The following table provides a review of the population below poverty level in the City of Williamsport.

Income Below Poverty Level – 1990 and 2000

	1990	2000
Persons below poverty level	6,465	6,075
• Percent below poverty level	21.1%	21.5%
Persons 65 and over below poverty level	610	457
• Percent below poverty level	13.1%	11.6%
Families below poverty level	1,269	934
• Percent below poverty level	16.3%	13.7%
Families with children under age 18 below poverty level	1,096	815
• Percent below poverty level	26.6%	22.2%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Low Income

The following table presents information regarding low income persons in the City of Williamsport. Low income persons have income at or less than 80% of the area median income. HUD's formula for calculating low income persons considers persons residing in households, which consists of persons who live in housing units. The formula for calculating the universe of low income persons excludes persons residing in group quarters. The group quarter population includes persons under formally authorized, supervised care or custody such as correctional institutions, nursing homes, and juvenile institutions. The group quarter population also includes non-institutionalized persons living in group quarters such as college dormitories, military quarters, and group homes. The range of income levels is based on the median family income (MFI) for the Williamsport MSA in 2000, which for a family of four was $38,400. Based on this data, the income levels were as follows:

- High Income (greater than 120% of MFI) $46,080 and above.
- Middle Income (96% to 119% of MFI) $36,481 to $46,079.
- Moderate Income (81% to 95% of MFI) $30,721 to $36,480.
- Low Income (51% to 80% of MFI) $19,201 to $30,720.
- Very Low Income (less than 50% of MFI) $-0 to $19,200.
- Extremely Low Income (less than 30% of MFI) $-0 to $11,520.

HUD determined that there were 15,108 low income persons in the City of Williamsport. City-wide, 53.7% of the population was low income. HUD reported that in 1990, there were 14,484 low persons, which was 48.6% of the low income universe. To estimate low income households, the average household size for each of the census tracts, as reported by the 2000 Census, was applied to the number of low income persons.

Low Income Persons and Households by Census Tract – 2000

Census Tract	Low Income Universe	Low Income		
		Persons	Percent of Universe	Households
1	3,214	1,011	31.4%	440
2	2,233	555	24.9%	227
3	5,798	3,175	54.8%	1,363
4	4,850	3,335	68.8%	1,566
5	1,980	1,049	53.0%	479
6	2,666	1,701	63.8%	802
8	1,690	1,357	80.3%	508
9	2,402	1,360	56.6%	553
10	3,292	1,565	47.5%	656
Total	28,125	15,108	53.7%	6,594

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

HUD identifies low income census tracts as those where 51% or more of the population have incomes of 80% or less. Six of the nine census tracts in the City of Williamsport contain 51% or more low income as follows.

- CT 3 – 54.8% low income.
- CT 4 – 68.8% low income.
- CT 5 – 53% low income.
- CT 6 – 63.8% low income.
- CT 8 – 80.3% low income.
- CT 9 - 56.6% low income.

Concentrations of Low Income, Minority, and Hispanic Households

The tables below shows census tracts by race of household and Hispanic households identifying those with concentrations. The following table identifies census tracts with a concentration of low income households and minority households. The table shows that both of the census tracts with concentrations of minority households have a concentration of low income households; in fact, these two census tracts have the highest percentages of low income persons of all census tracts in Williamsport.

Concentrations of Low Income Households and Minority Households – 2000

Census Tract	Low Income Concentration	Minority Concentration
4	68.8%	29.4%
8	80.3%	17.4%

Source: Mullin & Lonergan Associates, Inc.

The map on the following page shows the census tracts with low income concentrations in combination with concentrations of minority households. There were no census tracts with concentrations of Hispanic households in Williamsport in 2000.

INSERT MAP

2. ***Description of the Basis for Allocating Funds Geographically in Williamsport:***

CDBG funds are intended to provide low and moderate-income households with viable communities, including decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities. Eligible activities included community facilities and improvements, housing rehabilitation and preservation, affordable housing development activities, public services, economic development, planning, and administration.

The system for establishing the priority for the selection of these projects is predicated upon the following criteria:

- Meeting the statutory requirements of the CDBG program;
- Meeting the needs of very-low, low-, and moderate-income residents;
- Focus on low- and moderate-income persons, areas, or neighborhoods;
- Coordination and leveraging of resources;
- Response to expressed needs;
- Sustainability and/or long-term impact;
- The ability to measure or demonstrate progress and success.

Since the City is 53.7% low-income, the entire City qualifies as a low-income area. All of the activities to be funded in FY 2010, other than street reconstruction, are city-wide activities.

3. ***Identification of obstacles to meet underserved needs:***

Despite the available resources, obstacles remain in achieving the goals include:

- Limited resources to meet the competing demands.
- Limited vacant developable sites.
- Clean-up costs of developed sites or abandoned buildings that add to the cost of development.
- Dated infrastructure.
- "Trickle-down effect" of the decline of the manufacturing sector: The larger population of homeless people in the City of Williamsport does not meet HUD's definition of chronically homeless. While housing in Williamsport is affordable, the decline of the manufacturing sector has resulted in the loss of low skill jobs that pay living wages. The service sector and retail sector jobs that have replaced the manufacturing jobs pay significantly less. Households cannot as easily afford housing. The working poor are unable to afford even nominal increases in the cost of rental units. Instead they are evicted from their homes and forced to double-up with family and friends to avoid homelessness.

Managing the Process (91.200 (b))

1. Lead Agency. Identify the lead agency or entity for overseeing the development of the plan and the major public and private agencies responsible for administering programs covered by the consolidated plan.

2. Identify the significant aspects of the process by which the plan was developed, and the agencies, groups, organizations, and others who participated in the process.

3. Describe the jurisdiction's consultations with housing, social service agencies, and other entities, including those focusing on services to children, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, and homeless persons.

   *Note: HOPWA grantees must consult broadly to develop a metropolitan-wide strategy and other jurisdictions must assist in the preparation of the HOPWA submission.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Managing the Process response:

1. ***Lead Agency:***

The Williamsport Office of Economic & Community Development, under direction of the Mayor and City Council, is the lead agency responsible for the preparation of the Williamsport Five Year Consolidated Plan and administration of the annual CDBG and HOME programs over the next five years.

2. ***Plan Process:***

In agreement with 24 CFR 91.115(e), Williamsport has adopted a Citizen Participation Plan describing the citizen participation requirements of its CDBG program and HOME program. The Citizen Participation Plan is on file at the City of Williamsport Office of Economic & Community Development.

Williamsport engaged the services of the consulting firm of Mullin & Lonergan Associates, Inc. to assist with the preparation of the Five Year Consolidated Plan and the 2010 Action Plan. With the assistance of the consultant, Williamsport solicited input for the development of the CP from City departments and agencies, County agencies, local non-profit developers and service organizations, community groups, and the Lycoming Housing Authority.

In addition, the needs identified in the Five Year CP were developed through surveys circulated to various community stakeholders and two public hearings. The City also referenced the Comprehensive Plan for the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area, adopted October 11, 2005, in the formation of the CP.

The public needs hearing was held July 21, 2009. A second public hearing will be held October 13, 2009. Both hearings will be held in City Hall. The public hearings were advertised in the local newspaper of general circulation, the *Williamsport Sun-Gazette*. Notification of both hearings was also posted at the Office of Economic & Community Development and James V. Brown Library. Copies of citizen participation in these public hearings may be found in the appendix.

In agreement with 24 CFR 91.100(4), the City of Williamsport notified the adjacent units of government that it is completing this CP. Copies of the letters are contained in the appendix of this document. The City of Williamsport will also send a copy of the completed CP to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and Lycoming County.

A summary of the CP will be published in late September, 2009 in the *Williamsport Sun-Gazette* alerting interested persons as to the availability of the CP. The CP was placed at the following locations in the City for public review for 30 days.

Office of Economic and Community Development
City Hall, 245 West Fourth Street
Williamsport, PA 17701

James V. Brown Library
19 East Fourth Street
Williamsport, PA 17701

The required 30-day public review period will extend from October 1, 2009 to October 31, 2009. The City Council will consider approving the submittal of the CP to HUD on October 29 and November 12, 2009. Documentation of the citizen participation process will be included in the appendix of this CP.

A summary of citizen comments received during the comment period will be included in the final draft.

3. ***Consultation***

During the development of the CP, the following groups were interviewed and/or returned surveys. A copy of the survey instrument is included in the appendix of this CP. These groups represent the populations whose needs were considered in this Consolidated Plan:

Lycoming Housing Authority
Lycoming County United Way
United Churches of Lycoming County – Shephard of the Streets Ministry
Center for Independent Living of North Central Pennsylvania
Lycoming-Clinton Counties Commission for Community Action (STEP, Inc.)
Lycoming Neighborhood Development Corporation
Campbell Street Family Youth and Community Association, Inc.
New Covenant Community Connections, Inc – Journey House
YWCA – Liberty House
Lycoming-Clinton Mental Health & Mental Retardation Program – Joinder Program
West Branch Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission

Citizen Participation (91.200 (b))

1. Provide a summary of the citizen participation process.

2. Provide a summary of citizen comments or views on the plan.

3. Provide a summary of efforts made to broaden public participation in the development of the consolidated plan, including outreach to minorities and non-English speaking persons, as well as persons with disabilities.

4. Provide a written explanation of comments not accepted and the reasons why these comments were not accepted.

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

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Citizen Participation response:

1. ***Citizen Participation Process***

Williamsport's current Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) was created in April, 2005 and revised in July, 2009. The CPP describes the city's practices relating to public display periods, comment periods, public notices, public hearings, citizen comment/complaint responses, citizen outreach/involvement efforts, citizen document access, and amendments to its programs; the CPP also explains the CDBG, HOME, and Section 108 Loan Guarantee Programs. As revised, the CPP also notes the availability of documents and notices on its website and the city's efforts to accommodate non-English speaking or disabled persons, including accessible public hearing locations, availability of sign-language interpreters and non-English materials or translators as needed, and a TDD number.

For this CP, the City will conduct two public hearings to solicit input into the preparation of the Consolidated Plan and the Action Plan. The meetings will be advertised in the *Williamsport Sun-Gazette*. The first public hearing was held at City Hall on July 21, 2009, and the second hearing will be held at the same location on October 13, 2009. Invitations will be mailed to many local, county, and state agencies to participate at the second public hearing. Minutes of the meetings, public hearing notices, and citizen comments will be included in the appendix of this document.

In addition to community meetings, Williamsport has invited other governmental agencies and nonprofits to provide insight and input into the goals and actions that should be considered in the consolidated planning process. Agencies and nonprofit organizations that serve Williamsport have been contacted to identify specific needs and subsequent actions to address needs.

Consultation with the Lycoming Housing Authority has occurred to obtain data on the public housing inventory (including the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program) and to discuss the Housing Authority's plans for public housing development activities. The City has also solicited input by way of survey questionnaires from social service and homeless agencies that provide housing assistance and related services to low- and moderate-income persons.

Williamsport has consulted with a variety of housing, social service, and other agencies in the process of preparing its FY 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan and FY 2010 Action Plan.

Any comments received will be included in the final draft.

Copies of the FY 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan and the FY 2010 Action Plan will be distributed to various public locations for public review and comment. A summary of the CP will be published in the *Williamsport Sun-Gazette* in late September alerting interested persons to the availability of the CP. A copy of the CP will be placed at the following locations in Williamsport for public review:

Office of Economic and Community Development
City Hall, 245 West Fourth Street
Williamsport, PA 17701

James V. Brown Library
19 East Fourth Street
Williamsport, PA 17701

The public review period will extend from October 1, 2009 to October 31, 2009. On October 29 and November 12, 2009, the City Council will consider action on the Plan for submission to HUD by November 15, 2009.

Copies of sign-in sheets and minutes from both public meetings will be included in the appendix.

The citizen comments received during the review period will be incorporated in the final Consolidated Plan submitted to HUD.

2. ***Summary of Citizen Comments***

The citizen comments received during the review period will be incorporated in the final Consolidated Plan submitted to HUD.

3. ***Efforts to Broaden Participation***

As per the Citizen Participation Plan, the public hearings were held at an accessible location. No additional requests for accommodations for or by Non-English speaking or disabled persons were received. The *Williamsport Sun-Gazette* and the City website were used to announce the public participation process.

4. ***Written explanation of Comments Not Accepted***

The citizen comments received during the review period will be incorporated in the final Consolidated Plan submitted to HUD.

Institutional Structure (91.215 (i))

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

2. Assess the strengths and gaps in the delivery system.

3. Assess the strengths and gaps in the delivery system for public housing, including a description of the organizational relationship between the jurisdiction and the public housing agency, including the appointing authority for the commissioners or board of housing agency, relationship regarding hiring, contracting and procurement; provision of services funded by the jurisdiction; review by the jurisdiction of proposed capital improvements as well as proposed development, demolition or disposition of public housing developments.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Institutional Structure response:

1. ***Institutional Structure***

Public Sector:
The City of Williamsport is the clearinghouse and facilitator for the activities described by this CP. As the local unit of government, the City of Williamsport is empowered to apply for and administer CDBG Program funds, HOME Program funds, and other grants. The City of Williamsport will also support other activities through providing certifications of consistency with the CP.

The Director of the Office of Economic & Community Development oversees the administration of all CDBG and HOME entitlement programs. The Office of Economic & Community Development also applies for and administers other funding sources, ensuring all resources are highly integrated and administered efficiently. The Department is responsible for the following:

- Program management and oversight.
- Inter Department/Agency Coordination.
- Sub-recipient contract administration and monitoring.
- Program evaluation.
- Report preparation and submission.
- Public education and participation.
- Special project development.
- Consolidated Plan preparation, monitoring, and evaluation.
- Housing programs.
- Economic development programs and initiatives.

The daily oversight of activities for all programs and initiatives comes under the management of the Assistant Director. In addition to community development and housing support, City staff provides assistance to sub-recipients of grants and loans. The sub-recipient grants and loans include, but are not limited to, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds, Department of Community and Economic Development funds, and Pennsylvania Housing Finance Authority (PHFA) loans, among others.

Other City agencies that participate with housing, community development, and economic development in the City of Williamsport are as follows:

The Williamsport Redevelopment Authority (WRA) has the power of eminent domain, allowing it to acquire blighted properties. WRA also is responsible for the demolition, selecting those properties that are beyond rehabilitation. Alternately, WRA facilitates their transfer to property owners that invest in the rehabilitation of the property. WRA also allocates CDBG funds on behalf of the City for economic development projects, preservation of historic properties, and the rehabilitation of rental properties.

The City Engineer, the Codes Department, and Office of Economic & Community Development are responsible for municipal planning, including responsibility for the Comprehensive Plan, review and preparation of zoning and land development ordinances to ensure conformance and consistency with the Comprehensive Plan, Floodplain Management Plan, PA Title 25, Capital Improvements Plan, and Historic Preservation Plan, management and coordination of planning activities, and development and maintenance of the Official Map.

INSERT LHA INFORMATION UPON RECEIPT

Lycoming County provides and shares its resources and programs with the City and is therefore listed as having a role in the City's CP. The contributions are administered by the various human services providers, including the Agency on Aging, Drug, and Alcohol, Children and Youth, and MH/MR.

Nonprofit Organizations:

The numerous community organizations and CHDOs contribute expertise in the management of programs and activities. CHDOs recognized by the City include are the following:

- Habitat for Humanity rehabilitates older homes and builds new houses.
- Lycoming Neighborhood Housing Corporation rehabilitates older homes and builds new houses.
- STEP, Inc. has renovated properties for rental units.

There are varied private non-profit service providers who continue to provide services in support of community development in Williamsport. These providers include: The Center, American Rescue Workers, Shepherd of the Streets, AIDS Resources, the Center for Independent Living of North Central Pennsylvania, STEP, Inc., Lycoming County United Way, Big Brother / Big Sister, Lycoming County Health Improvement Coalition, Children's Development Center, HOPE Enterprises, Inc., and the Salvation Army.

The Campbell Street Center operates a Family Savings Program. Participants learn how to save money and receive a dollar for dollar match for housing, education, repairing credit, or starting a business.

The Lycoming County Health Improvement Coalition has a Human Services "Where To Find Help" list available on its website.

Linkage Lycoming has a program designed to link people in need in Lycoming County with the appropriate agency or service designed to eliminate that need. The organization provides referrals to a wide variety of other assistance organizations and also makes efforts to reduce duplication of services to clients and among providers.

The North Central Interagency Council is a networking organization among non-profits created to provide opportunities for information exchange among various service organizations.

Private Industry:
Lending institutions work in the City and region to provide financing for special programs that support and supplement community development, economic development, and housing activities in the City of Williamsport. In support of community and economic development in the City, Citizen's Bank and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have established the Citizen's Job Bank. The program, administered by Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development, provides low interest loans from $1,000,000 to $10,000,000. For every $25,000 of assistance, businesses must create one full-time job.

Coordination Among Housing Providers, Service Agencies, and Public Entities:
Williamsport's Office of Economic & Community Development is responsible for enhancing the coordination among housing providers, service agencies, and public entities. The City joins with non-profit CHDO's, for-profit developers and various local groups to increase housing opportunities for targeted income groups.

The City mails information to housing service providers, banks, and realtors making them aware of City programs. City representatives have attended *Coordinated Task Force* meetings. The Coordinated Task Force is compromised of approximately 80 human service agencies.

The goals of the previous Five Year CP include establishment of partnerships to extend and strengthen cooperation among all levels of government and the private sector. This includes those between for-profit and nonprofit organizations to help provide decent housing, maintain a suitable living environment, and expand economic opportunities.

The City of Williamsport continues to interact with the various public and non-profit institutions that provide housing and supportive services to low income residents. Although the agencies are independent of one another, they work together to ensure that their programs and services are coordinated and that residents are served. The City's primary means of connecting and networking with housing and service providers in Williamsport and region is through the following organizations:

- Coordinated Services Task Force. Established by the Lycoming County United Way, the Task Force is the coming together of approximately 80 agencies in the community to network supporting coordinated delivery of facilities and services. Many members of the Task Force participate in the Central-Harrisburg Region Continuum of Care (CoC), which is coordinated through the State. The CoC process helps to ensure coordination of services, particularly among providers serving the homeless. Staff from the City of Williamsport's Office of Economic & Community Development are members of the Task Force. This Task Force represents a coordinated effort of economic renewal in the community.
- The Lycoming County Health Improvement Coalition is a voluntary collaboration of approximately 37 board members and over 50 Task Force Team volunteers representing various sectors of the community, including religious organizations, schools and higher education, minority groups, municipal and county government, public health, health care, civic and community organizations, the private sector, and social welfare organizations. Organized in 1994, the Lycoming County Health Improvement Coalition's mission is to improve the health status of the Lycoming County community by identifying and facilitating response to priority health and wellness issues through a collaborative, community-driven process. The Coalition has developed a directory of health and human services, which was put online as part of its web site. The online services directory lists over 500 Lycoming agencies, contact information, and how those agencies can help county residents with health challenges.
- Our Towns 2010 is a collaborative effort coordinated through the Lycoming County Chamber of Commerce. The mission is to maintain and even improve the quality of life in the City and region for children and future generations.

2. ***Strengths and Gaps in the System***

The major gap remains scarce resources and limited staff to effectively operate programs. Coordination through the above listed organizations assists with networking, ensuring that overlap of missions is minimized and facilitating more efficient use of resources. The following table provides a description of strengths and weaknesses associated with agencies involved in the administration of the program process.

Assessment of Institutional Structure

Agency	Strength	Weakness
Public		
Office of Economic & Community Development	• Coordination of programs. • Capacity to conduct varied activities. • Technical expertise.	• Limited resources. • Limited staff.
Lycoming Housing Authority	Housing for extremely low income including elderly and disabled.	• Limited resources.
City and County Agencies	One-stop resource for many social service, education, and employment resources.	• Limited resources. • Limited staff.
State Agencies (PHFA, DCED)	Varied programs to address varied housing and community development needs.	• Limited resources.
Non-profit		
Nonprofit Organizations	Support services	• Long-term financial stability. • Technical expertise. • Limited resources.
Private		
Lenders	Underwriting, funding, servicing	• Adverse to risk. • Timeliness • Rate variation.

The City of Williamsport has sole responsibility for formulating and administering its community development, housing, and economic development programs. Williamsport's entitlement program is administered in agreement with its Citizen Participation Plan adopted in agreement with 24 CFR 91.115(e). The Citizen Participation Plan implements HUD's goals of providing for citizen input in the community development program.

The City will provide strong leadership and planning to coordinate activities and functions and facilitate communication between City departments and their staffs. Through public meetings and hearings on projects and applications for funding, the City of Williamsport will continue to provide a forum where private and public entities can discuss community development, housing, and other issues.

The City will consider its activities in relations to federal, state and county agencies to ensure that all available programs are considered. The City will consider opportunities to work with county and local non-profit agencies to coordinate efforts to provide necessary services. These coordinated efforts will provide affordable housing opportunities to low income persons.

3. ***Strengths and Gaps in the Delivery System for Public Housing***

Lycoming Housing Authority plays an important role in maintaining and managing housing for low income households in the City of Williamsport. Its mission is directed primarily to extremely low income renter households, consisting of those with incomes between 0 and 30% of median income. The public housing program serves as the major source of housing for extremely low income households in the City of Williamsport.

INSERT LHA INFORMATION UPON RECEIPT

Monitoring (91.230)

1. Describe the standards and procedures the jurisdiction will use to monitor its housing and community development projects and ensure long-term compliance with program requirements and comprehensive planning requirements.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Monitoring response:

1. ***Monitoring***

The Office of Economic & Community Development oversees Williamsport's housing and community development programs and will be responsible for all performance measurement activities. The monitoring requirements and procedures under the Consolidated Plan will build upon existing monitoring systems and experience in administering federal and state programs and funds.

The standards and procedures of the Office of Economic & Community Development for monitoring are designed to ensure that:

1) Objectives of the National Affordable Housing Act are met,
2) Program activities are progressing in compliance with the specifications and schedule for each program, and
3) Recipients are in compliance with other applicable laws, implementing regulations, and the requirements to affirmatively further fair housing and minimize displacement of low-income households.

The Office of Economic & Community Development monitors all proposed activities to ensure long-term compliance with program requirements. The objectives of this monitoring are to make sure that activities: 1) comply with all regulations governing their administrative, financial, and programmatic operations; 2) achieve their performance objectives within schedule and budget; and 3) comply with the CP. The Director of the Office of Economic & Community Development is also responsible for the timely implementation of activities. Quarterly, the Director reviews the expenditures against the ratio used by HUD (1.5 times the allocation on hand at the end of the program year) to ensure that the goal will be met.

All subrecipients of CDBG and HOME funds will be subject to monitoring. Fiscal monitoring will include review and approval of budgets, compliance with executed grant agreements, review of fiscal reports on a monthly basis, and a review of audits on an annual basis.

Additional monitoring will occur through on-site monitoring visits. These visits will occur as necessary but will be conducted at least once a year. There are monitoring responsibilities that go beyond the time of completion of various activities. For community development public facilities and housing projects, site visits will be conducted at least every other year to ensure benefit to low-income residents.

All sub-recipients must identify the personnel working on the project, keep accurate records and filing systems to document program benefits and compliance, maintain an appropriate financial management system, submit to an audit, and submit a final report at closeout.

Annually, in the preparation of the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER), the Office of Economic & Community Development will review whether the specific objectives outlined in this strategic plan are being met. Further, this review will be an opportunity to assess if the strategic plan goals continue to address community priorities and if adequate resources are available to meet the objectives. Community input will be sought in this analysis.

Internal controls have been designed to ensure adequate segregation of duties. The Office of Economic and Community Development prepares agreements for non-housing activities supported by CDBG and establishes accounts. Invoices are monitored for compliance with the approved spending plan and federal regulations. The Office of Economic and Community Development administers Williamsport's Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS). The Office Economic and Community Development is also primarily responsible for setting up and administering activities.

Minority Business Outreach

When activities require outside contracting, Williamsport encourages participation by minority-owned businesses. Williamsport shall maintain records concerning the participation of minority-owned businesses to assess the results of its efforts and to complete the semiannual "Minority Business Enterprise Report" to HUD.

Any contractor interested in bidding on jobs available under the Owner Occupied Single Family Rehabilitation Program will receive an application package and, if qualified, will be included on a list of contractors to receive announcements about the availability of bid packages.

Comprehensive Planning Requirements

To ensure compliance with the comprehensive planning requirements of the Consolidated Plan process, the Office of Economic & Community Development reviews the process on an ongoing basis. The review will assess compliance with federal requirements concerning citizen participation and consistency of actions taken with those specified in the Williamsport Citizen Participation Plan. Records documenting actions taken will be maintained for each program year.

Performance Measurement Plan
In accordance with HUD's Community Planning and Development Notice 03-09, Williamsport has developed a Performance Measurement System designed to measure both the productivity and impact of the CDBG and HOME programs. In accordance with the HUD Training Manual and Guidebook, *Community Planning and Development Outcome Performance Measurement Framework*, Williamsport has developed the following:

For each activity, the City is required to indicate the objective and outcome as per the guidelines below:

Objectives
- Creating suitable living environments
- Providing decent affordable housing
- Creating economic opportunities

Outcomes
- Availability/accessibility
- Affordability
- Sustainability

The combination of these objectives and outcomes creates an Outcome Statement for each activity. The Outcome Statement is also indicated on the individual Project Activity forms under Proposed Outcome. Additionally, the City will indicate the Specific Outcome Indicators that are required to be reported to HUD for each activity.

Priority Needs Analysis and Strategies (91.215 (a))

1. Describe the basis for assigning the priority given to each category of priority needs.

2. Identify any obstacles to meeting underserved needs.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Priority Needs Analysis and Strategies response:

1. ***Basis for Assigning the Priority Given to Each Category of Priority Needs***

The priorities presented were developed by:
- Weighing the severity of the need among all groups and sub-groups
- Analyzing the current social, housing, and economic conditions
- Analyzing the relative needs of low and moderate income families
- Assessing the resources likely to be available over the next five years.

Housing and Community Development Priorities:

1. Housing
    a. Rehabilitation of Renter-Occupied Units
    b. New Construction of Renter-Occupied Units
    c. Owner-Occupied Single-Family Rehabilitation
    d. Homebuyer Assistance – Gap Financing Program
    e. Accessibility Improvements to Housing Units
    f. Code Enforcement
    g. Rehabilitation of Owner/Renter-Occupied Duplexes/Doubles
2. Homeless
    a. Assistance to Homeless Facility Providers
3. Non-Housing Community Development
    a. Parks and Recreation Facility Improvements
    b. Water/Sewer Infrastructure Improvements
    c. Street Improvements
    d. ADA Curb Ramps
    e. Blight Elimination
    f. Public Services including Youth Services, Child Care Services, Health Services, and others
    g. Neighborhood Clean-Up
    h. Other Public Services (i.e. Fire Safety)
    i. Micro-Enterprise Assistance
    j. Commercial Façade Repair

The Comprehensive Plan for the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area, adopted October 11, 2005, included the following list of Strategic Actions for the City of Williamsport which the City will also use to guide future activities:

- Make regulations conducive to reuse and rehab of older structures.
- Employ good code enforcement to help keep property values where they should be.
- Ensure that mixed-use zoning is provided for in the downtown business district.
- Work locally and cooperate with the County in the implementation of Central Business District Revitalization and Community Gateway Initiatives.
- Meet with businesses to identify potential expansion or permitting issues.
- Conduct a housing needs assessment to determine if the existing housing stock meets the needs of existing and prospective residents.
- Implement a split-rate real estate tax in the City to promote infill development.
- Through a partnership with the County, Chamber of Commerce and Our Towns 2010, establish a "Main Street Program" to help promote revitalization efforts in the downtown. This should include a residential redevelopment component that is being promoted statewide through the newly created "Elm Street Program."
- Work to complete the existing streetscape enhancement project and the Susquehanna River Trail.
- Ensure that safe pedestrian mobility and transportation mode alternatives are an integral consideration in all downtown revitalization efforts and include the development of streetscape and traffic calming plans.
- Work with Penn College and the County to establish a Keystone Innovation Zone in the City.

- Continue to work closely with the College Town Initiative Partnership.
- Increase public awareness of the cultural and historical resources unique to the area by promoting the implementation of the Lower West Branch River Conservation Plan and the Old City Cultural District.
- Establish a Neighborhood Preservation Program to support property maintenance and beautification in target areas.
- Establish a Business Improvement District to promote a positive business climate in the downtown.

2. *Identify Any Obstacles to Meeting Underserved Needs*

Despite the available resources, obstacles remain in achieving the goals include:

- Limited resources to meet the competing demands.
- Limited vacant developable sites.
- Clean-up costs of developed sites or abandoned buildings that add to the cost of development.
- Dated infrastructure.
- "Trickle-down effect" of the decline of the manufacturing sector: The larger population of homeless people in the City of Williamsport does not meet HUD's definition of chronically homeless. While housing in Williamsport is affordable, the decline of the manufacturing sector has resulted in the loss of low skill jobs that pay living wages. The service sector and retail sector jobs that have replaced the manufacturing jobs pay significantly less. Households cannot as easily afford housing. The working poor are unable to afford even nominal increases in the cost of rental units. Instead they are evicted from their homes and forced to double-up with family and friends to avoid homelessness.

The Comprehensive Plan for the Greater Williamsport Alliance Planning Area also included the following list of obstacles for the City of Williamsport:

- Relative lack of employment opportunities and lower wage rates when compared to other urban areas statewide.
- Relatively high percentage of the population dependent on some form of public welfare and community support services including the elderly, unemployed, and underemployed individuals.
- Typical core city budgetary problems associated with a declining population and workforce, increasing tax rates, and increasing demands for services and infrastructure to meet both local needs and additional state and federal regulatory mandates.
- The lack of a strong downtown retail center results in the business district being busy and vibrant from 9 to 5 but relatively deserted in the evenings. This adds to the poor perception about the city's image.

Lead-based Paint (91.215 (g))

1. Estimate the number of housing units that contain lead-based paint hazards, as defined in section 1004 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, and are occupied by extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families.

2. Outline actions proposed or being taken to evaluate and reduce lead-based paint hazards and describe how lead based paint hazards will be integrated into housing policies and programs, and how the plan for the reduction of lead-based hazards is related to the extent of lead poisoning and hazards.

3-5 Year Strategic Plan Lead-based Paint response:

1. ***Estimated Number of Housing Units that Contain Lead-Based Paint***

HUD has made the elimination of housing units containing lead-based paint a priority. The poisoning of children from contact with lead-based paint has been recognized as a major public health problem by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). According to the CDC, lead is the number one environmental health hazard to American children. It is estimated that 10-15% of all preschoolers in the United States are affected. Lead poisoning causes IQ reductions; reading and learning disabilities; decreased attention span; hyperactivity and aggressive behavior. Lead-based paint was banned from residential paint in 1978. All homes built prior to that time may contain lead-based paint.

Owner households who are cost burdened may not have the resources to abate lead-based paint in their homes. LMI renter households may not even be aware that their leased units contain lead-based paint, or they may be hesitant to ask their landlord to abate the problem for fear of being evicted or having their rent increased. The following table provides an estimate of the number of housing units estimated to contain lead-based paint by income level of households. This data is matched against the number of units built before 1970 to estimate the number of units that potentially contain lead-based paint.

Estimated Incidence of Lead-Based Paint in Housing Stock – 2003 Report

Year of Construction	Age of Housing in City of Williamsport	Estimated % of Total Housing Units with Lead-Based Paint	Estimated Number of Housing Units with Lead-Based Paint
1980 and after	1,225	0%	0
1960 to 1979	1,644	52% - 72%	855 – 1,184
1940 to 1959	2,692	70% - 90%	1,884 – 2,423
Before 1940	7,963	80% - 100%	6,370 – 7,963
Total	13,524		9,109 – 11,570

Source: Comprehensive & Workable Plan for Abatement of Lead-Based Paint in privately Owned Structures

Lead poisoning is defined as having a reading of 20 mg of lead per deciliter of blood (20mg/dl) or greater. Borderline is defined as having a reading of 15 to 19 mg/dl. Pinnacle Health System, under contract to the Department of Health, administers a Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention System in Williamsport. Both blood drawing and testing are free. Pinnacle Health reports that from 1999 through the end of 2003 it completed total screens on 977 children in the City. Of the total screens, 30 entered into case management. Case management is provided due to high blood levels and consists of medical evaluation, nutritional and education intervention, environmental investigation and remediation, and testing of siblings under 6 years and pregnant women in household for three consecutive levels under 15.

UPDATE WITH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH INFO

2. ***Actions Being Taken to Reduce Lead-Based Paint***

The City is addressing lead based paint through regulations effective January 10, 2002. All Rehabilitation Specialists have completed "Visual Assessment Training" and attended "Safe Work Practice Training for Contractors." One staff member is a certified *Pennsylvania Risk Assessor* and performs clearance testing for rehabilitation cases. Testing has been contracted to a certified lead based paint inspection firm from Harrisburg.

The City sponsored a free "Safe Work Practice Training" for contractors in January, 2008. The limits of each rehabilitation program have been to compensate for increased costs due to hazard reduction and safe work practices. Reductions in Federal funding have jeopardized Williamsport's ability to improve its housing stock and protect its residents. The City publicizes Lead Paint Safe Work Practice Training, posts program information, and provides contractor training as available. Free Safe Work Practice Training classes have increased the number of trained contractors, but employee turnover have exposed a need for regularly scheduled Safe Work classes. The Community Development office will continue to urge Penn College to include this training as part of their construction curriculum. The City will continue to provide this training, but continuing education, taped or Internet training classes would be helpful.

All Housing Authority developments have been certified as lead free, and licensed Lead Paint Risk Assessors inspect private, Section 8 dwellings. The LHA's Voucher units are inspected at least once annually.

STEP uses trained workers under its weatherization programs.