




RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION No. 0035-20

approving the FY 2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan, the FY 2020 Annual Action Plan & the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice and authorizing the Mayor to execute all documents and certifications and the City Clerk to attest to same, and to file appropriate statements, certifications and meeting minutes with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Roll Call	Yeas	Nays		Yeas	Nays
Butterbaugh	✓		Jordan	✓	
Cacciotti	✓		Kelley	✓	
Carper	✓		Mayor Pacifico	✓	
Ickes	✓				
				7	0

Adopted MAY 13 2020


 Mayor MAY 13 2020
 Date Signed

Attest: 
 City Clerk MAY 14 2020
 Date Recorded

RESOLUTION 2020

A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA APPROVING THE FY 2020-2024 FIVE YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN, THE FY 2020 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN, & THE ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE AND AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF THE PLANS WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)

WHEREAS, under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is authorized to extend financial assistance to communities in the prevention or elimination of slums or urban blight, or activities which will benefit low- and moderate-income persons, or other urgent community development needs; and

WHEREAS, under the HOME Investment Partnership Program created by the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended, the Secretary of HUD is authorized to extend financial assistance to participating jurisdictions to expand the supply of decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has advised the City of Altoona that under Fiscal Year 2020, the City is eligible to apply for an entitlement grant under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program in the amount of \$1,643,245; and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program in the amount of \$353,129; and

WHEREAS, the City of Altoona's Department of Planning and Community Development has prepared a FY 2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan, FY 2020 Annual Action Plan, and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice for Fiscal Years 2020 - 2024, which proposes how the entitlement grant funds will be expended to address the housing and community development needs identified in the City's Five Year Consolidated Plan along with an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice; and

WHEREAS, a draft of the FY 2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan, FY 2020 Annual Action Plan, and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice was on public display from April 13, 2020 through May 12, 2020 and the City held a series of public meetings and hearings on the said Plans and the comments of various agencies, groups, and citizens were taken into consideration in the preparation of the final documents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA, BLAIR COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That the FY 2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan, FY 2020 Annual Action Plan, and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice is hereby in all respects

APPROVED and the City Clerk is hereby directed to file a copy of said Five Year Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, and Analysis of Impediments for Fiscal Year 2020 with the Official Minutes of this Meeting of this Council.

SECTION 2. That the City is COGNIZANT of the conditions that are imposed in the undertaking and carrying out of the Community Development Block Grant Program and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program with Federal financial assistance, including those relating to (a) the relocation of site occupants, (b) the prohibition of discrimination because of race, color, age, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin, and other assurances as set forth under the required HUD Certifications.

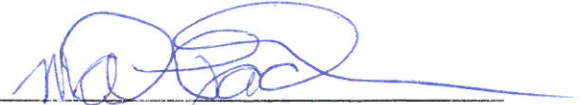
SECTION 3. That the Mayor, on behalf of the City of Altoona, Pennsylvania, is AUTHORIZED to file an Application for financial assistance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development which has indicated its willingness to make available funds to carry out the CDBG Program in the amount of \$1,643,245 and the HOME Program in the amount of \$353,129; and its further AUTHORIZED to act as the authorized representative of the City of Altoona to sign any and all documents in regard to these programs.

SECTION 4. That the Mayor, on behalf the City of Altoona, Pennsylvania, is AUTHORIZED to provide assurances and/or certifications as required by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended; and any other supplemental or revised data which the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development may request in review of the City's Application.

ADOPTED INTO A RESOLUTION THIS 13TH DAY OF MAY 2020 BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA.

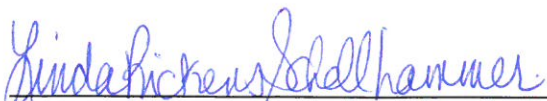
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Matthew Pacifico, Mayor of the City of Altoona, Pennsylvania have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City of Altoona to be affixed this 13th day of May 2020.

CITY OF ALTOONA, PA



Matthew Pacifico, Mayor

ATTEST:



Linda Rickens Schellhammer, City Clerk



ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS



1301 Twelfth Street
Altoona, PA 16601

FY 2020-2024 ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE

For Submission to HUD for the
Community Development Block Grant Program



Table of Contents

Executive Summary	2
A. Population and Race.....	9
B. Households.....	24
C. Income and Poverty	29
D. Employment.....	36
E. Housing Profile.....	39
F. Financing	45
G. Household Types	49
H. Cost Overburden.....	55
I. Housing Problems.....	56
J. Disproportionately Greater Need: Severe Housing Problems.....	59
K. Disabled Households	61
III. Review/Update to Original Plan	63
A. Fair Housing Complaints.....	71
B. Public Sector.....	86
C. Private Sector	108
D. Citizen Participation	116
V. Actions and Recommendations.....	121
VI. Certification.....	124
VII. Appendix.....	125
A. Agency/Organization Meeting Notes and Additional Consultations	125
B. Surveys and Agency Surveys	126
C. Citizen Participation	128

Executive Summary

The City of Altoona, Blair County, Pennsylvania is an entitlement community under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership (HOME) Programs. In accordance with the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, each entitlement community must "affirmatively further fair housing." In order to "affirmatively further fair housing," the City of Altoona must complete an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice.

The City of Altoona has prepared this FY 2020 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice which is in concert with the City's FY 2020-2024 Five-Year Consolidated Plan. The analysis focuses on the status and interaction of six (6) fundamental conditions within the community:

- The sale or rental of dwellings (public or private);
- The provision of housing brokerage services;
- The provision of financial assistance for dwellings;
- Public policies and actions affecting the approval of sites and other building requirements used in the approval process for the construction of publicly assisted housing;
- The administrative policies concerning community development and housing activities, which affect opportunities of minority households to select housing inside or outside areas of minority concentration; and
- Where there is a determination of unlawful segregation or other housing discrimination by a court or a finding of noncompliance by HUD regarding assisted housing in a recipient's jurisdiction, an analysis of the actions which could be taken by the recipient to remedy the discriminatory condition, including actions involving the expenditure of funds made available under 24 CFR Part 570.

The methodology employed to undertake this Analysis of Impediments included:

- **Research**
 - A review of the City's Zoning Ordinance, Comprehensive Plan, land use policies and procedures was undertaken
 - Demographic data for the City was analyzed from the U.S. Census and the HUD-CHAS data and tables
 - A review of the real estate and mortgage practices was undertaken
 - A review of prior year plans

- **Interviews & Meetings**
 - Meetings and interviews were conducted with several City of Altoona Departments, the Altoona Housing Authority, major employers, community advocacy groups, social service agencies, homeless service providers, educational providers, housing providers, financial institutions, the local Board of Realtors, and faith based organizations and groups.

- **Analysis of Data**
 - Low- and moderate-income areas were identified
 - Concentrations of minority populations were identified
 - Concentrations of rental and owner occupied housing were identified
 - Fair housing awareness in the community was evaluated

- **Potential Impediments**
 - Public sector policies that may be considered to be impediments were analyzed
 - Private sector policies that may be considered to be impediments were analyzed

The City of Altoona's FY 2020-2024 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice has identified the following impediments, along with the goals and strategies to address those impediments.

IMPEDIMENT 1: FAIR HOUSING EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

There is a continuing need to educate residents of the community concerning their rights and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act and to raise awareness that all residents of the City of Altoona have a right under Federal Law to fair housing choice.

Goal: Improve the public's knowledge and awareness of the Federal Fair Housing Act, and related laws, regulations, and requirements to affirmatively further fair housing in the region.

Strategies: In order to meet this goal, the following activities and strategies should be undertaken:

- **1-A:** Continue to promote Fair Housing awareness through partnerships, the media, seminars, and training to provide educational opportunities for all persons to learn more about their rights under the Fair Housing Act and Americans with Disabilities Act.

- **1-B:** Continue to make available and distribute literature and informational material concerning fair housing issues, an individual's housing rights, and landlord's responsibilities to affirmatively further fair housing and to make reasonable accommodations.
- **1-C:** Continue to affirmatively further fair housing and continue working with Southwestern PA Legal Services to provide fair housing services.

IMPEDIMENT 2: CONTINUING NEED FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The median value and cost to purchase and maintain a single-family home in Altoona that is decent, safe, and sound is \$87,600, which limits the choice of housing for lower income households. About 24.1% of homeowners and 65.7% of renters in the City are cost overburdened by more than 30% of their household income.

Goal: Promote the conservation of the existing housing stock and development of additional housing units for lower income households through new construction, in-fill housing, and rehabilitation of houses throughout the City.

Strategies: In order to meet this goal, the following activities and strategies should be undertaken:

- **2-A:** Continue to support and encourage plans from both private developers and non-profit housing providers to develop and construct new affordable housing.
- **2-B:** Continue to support and provide financing for the rehabilitation of the existing housing stock to become decent, safe, and sound housing that will remain affordable to lower income owner and renter occupied households.
- **2-C:** Continue to support homebuyer education and training programs to improve homebuyer awareness and increase the opportunities for lower-income households to become home owners.
- **2-D:** Continue to promote the rental rehabilitation program through outreach to landlords and partnership with the CHDO.

IMPEDIMENT 3: CONTINUING NEED FOR ACCESSIBLE HOUSING UNITS

As an older built-up urban environment with a varied terrain, there is a lack of accessible housing units and developable sites in the City of Altoona, since 74.2% of the City's housing units were built over 50 years ago and do not have accessibility features, and 18.9% of the City's population is classified as disabled.

Goal: Increase the number of accessible housing units through new construction and rehabilitation of existing housing units for people with disabilities and those who are developmentally delayed.

Strategies: In order to meet this goal, the following activities and strategies should be undertaken:

- **3-A:** Promote programs to increase the amount of available accessible housing through the rehabilitation of the existing owner occupied housing stock by making accessibility improvements.
- **3-B:** Encourage private and non-profit development of accessible housing through new construction of units that are accessible and visitable through financial or development incentives on available vacant and developable land in the City.
- **3-C:** Encourage landlords to make “reasonable accommodations” to their rental properties so they become accessible to tenants with disabilities.
- **3-D:** Promote programs to assist elderly homeowners in the City to make accessibility improvements to their properties in order for these residents to remain in their own homes.

IMPEDIMENT 4: ECONOMIC ISSUES AFFECTING HOUSING CHOICE

The City of Altoona is experiencing a slow but steady decline in population, and companies are unable to fill employment positions due to low pay and an underqualified work force. There is a gap in the type of employment available and the employability of the City’s working age population. This prevents low-income households from improving their income and ability to live outside areas with concentrations of low-income households, thus creating a fair housing concern.

Goal: The local economy will improve, creating new job opportunities, which in turn will increase household income, and will promote fair housing choice.

Strategies: In order to meet this goal, the following activities and strategies should be undertaken:

- **4-A:** Support and enhance workforce development and technical skills training that result in more opportunities to earn a “livable” wage and increases job opportunities.
- **4-B:** Strengthen partnerships and program delivery that enhances the City’s business base, expands its tax base, and creates a more sustainable economy for residents and businesses.
- **4-C:** Support programming that enhances entrepreneurship and small business development, expansion, and retention within low- and moderate-income areas and minority neighborhoods.
- **4-D:** Promote and encourage economic development with local commercial and industrial firms to expand their operations and increase employment opportunities.

- **4-E:** Explore opportunities for improving public transportation through expansion of existing routes and times, or partnerships with third parties to allow residents to access new employment opportunities.

I. Introduction

The City of Altoona is a CDBG and HOME Entitlement Community under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Program. In accordance with the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, each entitlement community must "affirmatively further fair housing." In order to "affirmatively further fair housing" the community must conduct a Fair Housing Analysis which identifies any impediments to fair housing choice.

"Fair housing choice" is defined as:

"The ability of persons, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, or handicap, of similar income levels to have available to them the same housing choices"

The Fair Housing Analysis consists of the following six (6) conditions:

- The sale or rental of dwellings (public or private);
- The provision of housing brokerage services;
- The provision of financial assistance for dwellings;
- Public policies and actions affecting the approval of sites and other building requirements used in the approval process for the construction of publicly assisted housing;
- The administrative policies concerning community development and housing activities, which affect opportunities of minority households to select housing inside or outside areas of minority concentration; and
- Where there is a determination of unlawful segregation or other housing discrimination by a court or a finding of noncompliance by HUD regarding assisted housing in a recipient's jurisdiction, an analysis of the actions which could be taken by the recipient to remedy the discriminatory condition, including actions involving the expenditure of funds made available under 24 CFR Part 570.

The City of Altoona has prepared this FY 2020 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice to coincide with the City's Five Year Consolidated Plan for FY 2020-2024.

II. Background Data

In order to perform an analysis of fair housing in the City of Altoona, the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the City were evaluated to determine and identify if there may be impediments to fair housing choice.

The City of Altoona is located in Central Pennsylvania and is the principal municipality in the Altoona Metropolitan Statistical Area. Altoona was founded by the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1849 as a site for a repair and maintenance shop. It was incorporated as a borough on February 6, 1854. Altoona became a city after legislation was passed on April 3, 1867 and February 8, 1868.



Altoona grew rapidly in the late 19th Century as the demand for locomotives during the Civil War stimulated much of its growth and became a very valuable city in the North. The “Horseshoe Curve”, a section of track built by the Pennsylvania Railroad, was used to help trains cross the Allegheny Ridge and stimulate trade. It is still in use as a historic landmark. After World War II came the decline in the railroad industry which caused a decline in the City’s population and economy.

Like many “rust belt” cities a single industry became the main economic engine. Today, the top field of employment in the Altoona and the metro area is healthcare with facilities such as: the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital, and the James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center, and several nursing homes as the top employers.



The downtown area maintains significant focus for revitalization efforts. Penn State Altoona has purchased several downtown buildings, including the former Playhouse Theater building, Penn Furniture Building, and the former WRTA building. The Mansion Park stadium, owned by the Altoona Area Schools District is recognized as one of the finest athletic complexes in Pennsylvania and regularly serves as a space for a variety of events. Altoona is also home to the Altoona Curve, a minor-league baseball team as well as a local Newspaper, the Altoona Mirror.

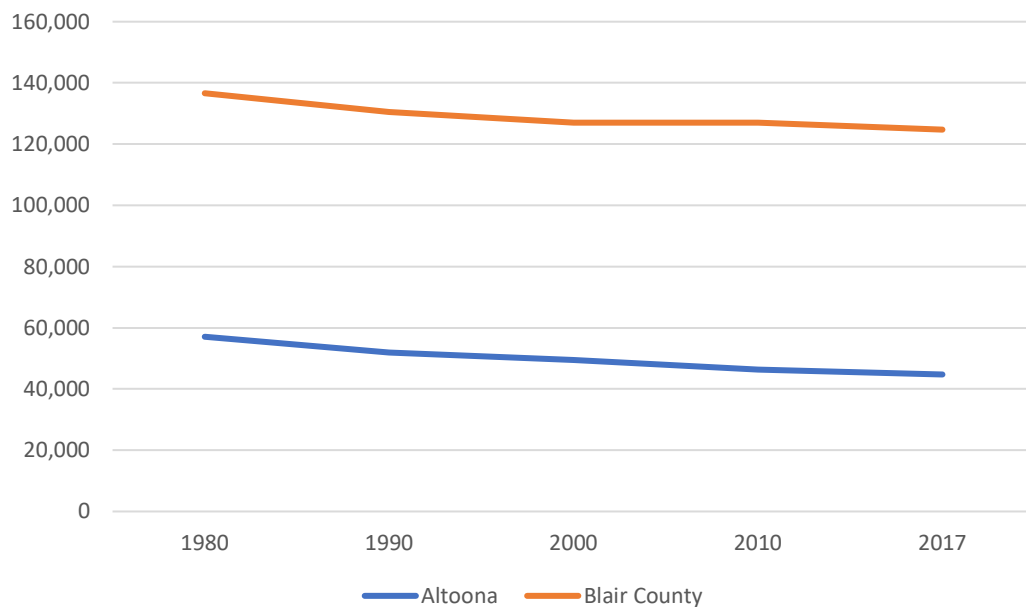
A. Population and Race:

Population

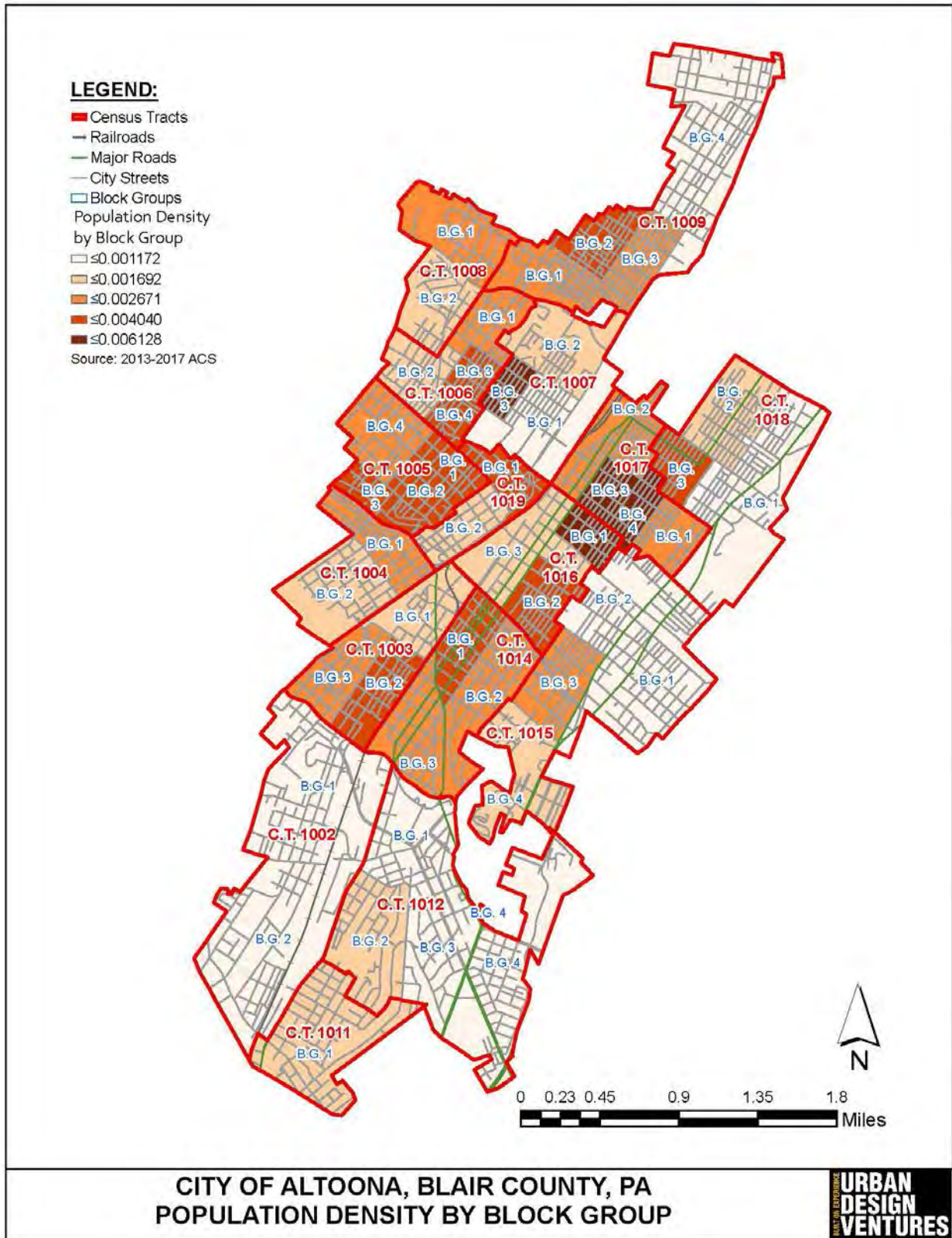
The total population for the City of Altoona at the time of the 2010 Census was 46,320; according to the 2008-2012 and 2013-2017 American Community Survey data the total population count was 46,434 and 44,749, respectively. This illustrates a steadily declining population. Similarly, Blair County has seen a steadily declining population during the same time period.

Within the last decade, between 2010 and 2017, the City's population decreased by 1,571 people, or 3.39%. The County's population decreased by 1.84% within the same time period. In 2017, there were an estimated 22,714 females (50.8%) and 22,035 males (49.2%) living in the City of Altoona.

CHART II-1 Population Trend in the City of Altoona, PA



The population density map below shows that the City's population tends to reside in the Central and North-Central parts of the City.



Racial Makeup of Population

Table II-1 below illustrates that “White alone” is the largest racial cohort in Altoona, making up 93.6% of the City’s population in 2017. “Black or African American alone” remains the largest minority cohort, at 2.8%. The Hispanic population has slightly increased between 2010 and 2017, rising from 1.3% to 1.7% of the population.

**Table II-1 – Racial Makeup of the Population
in the City of Altoona, PA**

Racial Makeup	2010 U.S. Census		2013-2017 ACS Estimates	
	#	%	#	%
Total	46,883	-	44,749	-
One race	46,311	98.8%	43,508	97.2%
White alone	44,116	94.1%	41,904	93.6%
Black or African American alone	1,577	3.4%	1,251	2.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	33	0.1%	0	0.0%
Asian alone	332	0.7%	96	0.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	9	0.0%	7	0.0%
Some other race alone	244	0.5%	250	0.6%
Two or More Races	572	1.2%	1,241	2.8%
Hispanic or Latino	632	1.3%	782	1.7%

Source: 2010 U.S. Census & 2013-2017 ACS

The City of Altoona’s total percentage of minority population, including Hispanic/Latino/a, increased from 5.9% in 2010 to 6.3% in 2017.

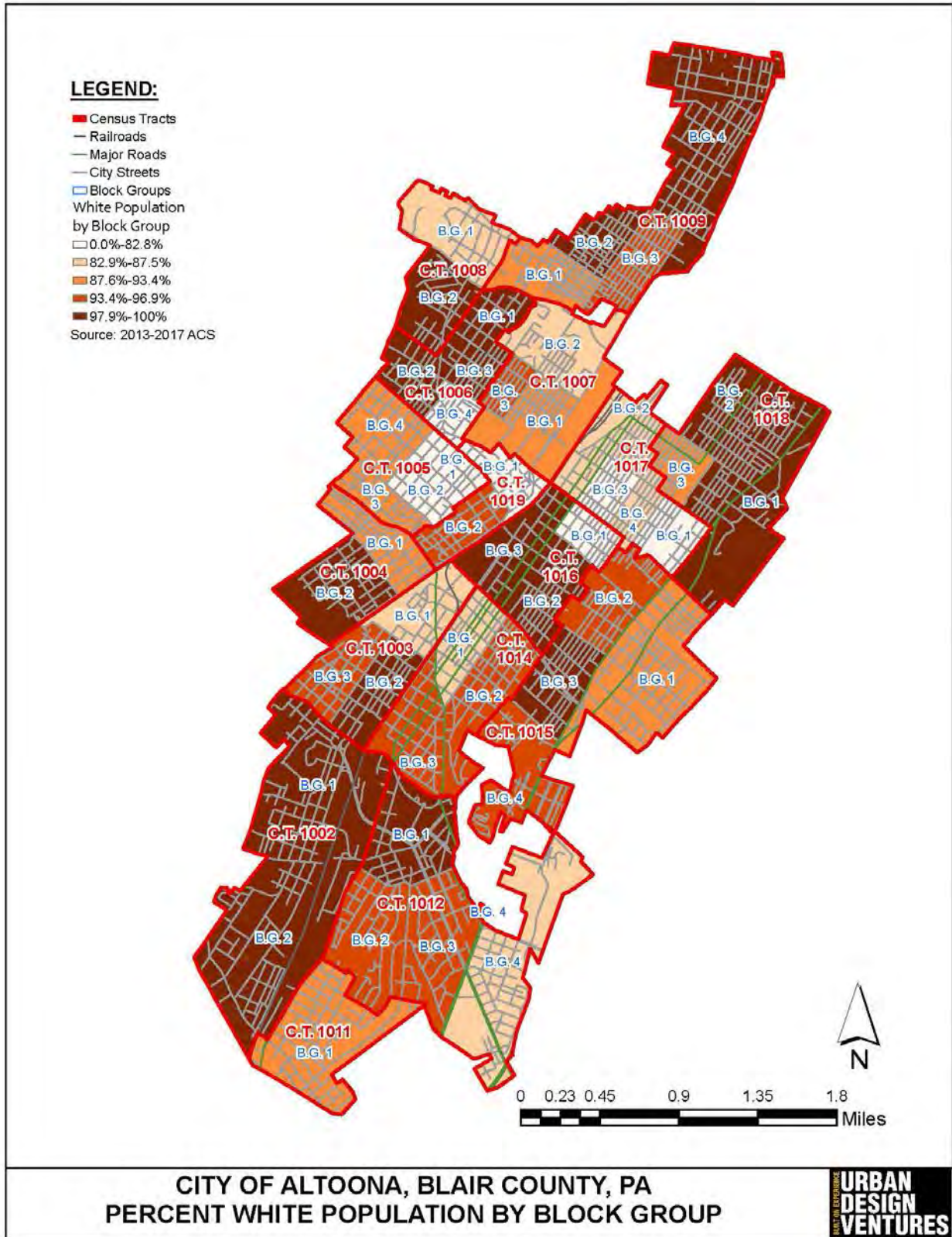
Table II-2 outlines the comparison of the minority populations in each Census Tract in the City at the time of the 2010 U.S. Census and the five year estimates of the 2013-2017 American Community Survey. The entire population of these Census Tracts overstates the total population and minority population living in Altoona at the time of the reports.

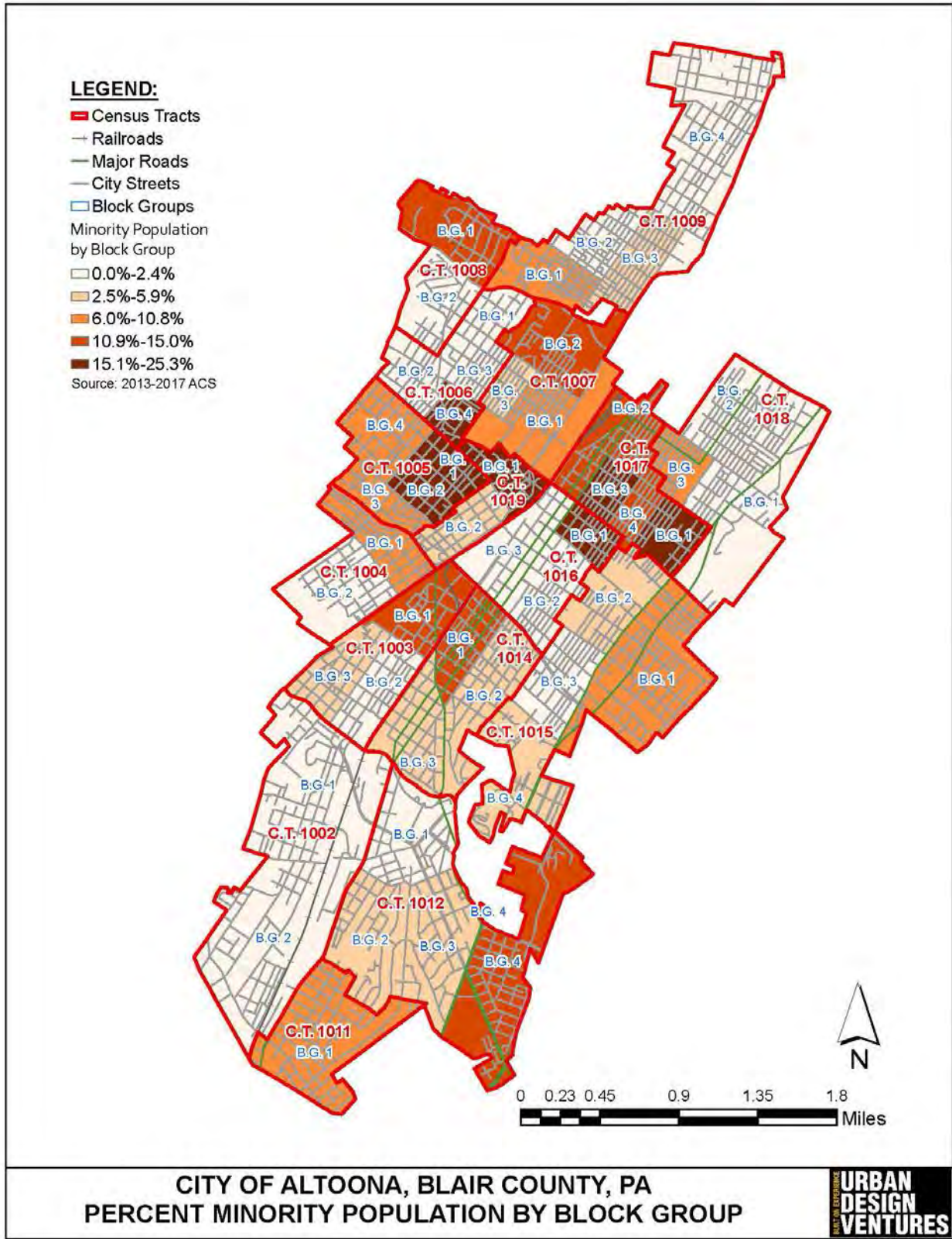
Table II-2 – Concentrations of Minority Residents for 2010 and 2017

Census Tract	2010 U.S. Census			2013-2017 American Community Survey		
	Total Population	Minority Population	% Minority Population	Total Population	Minority Population	% Minority Population
1002	2,087	0	0.0%	2,082	12	0.6%
1003	3,089	209	6.8%	3,209	137	4.3%
1004	2,364	255	10.8%	1,571	70	4.5%
1005	3,708	389	10.5%	3,534	460	13.0%
1006	2,538	92	3.6%	2,465	193	7.8%
1007	2,103	151	7.2%	2,477	186	7.5%
1008	2,692	191	7.1%	1,749	136	7.8%
1009	4,482	139	3.1%	4,107	53	1.3%
1011	1,700	95	5.6%	1,594	88	5.5%
1012	4,093	253	6.2%	3,995	198	5.0%
1014	3,650	205	5.6%	3,770	238	6.3%
1015	3,458	50	1.4%	3,474	131	3.8%
1016	3,218	417	13.0%	3,269	274	8.4%
1017	3,206	81	2.5%	3,573	392	11.0%
1018	3,176	129	4.1%	2,597	99	3.8%
1019	1,639	111	6.8%	1,504	178	11.8%
Census Tract Totals	47,203	2,767	5.9%	44,970	2,845	6.3%

Source: 2010 U.S. Census & 2013-2017 ACS

Even though the total population decreased, the total number of minorities increased. The City of Altoona saw the percentage of minority population increase from 5.9% in 2010 to 6.3% in 2017. The maps below illustrate the percentages of White and Minority Populations in further detail, by Block Group, in the City of Altoona.





Another way to consider racial distribution in a community is to look at the dissimilarity indices for an area. Dissimilarity indices measure the separation or integration of races across all parts of the city, county, or state. The dissimilarity index is based on the data from the 2010 U.S. Census and was calculated as part of Brown University's American Communities Project (<http://www.s4.brown.edu/us2010/>). The dissimilarity index measures whether one particular group is distributed across census tracts in the metropolitan area in the same way as another group. A high value indicates that the two groups tend to live in different tracts. It compares the integration of racial groups with the White population of the City, or MSA, on a scale from 0 to 100, with 0 being completely integrated and 100 being completely separate. A value of 60 (or above) is considered very high. It means that 60% (or more) of the members of one group would need to move to a different tract in order for the two groups to be equally distributed. Values of 40 or 50 are usually considered a moderate level of segregation, and values of 30 or below are considered to be fairly low and are integrated. The following table highlights the dissimilarity indices for various racial and ethnic groups, as compared to the White population in the City of Altoona.

The Black/African American population is the largest minority group in the City, making up approximately 3.3% of the population and with a dissimilarity index of 27.8. All other minority groups have relatively small populations, which introduces some error into the calculation of the dissimilarity indices. More specifically, for populations under 1,000 people, the dissimilarity index may be high even if the population is evenly distributed across the City, MSA, or State.

The dissimilarity numbers are low across the board from the 2000 Census, and is indicative of a City that is relatively integrated. However, when looking at the exposure index, the numbers reflect that neighborhoods are not as integrated as the index of dissimilarity indicates. Exposure indices refer to the racial/ethnic composition of the tract where the average member of a given group lives. For example, the average Hispanic in some metropolitan areas might live in a tract that is 40% Hispanic, 40% non-Hispanic white, 15% black, and 5% Asian. (Note that these various indices must add up to 100%.) These are presented in two categories: exposure of the group to itself (which is called the Index of Isolation) and exposure of the group to other groups.

The isolation index is the percentage of the same-group population in the census tract where the average number of a racial/ethnic group lives. It has a lower number than zero (for a very small group that is quite dispersed) to 100 (meaning that group members are entirely isolated from other groups). It should be kept in mind that this index is affected by the size of the group -- it is almost inevitably small for smaller groups, and it is likely to increase

over time if the group becomes larger. The isolation index of White to White in the City of Altoona is 93.1, Black to Black is 6, Hispanic to Hispanic is 1.6, and Asian to Asian is 1.

Indices of exposure to other groups also range from 0 to 100, where a larger value means that the average group member lives in a tract with a higher percentage of persons from the other group. These indices depend on two conditions: the overall size of the other group and each group's settlement pattern. The exposure to other group indices for Black to White in Altoona is 91.3, and for White to Black, 4.4. The indices for Hispanic to White is 91.9, and Asian to White is 92.8.

Table II-3 – Dissimilarity and Exposure Indices – City of Altoona

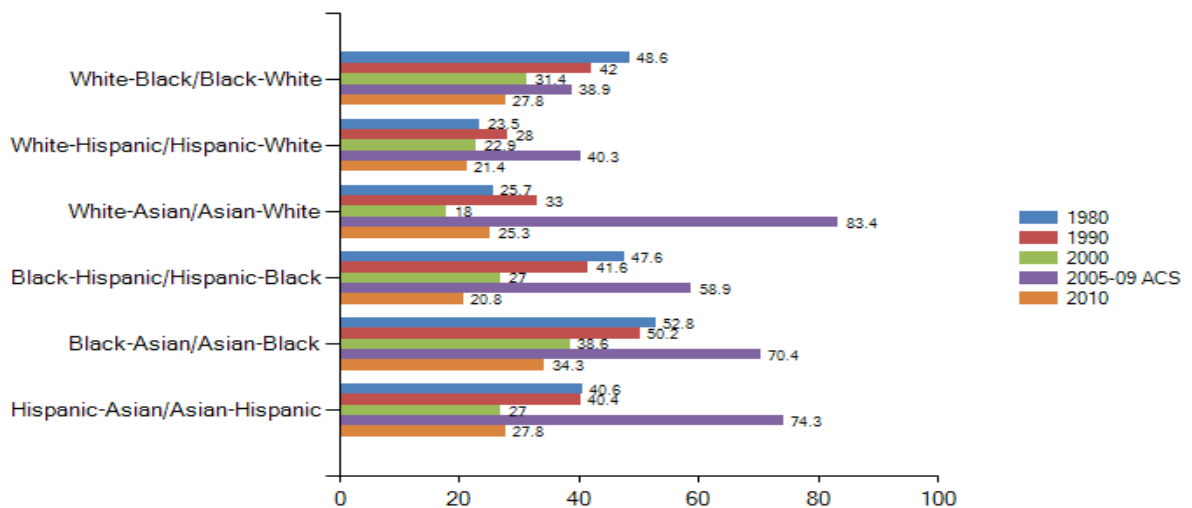
	Dissimilarity Index With Whites	Isolation Index	Exposure to Other Groups*
White	--	93.1	4.4**
Black	27.8	6	91.3
Asian	25.3	1	92.8
Hispanic	20.8	1.6	91.9

Source: American Communities Project, 2010 Census

* Exposure of minorities to Whites

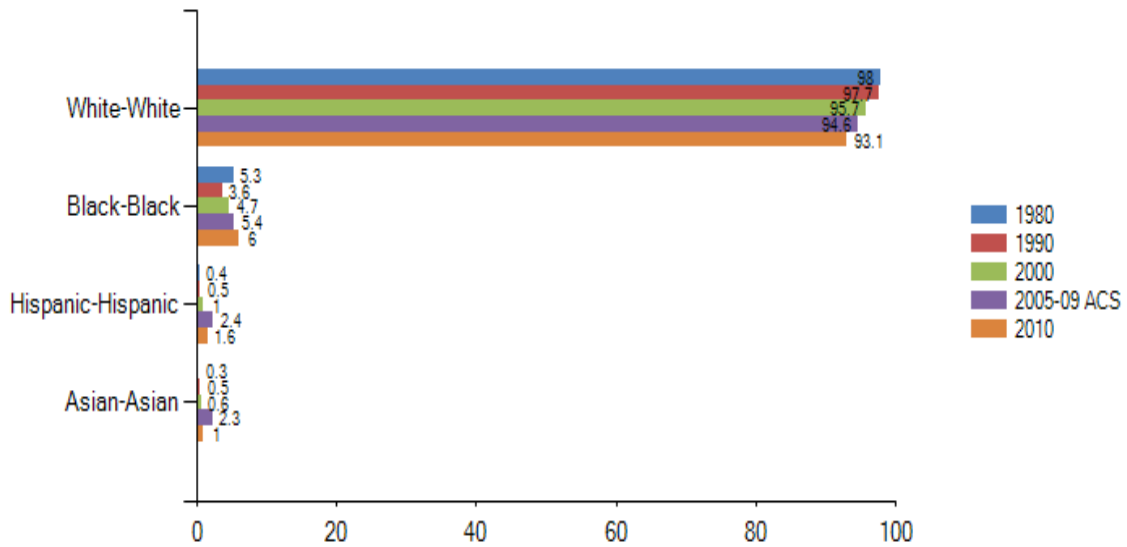
**Exposure of Whites to Blacks

Chart II-2 – Dissimilarity Index in the City of Altoona



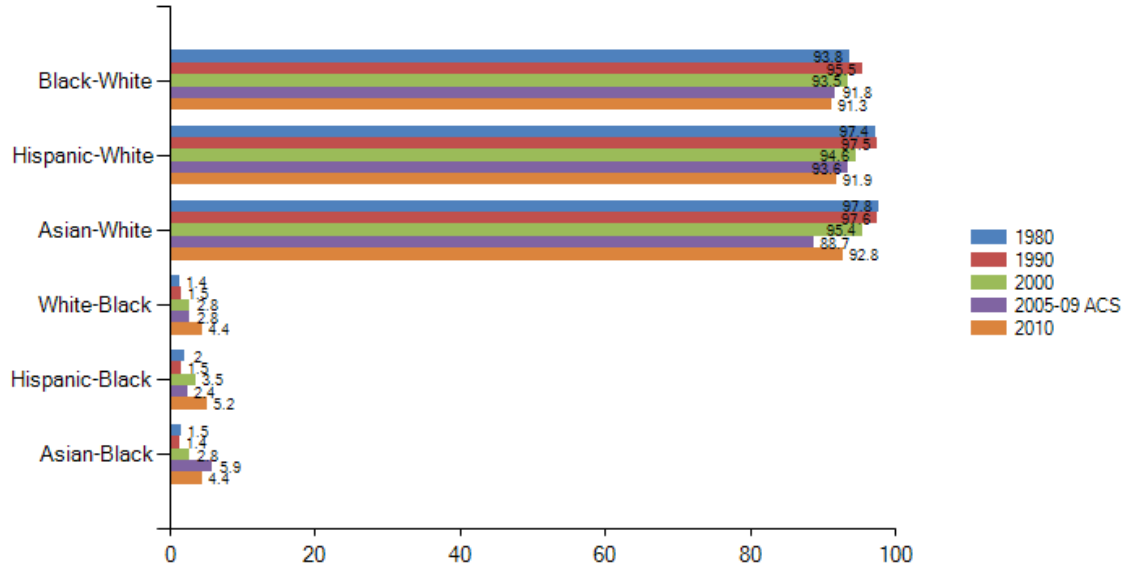
Source: American Communities Project, U.S. Census

Chart II-3 – Isolation Index in the City of Altoona



Source: American Communities Project, U.S. Census

Chart II-4 – Exposure Index in the City of Altoona



Source: American Communities Project, U.S. Census

Ethnicity

Table II-4 highlights the ethnicities of Altoona’s residents at the time of the 2010 U.S. Census and more recent reports.

Table II-4 – Population by Ethnicity in the City of Altoona, PA

ANCESTRY	2010 U.S. Census		2013-2017 ACS	
	#	%	#	%
Total population	46,883	-	44,749	-
American	2,185	4.7%	2,152	4.8%
Arab	80	0.2%	158	0.4%
Czech	70	0.1%	85	0.2%
Danish	21	0.0%	0	0.0%
Dutch	846	1.8%	645	1.4%
English	3,510	7.5%	2,387	5.3%
French (except Basque)	1,070	2.3%	635	1.4%
French Canadian	84	0.2%	49	0.1%
German	19,843	42.3%	14,772	33.0%
Greek	187	0.4%	181	0.4%
Hungarian	323	0.7%	178	0.4%
Irish	10,230	21.8%	8,031	17.9%
Italian	7,090	15.1%	5,981	13.4%
Lithuanian	48	0.1%	88	0.2%
Norwegian	61	0.1%	111	0.2%
Polish	2,457	5.2%	2,329	5.2%
Portuguese	14	0.0%	8	0.0%
Russian	169	0.4%	286	0.6%
Scotch-Irish	1,085	2.3%	435	1.0%
Scottish	798	1.7%	679	1.5%

Slovak	325	0.7%	354	0.8%
Sub-Saharan African	100	0.2%	172	0.4%
Swedish	422	0.9%	481	1.1%
Swiss	218	0.5%	57	0.1%
Ukrainian	154	0.3%	136	0.3%
Welsh	497	1.1%	420	0.9%
West Indian (excluding Hispanic origin groups)	138	0.3%	14	0.0%

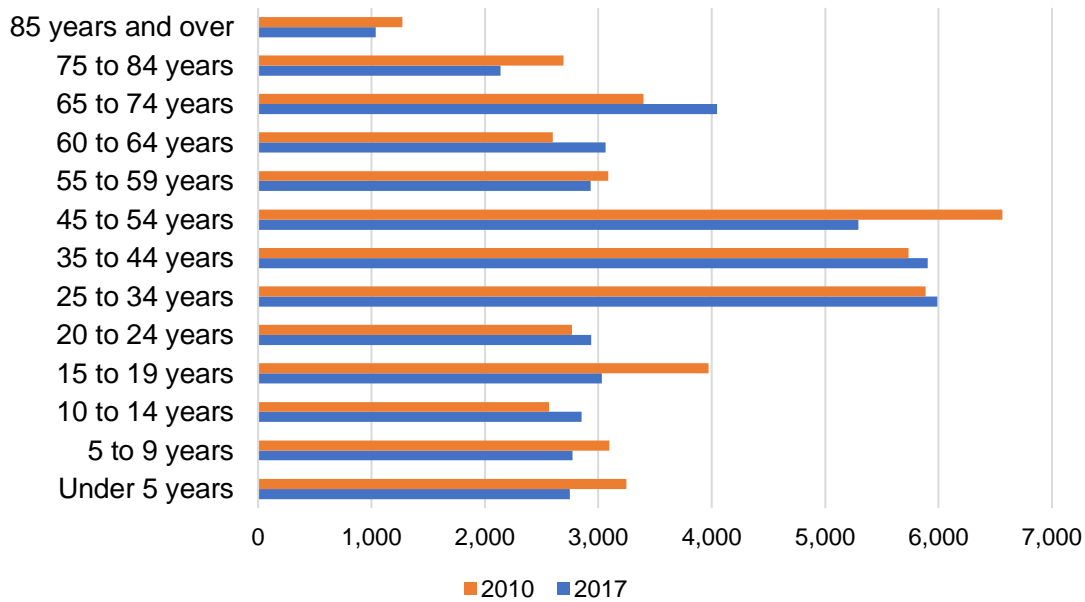
Source: 2010 Census and 2013-2017 ACS

The largest ethnicities cover 5% of the population in Altoona include German, Irish, Italian, Irish and Polish. Between 2010 and 2017, Altoona experienced a slight increase (0.1%) in the percentage of residents identifying themselves as American. Many of the other ethnicities experienced slight fluctuations between 2010 and 2017. The 2013-2017 American Community Survey did not include “Other Ancestries” as an option, so this may account for an increase in some of the other categories in the event that survey participants selected an ancestry that most closely described their actual ancestry.

Age

Chart II-5 below illustrates age distribution within the City for 2017. Children under five years of age represented 6.40% of the population; 26.30% of the City’s population was under 20 years of age; and 15.20% were 65 years of age or older.

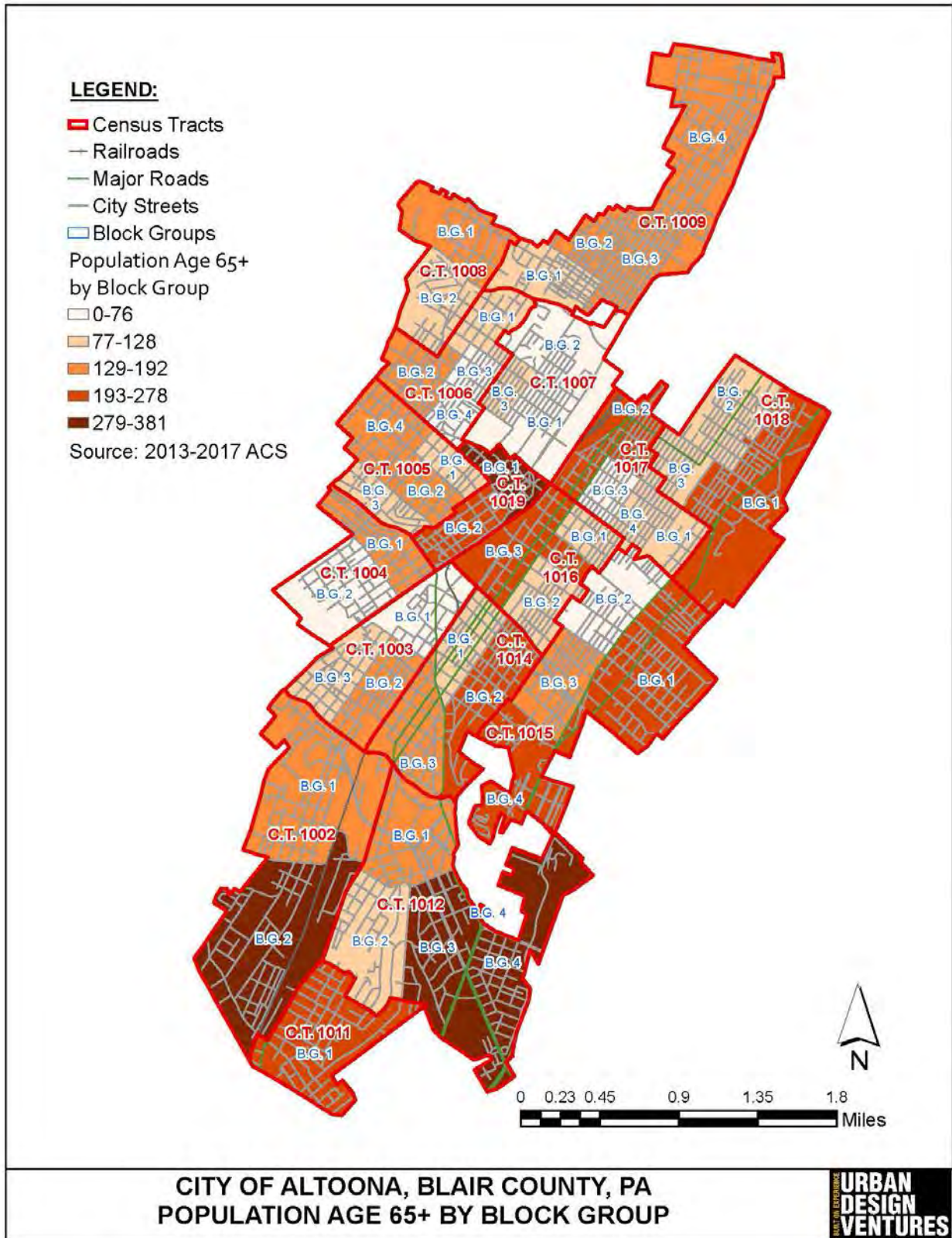
Chart II-5 – Age of Population in the City of Altoona, PA

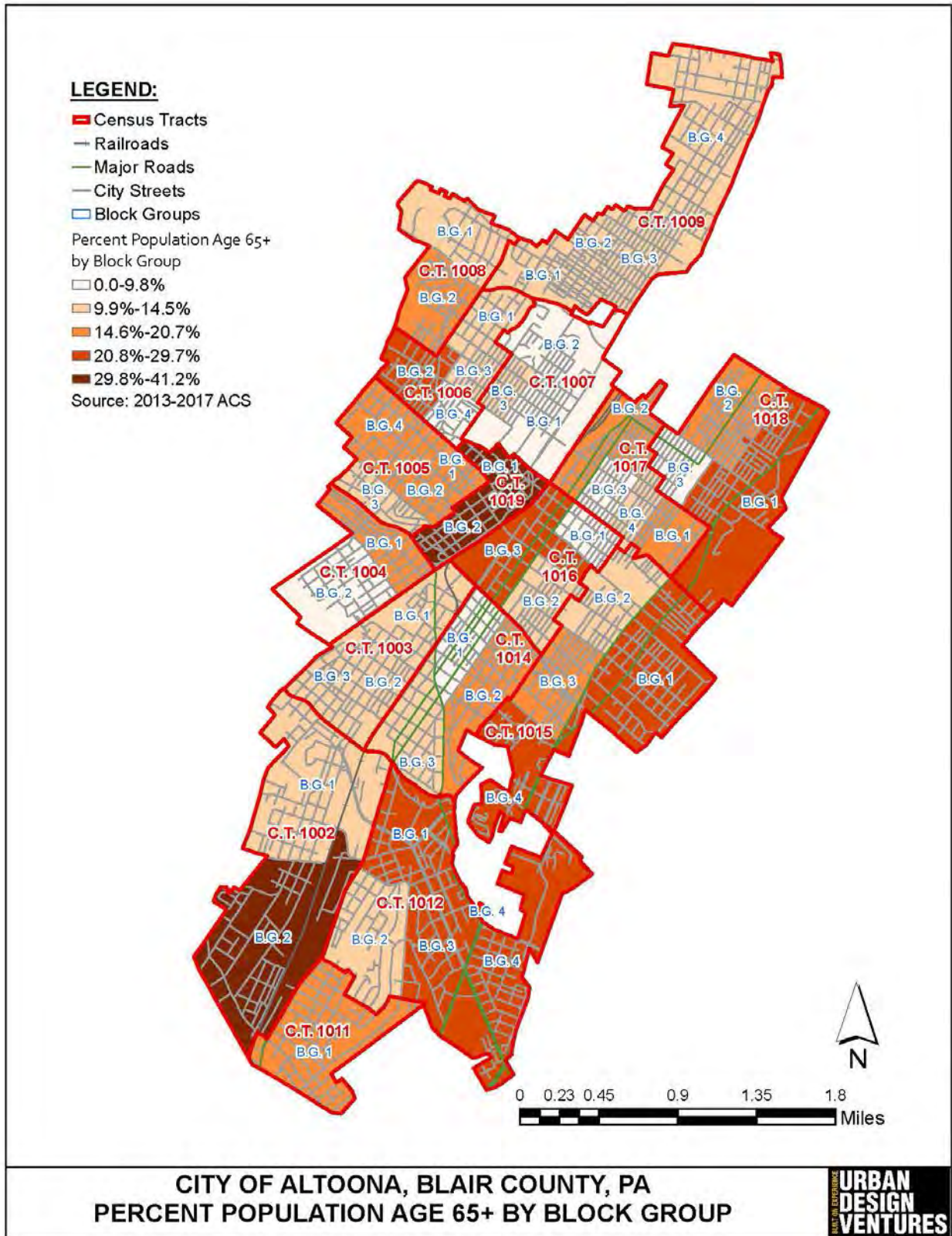


Source: 2010 U.S. Census Data and 2013-2017 ACS Estimates

The median age in the City of Altoona at the time of the 2010 Census was 38.0 and remained the same at time of the 2017 ACS Estimates. The median age in Blair County is slightly higher at 43.1 years, and the median age in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is similar at 40.7 years.

The following maps illustrate the count and percentage of the population Age 65 and Over by Block Group in the City of Altoona. There has been a national increase in the percentage of the population age 65 and over, and as a result, a greater need for ADA improvements in housing. Age 65 and over individuals and households are presumed to be low- or moderate-income, because many are living on fixed incomes.





Religion

The U.S. Census does not collect data on the religious affiliations of the population in the United States. In an effort to better understand the religious affiliations of the residents of Altoona, the City used the data made available by the Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA). ARDA surveys the congregation members, their children, and other people who regularly attend church services within counties across the country. Although this data appears to be the most comprehensive data that is available, it is unfortunately not entirely complete as it does not accurately include traditional African American denominations. The total number of regular attendees was adjusted in 2010 (the most recent year for which data is available) to represent the population including historic African American denominations. Also, no data for African American denominations was available for the year 2000. However, the total number cannot be disaggregated to determine the distribution across religious denominational groups. The table below shows the distribution of residents of Blair County across various denominational groups, as a percentage of the population which reported affiliation with a church.

Table II-5 compares religious affiliation in Blair County between 1980 and 2010. Data from the Association of Religion Data Archives was used.

Table II-5: Religious Affiliation in Blair County

	1980		1990		2000		2010	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Evangelical Protestant	11,022	13.5%	11,960	17.3%	13,344	18.5%	16,790	25.2%
Black Protestant	266	0.3%	266	0.4%	0	0.0%	191	0.3%
Mainline Protestant	36,414	44.5%	30,060	43.4%	25,338	35.1%	19,747	29.6%
Catholic	33,320	40.7%	26,028	37.6%	32,063	44.4%	27,606	41.4%
Orthodox	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	413	0.6%	368	0.6%
Other	859	1.0%	876	1.3%	1,025	1.4%	1,931	2.9%
Total Adherents:	81,881	59.9%	69,190	53.0%	72,183	55.9%	66,633	52.4%

Unclaimed (% of total population)	54,740	40.1%	61,352	47.0%	56,961	44.1%	60,456	47.6%
Total Population:	136,621	-	130,542	-	129,144	-	127,089	-

Source: The Association of Religious Data Archives; <http://www.thearda.com/>

Between 1980 and 2010, the percentage of individuals identifying themselves as “Mainline Protestants” in Blair County decreased from 1980 to 2000 and then increased in 2010. During this time period, there was also a significant increase in the percentage of individuals identifying as “Evangelical Protestants.” Between 1980 and 2010, Blair County saw a slight decrease in the number of people identifying with traditional religious organizations.

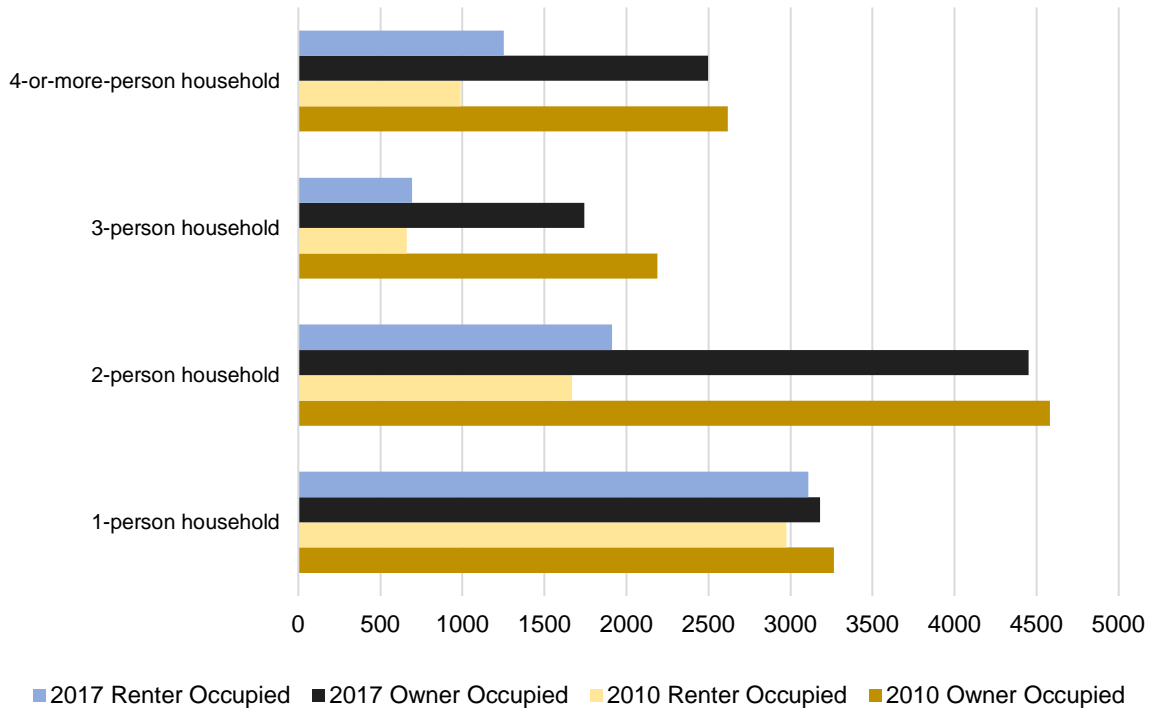
The most common religious affiliation identified in Blair County in 2010 was Catholic with 27,606 adherents comprising of 41.4% of the population. The second most common religious affiliation identified in Blair County in 2010 was Mainline Protestant with 19,747 adherents comprising of 29.6% of the population.

B. Households:

According to the 2017 ACS Estimates, there were 20,813 housing units in the City of Altoona. This is a 1.24% decrease from the 2010 Census, which reported a total of 21,075 households in the City. Of the 2017 households: 63.0% were owners and 37.0% were renters, whereas in 2010: 66.8% were owners and 33.2% were renters. This shows that there was almost a 6% decrease in homeownership in the past decade.

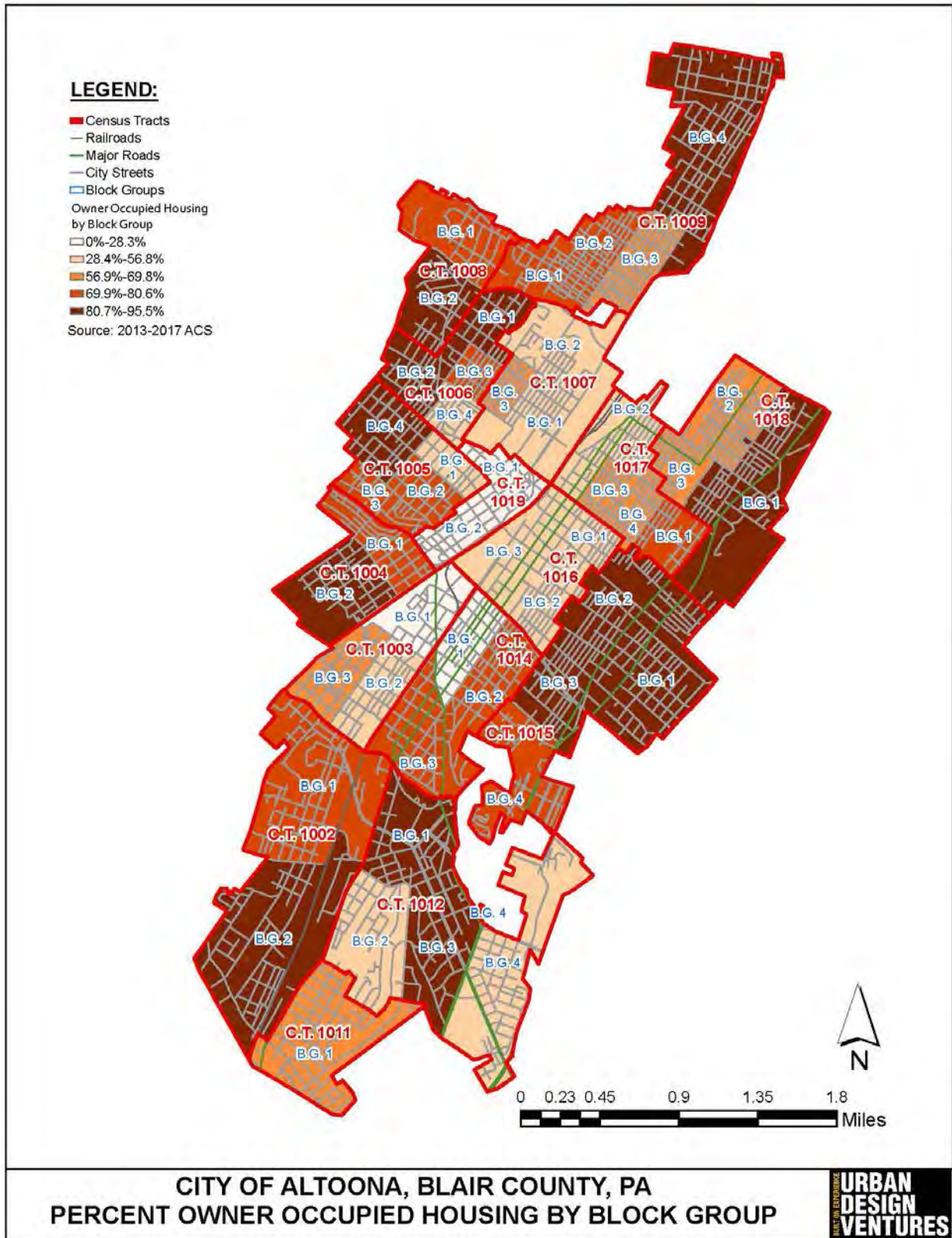
The average size of the owner-occupied households was 2.51 persons, and the average renter household was 2.07 persons. **Chart II-5** illustrates household size breakdown for owner and renter households.

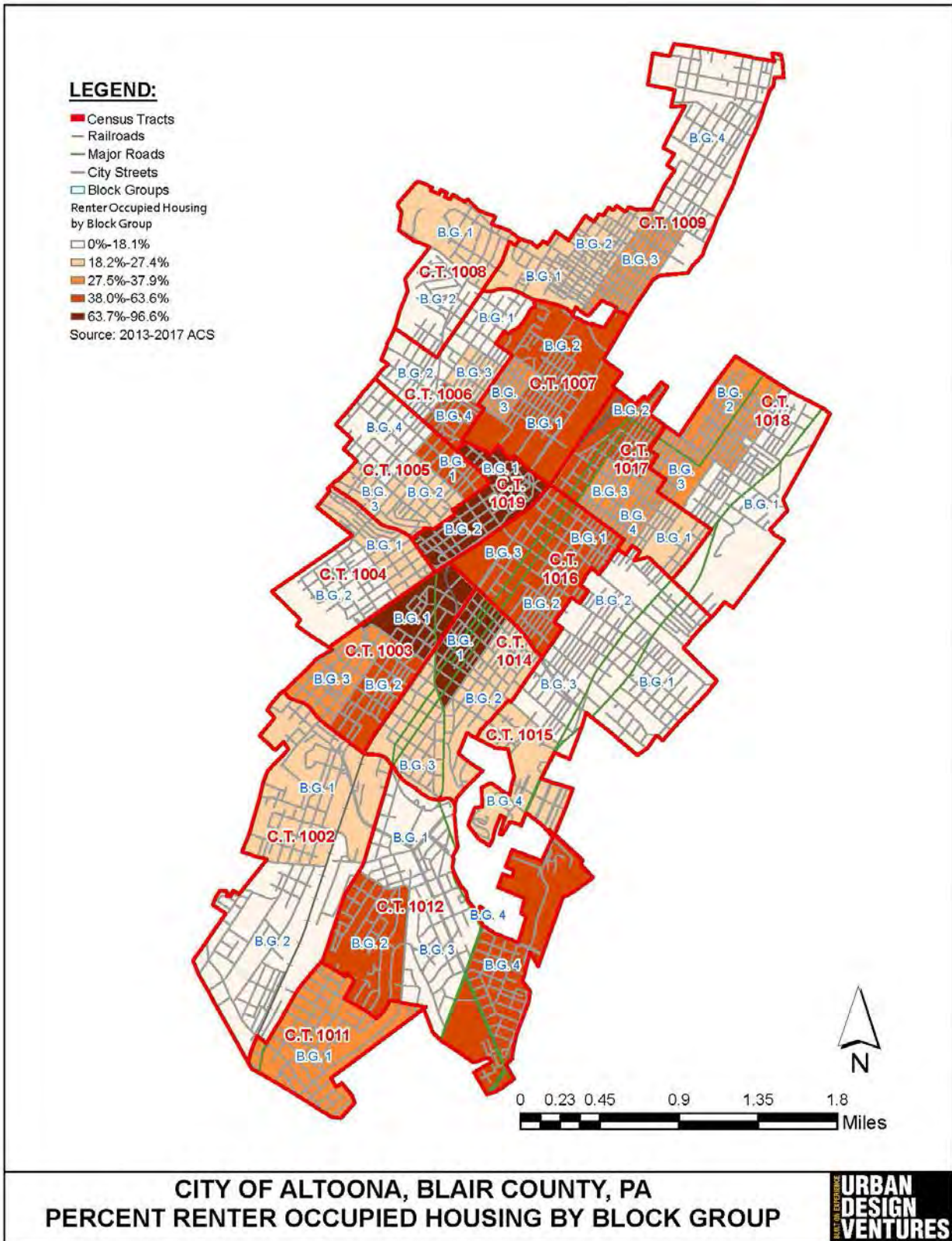
Chart II-5 – Occupancy by Tenure in the City of Altoona, PA



Source: 2010 U.S. Census and 2013-2017 ACS

The following maps illustrate the percentages of Owner and Renter-Occupied Housing Units by Block Points in the City of Altoona.





The following **Table II-6** compares homeowners and renters by race. This table shows that White households represent the largest percentage of homeownership (98.1%) with Black or African American households comprising (1.2%) of the total homeowners.

Of the total number of White households, 62.9% are homeowners and 32.2% are renters. In comparison, of all Black and African American households, 29.6% are homeowners and 70.4% are renters.

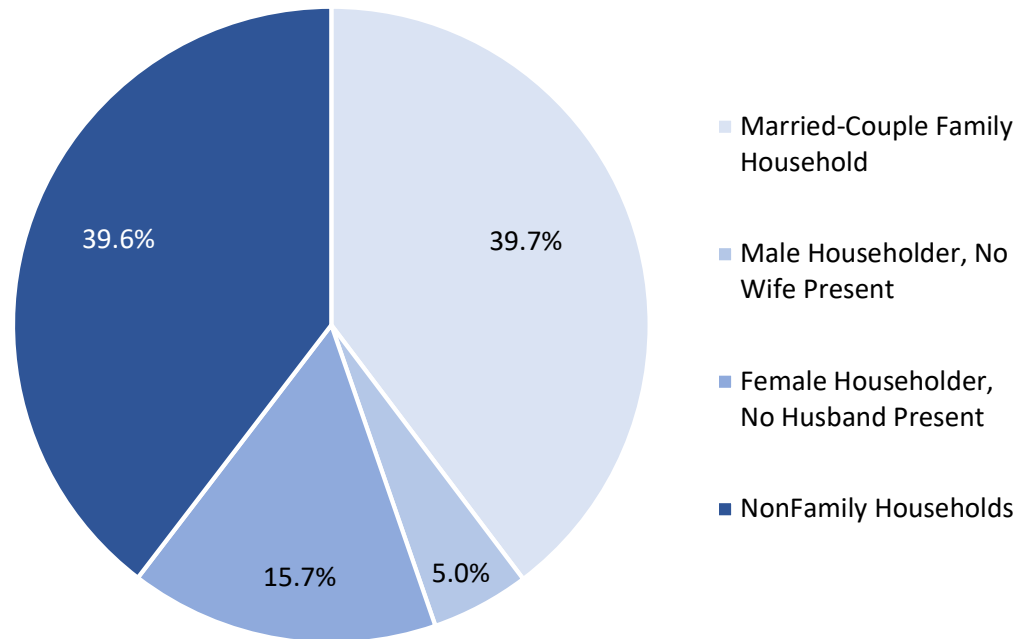
Table II-6 – Household Tenure by Race

Cohort	2010 U.S. Census				2013-2017 ACS			
	Owner	%	Renter	%	Owner	%	Renter	%
Householder who is White alone	12,348	97.6%	5,814	92.4%	11,681	98.4%	6,384	91.7%
Householder who is Black or African American alone	127	1.0%	378	6.0%	146	1.2%	276	4.0%
Householder who is American Indian and Alaska Native alone	25	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Householder who is Asian alone	63	0.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	13	0.2%
Householder who is Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	13	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	7	0.1%
Householder who is some other race alone	13	0.1%	69	1.1%	7	0.1%	42	0.6%
Householder who is two or more races	63	0.5%	31	0.5%	36	0.3%	243	3.5%
Householder who is Hispanic or Latino	63	0.5%	151	2.4%	119	1.0%	133	1.9%
Householder who is not Hispanic or Latino	12,298	97.2%	5,732	91.1%	11,584	97.6%	6,293	90.4%

Source: 2010 Census & 2013-2017 ACS

Families comprised 39.7% of households in the City. Of these households, 15.7% of families were female-headed households. **Chart II-6** illustrates households by type in Altoona.

Chart II-6 – Households by Type in the City of Altoona, PA



Source: 2013-2017 ACS Estimates

C. Income and Poverty:

According to the 2006-2010 American Community Survey the median household income for the City of Altoona was \$35,629, which was slightly less than the median household income of \$42,363 for Blair County, and much lower than the median household income of \$50,398 for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The 2013-2017 American Community Survey reported that the median household income for Altoona increased to \$38,592, compared to \$45,664 for Blair County, and \$56,951 for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. **Table II-7** illustrates household income trends.

Table II-7 – Household Income in the City of Altoona, PA

Items	2006-2010 ACS		2013-2017 ACS	
	Number of Households	Percentage	Number of Households	Percentage
Total Households	18,944	-	18,835	-
Less than \$10,000	2,205	11.6%	1,952	10.4%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	1,443	7.6%	1,806	9.6%



\$15,000 to \$24,999	2,981	15.7%	2,801	14.9%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	2,710	14.3%	2,066	11.0%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	2,749	14.5%	2,904	15.4%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	3,545	18.7%	3,345	17.8%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	1,886	10.0%	2,235	11.9%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,109	5.9%	1,217	6.5%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	163	0.9%	286	1.5%
\$200,000 or more	153	0.8%	223	1.2%
Median Household Income	\$35,629	-	\$38,592	-
Mean Household Income	\$46,245	-	\$51,285	-

Source: 2010 ACS and 2013-2017 ACS

Table II-8 below identifies the Section 8 Income Limits for the Altoona, PA Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) based on household size for FY 2019. The Median Family Household Income for a family of 4 living in the Altoona, PA MSA was \$63,000 in 2019.

Table II-8 – Section 8 Income Limits for 2019 for the Altoona, PA MSA

Income Category	1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person	7 Person	8 Person
Extremely Low (30%) Income Limits (\$)	\$13,300	\$16,910	\$21,330	\$25,750	\$30,170	\$34,590	\$39,010	\$41,750
Very Low (50%) Income Limits (\$)	\$22,150	\$25,300	\$28,450	\$31,600	\$34,150	\$36,700	\$39,200	\$41,750
Low (80%) Income Limits (\$)	\$35,400	\$40,450	\$45,500	\$50,550	\$54,600	\$58,650	\$62,700	\$66,750

Data obtained from hud.gov

Table II-9 below highlights the low- and moderate-income population in the City of Altoona.

Table II-9 – Low- and Moderate-Income in the City of Altoona, PA

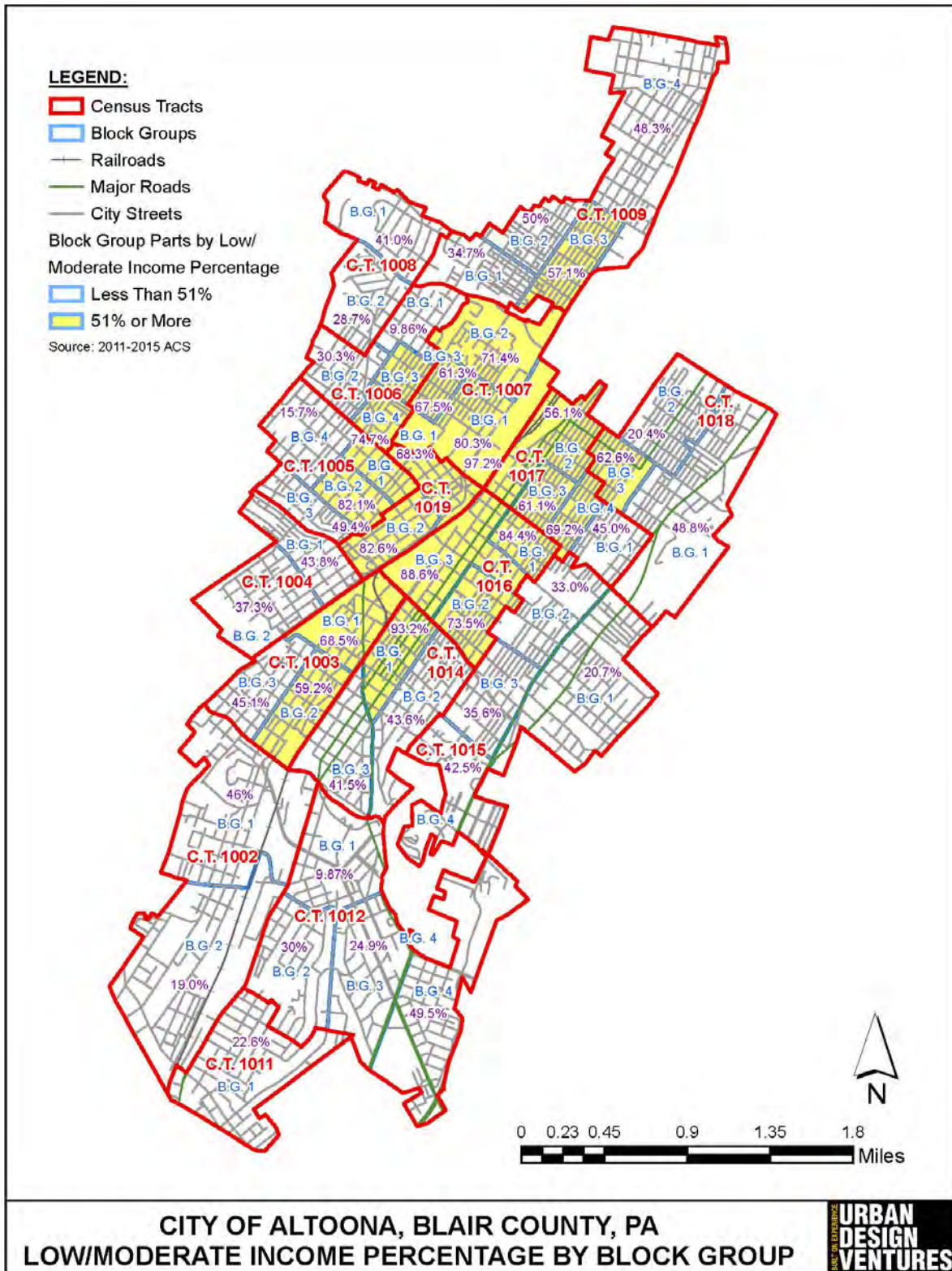
TRACT	BLKGRP	LOWMOD	LOWMODUNIV	LOWMODPCT
100200	1	575	1,250	46.00%
100200	2	185	970	19.07%
100300	1	240	350	68.57%
100300	2	850	1,435	59.23%
100300	3	460	1,020	45.10%
100400	1	460	1,050	43.81%
100400	2	280	750	37.33%
100500	1	635	850	74.71%
100500	2	785	955	82.20%
100500	3	470	950	49.47%
100500	4	165	1,050	15.71%
100600	1	70	710	9.86%
100600	2	250	825	30.30%
100600	3	230	375	61.33%
100600	4	530	775	68.39%
100700	1	755	940	80.32%
100700	2	775	1,085	71.43%
100700	3	405	600	67.50%
100800	1	240	585	41.03%
100800	2	200	695	28.78%
100900	1	205	590	34.75%
100900	2	610	1,220	50.00%
100900	3	580	1,015	57.14%
100900	4	645	1,335	48.31%
101100	1	345	1,525	22.62%
101200	1	80	810	9.88%
101200	2	225	750	30.00%
101200	3	325	1,305	24.90%
101200	4	560	1,130	49.56%
101400	1	1,100	1,180	93.22%
101400	2	690	1,580	43.67%
101400	3	370	890	41.57%
101500	1	230	1,110	20.72%
101500	2	175	530	33.02%
101500	3	260	730	35.62%
101500	4	315	740	42.57%
101600	1	785	930	84.41%

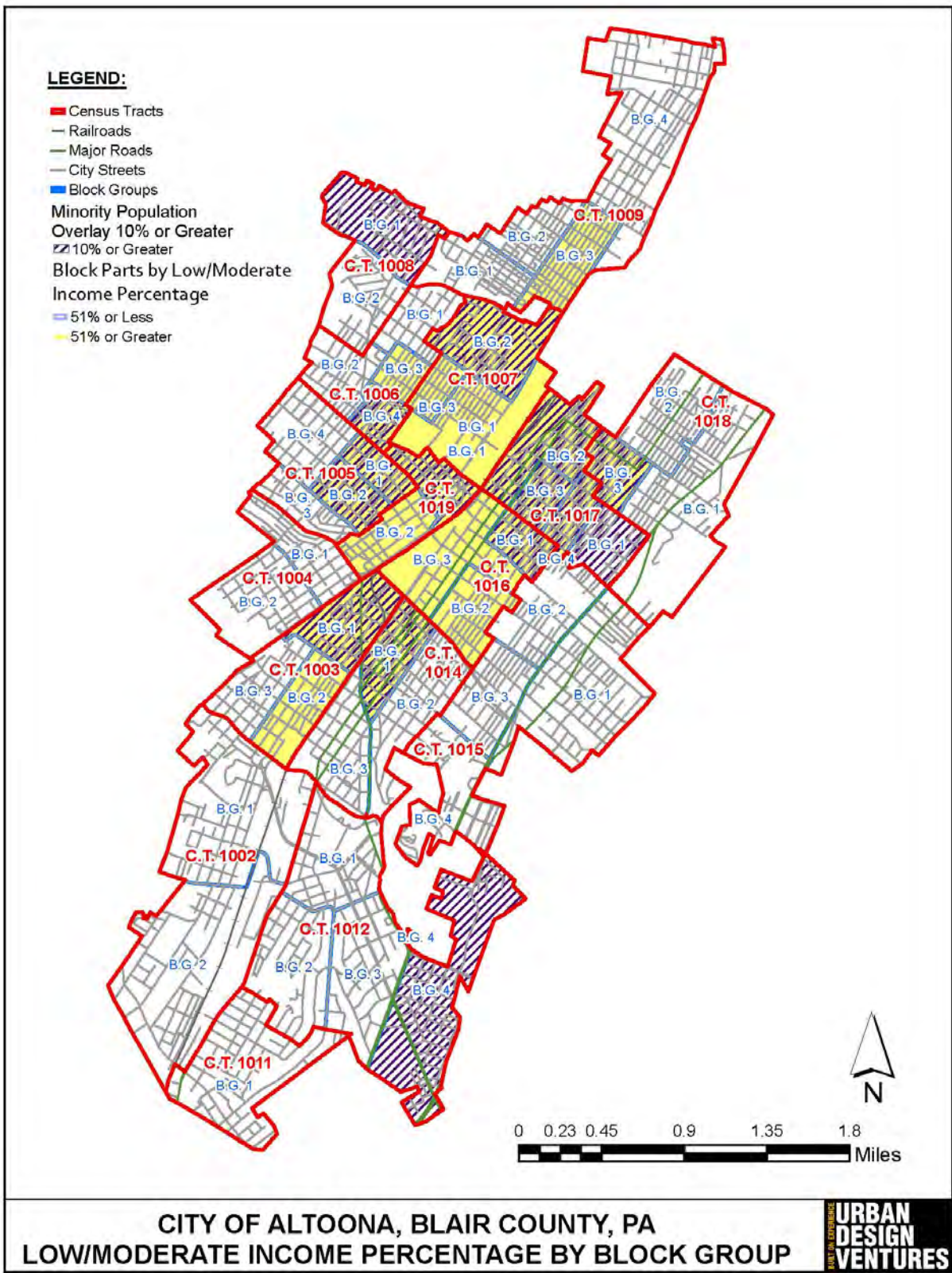
101600	2	905	1,230	73.58%
101600	3	1,135	1,280	88.67%
101700	1	275	610	45.08%
101700	2	780	1,390	56.12%
101700	3	550	900	61.11%
101700	4	575	830	69.28%
101800	1	435	890	48.88%
101800	2	185	905	20.44%
101800	3	605	965	62.69%
101900	1	695	715	97.20%
101900	2	500	605	82.64%
City of Altoona Total		22,700	44,910	44.95%

Data obtained from hud.gov

Over forty percent (44.95%) of all residents in the City of Altoona were considered low- to moderate-income according to the HUD’s calculations based on the 2011-2015 American Community Survey data. More than twenty percent (23.2%) of the population in the City of Altoona was living below the poverty level according to the 2013-2017 American Community Survey. In comparison, 15.2% of the population in Blair County was living below the poverty level, and 13.1% of the population in Pennsylvania shared this same economic status.

The following maps illustrate the percentages of Low-Income Population and Low-Income/Minority Population by Block Group in the City of Altoona.

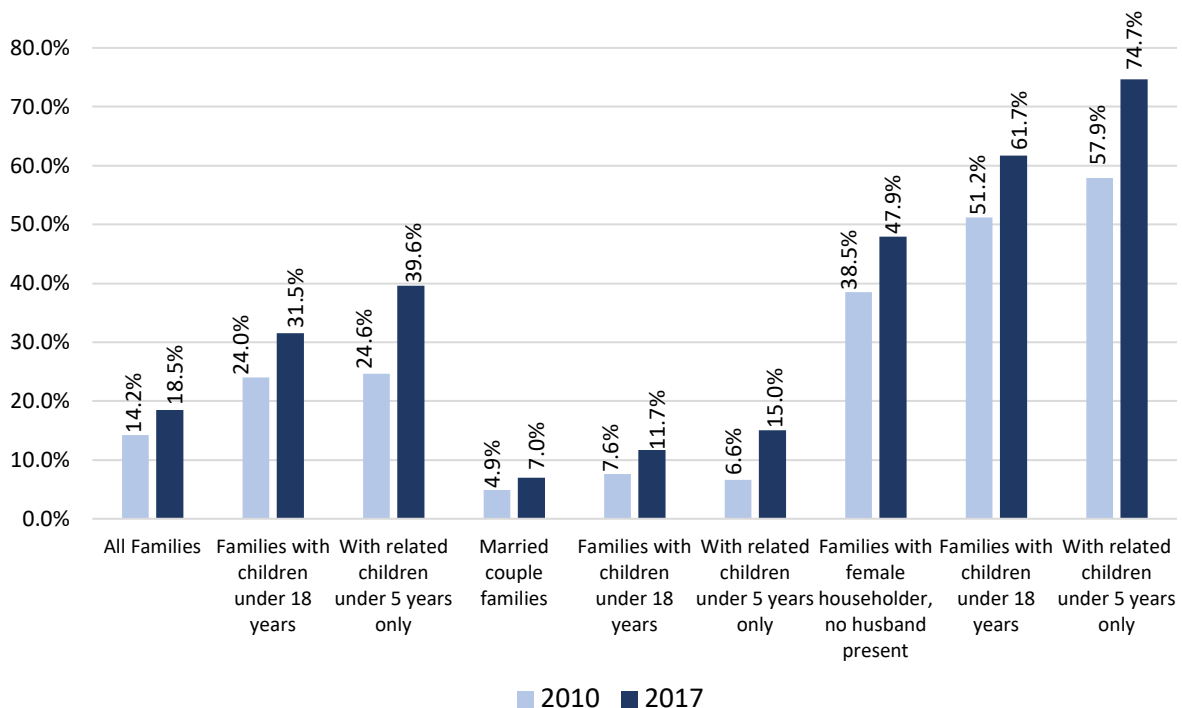




The City’s poverty statistics for families with children are significant, particularly for single mothers. In 2010 approximately 14.2% of families were living in poverty and in 2017 approximately 18.5% of families were living in poverty. **Chart II-7** illustrates the poverty statistics for families living in the City of Altoona. At the time of the 2013-2017 American Community Survey, the percentage of some families with children living below the poverty level was as follows:

- Families with related children under the age of 18 was 31.5%.
- Families with related children under the age of 5 was 39.6%.
- Female-headed families with related children under the age of 18 was 61.7%.
- Female-headed families with related children under the age of 5 was 74.7%.

Chart II-7 – Families in Poverty in the City of Altoona, PA

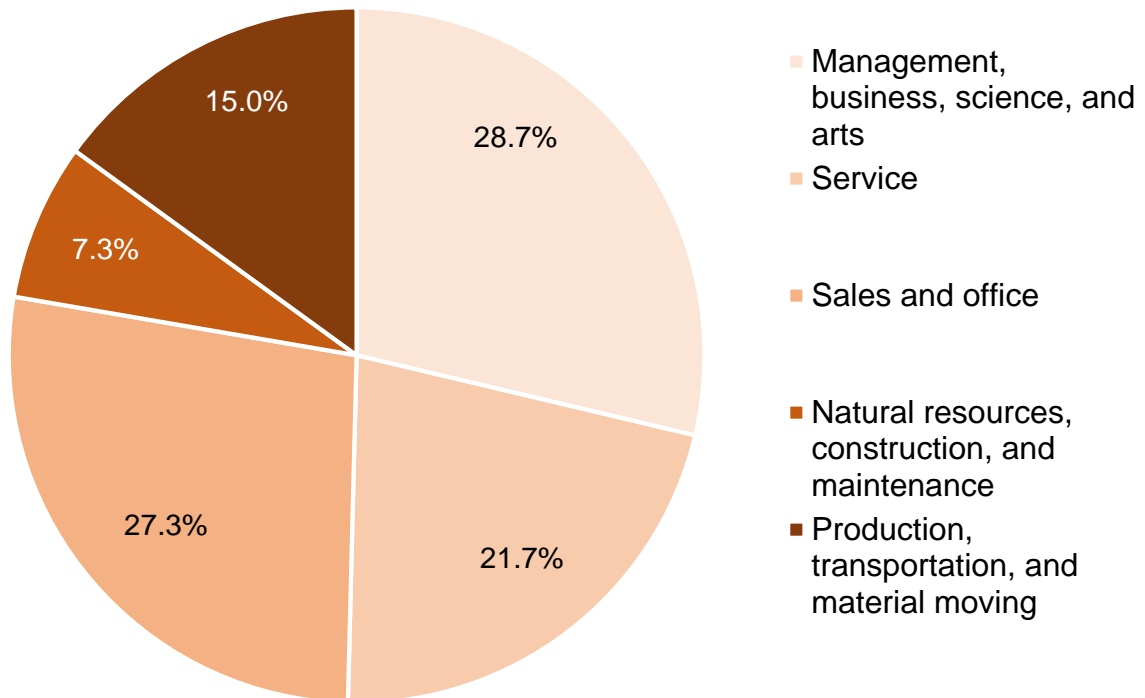


Source: 2010 U.S. Census and 201-2017 American Community Survey

D. Employment:

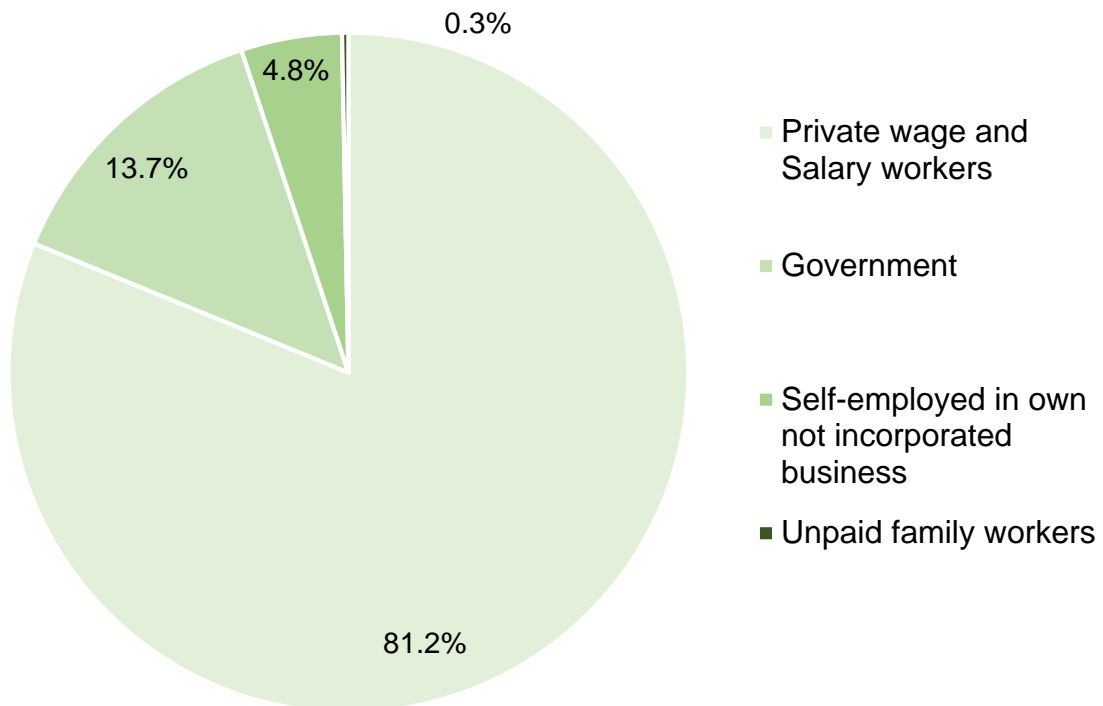
In 2017, according to the 2013-2017 ACS, 58.7% of the City’s residents 16 years of age and over were considered a part of the labor force. This compares to 58.7% in Blair County and 62.6% in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. **Chart II-8** and **Chart II-9** below illustrate the classes of workers and the occupations. Most workers were employed in the private sector (81.2%). Management, business, science, and arts occupations were the most common at 28.7%, followed closely by sales and office occupations (27.3%) and service (21.7%) occupations.

Chart II-8 – Altoona Occupations



Source: 2013-2017 American Community Survey

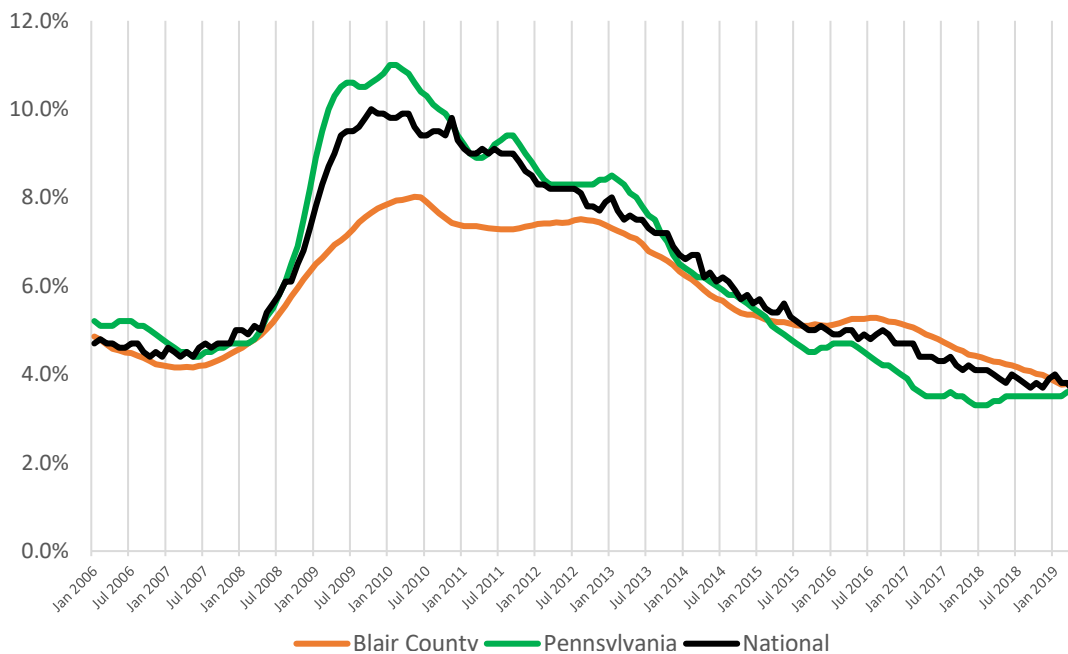
Chart II-9 – Altoona Class of Worker



Source: 2013-2017 American Community Survey

Chart II-10 illustrates the unemployment rate trends for section of the Blair County from January 2006 through May 2019 from the Bureau of Labor (www.bls.gov).

Chart II-10 – Altoona Area Unemployment Rate



Source: <http://data.bls.gov>

The unemployment rate for Blair County is represented by the Orange “Blair County” line on chart II-10. The City data was provided by the St. Louis Federal Reserve Economic Database (FRED) and is non-seasonally adjusted, so manual adjustment was required for comparison.

The Blair County data was only available as non-seasonally adjusted data, which is problematic when the objective is to compare said data to other data that is seasonally adjusted. The non-seasonally adjusted County data was manually adjusted to be seasonally adjusted by using weighting each data point against a moving pre-6th month and post-6th month average. By weighting each data point against a moving average, the data becomes seasonally adjusted by eliminating the consistent and cyclical increase in unemployment that is observed during the December-January-February month time frame.

The unemployment rate on Chart II-10 for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is represented by the Green “Pennsylvania” line. The Commonwealth data was provided by the St. Louis FRED Database as seasonally adjusted, so manual adjustment was not required for comparison.

The unemployment rate for the Nation is represented by the Black “National” line. The National data was provided by the St. Louis FRED Database as seasonally adjusted, so manual adjustment was not required for comparison.

From the months of January 2009 through February 2015, the unemployment rate in the County remained lower than the national and state unemployment rates. Across that time period, Blair County had an average unemployment rate 1.2% lower than the Commonwealth unemployment rate and 0.8% lower than the national unemployment rate.

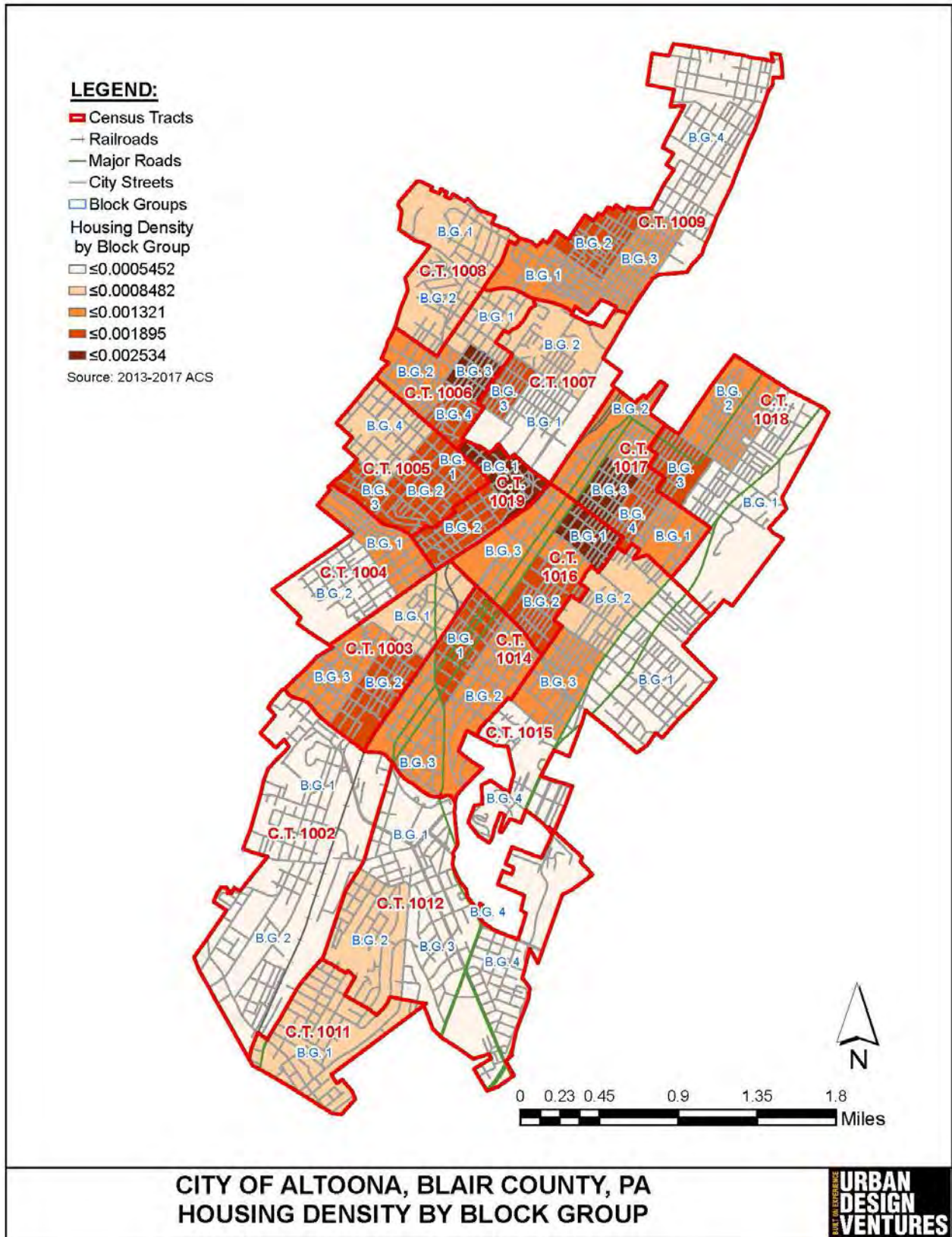
From the months of March 2015 through the most recent data available (May 2019), the unemployment rate in the County remained higher than the national and state unemployment rates. Across that time period, Blair County had an average unemployment rate 0.7% higher than the State unemployment rate and 0.2% higher than the national unemployment rate.

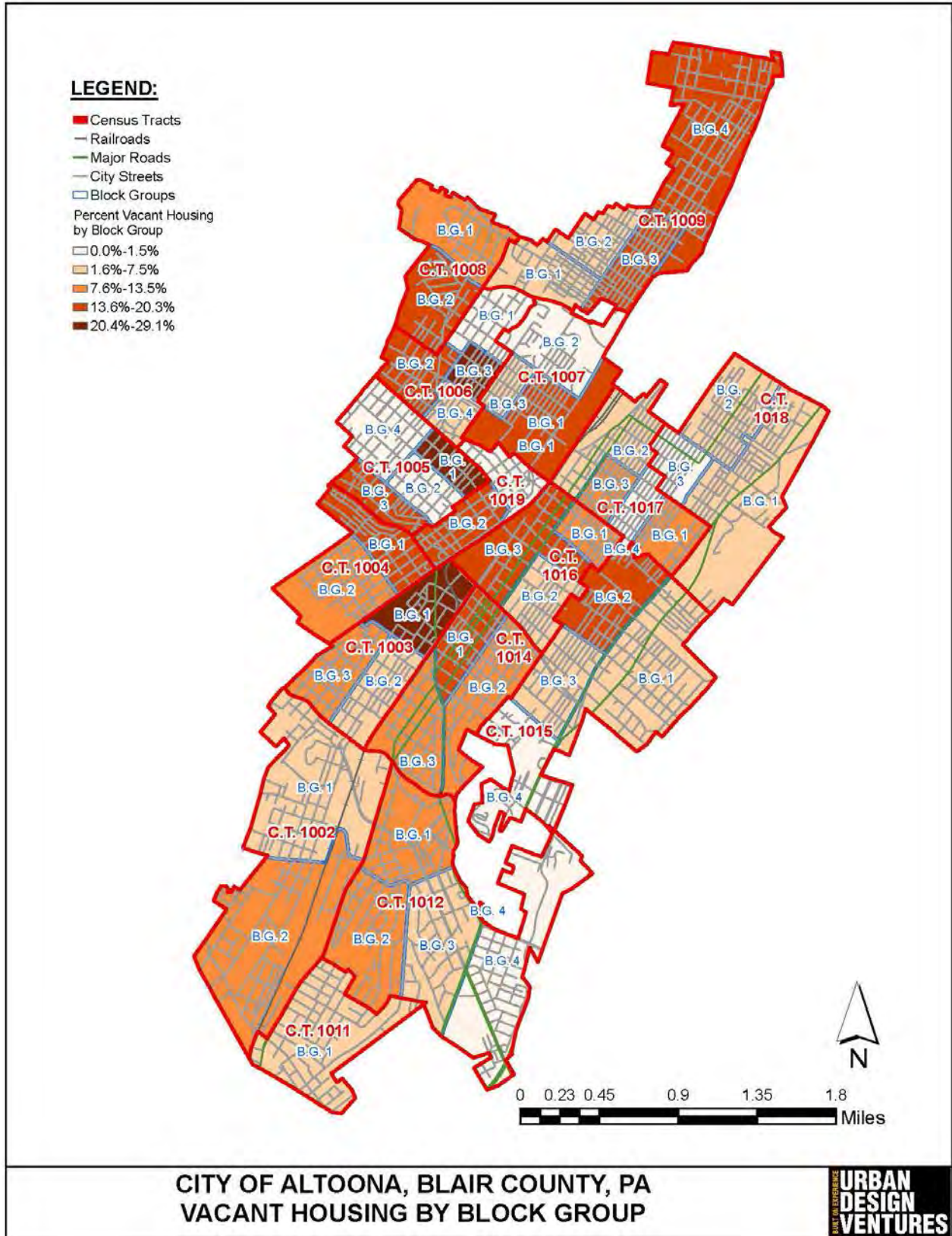
The most recent data available has Blair County’s unemployment rate at 3.8% (May 2019) compared to the state and national rate of 3.6%.

E. Housing Profile:

The 2013-2017 American Community Survey Data reported that there were 20,813 housing units in the City of Altoona, of which 18,835 (90.5%) were occupied; this leaves a vacancy rate of 9.5% in the City. Most of the vacant units are located in the center of the City.

The following maps illustrate the number of Total Housing Units per Block Group and the percentage of Vacant Housing Units by Block Group in the City of Altoona.





Based on the 2013-2017 American Community Survey Data, the City of Altoona’s housing stock is considered older, since 48.4% of it was constructed prior to 1939, and another 25.8% was constructed between 1940 and 1959. Therefore, almost three quarters of the City’s housing stock (74.2%) was built prior to 1960. It is estimated that the City of Altoona has only seen moderate construction of housing to meet the demands of the City’s stable population. Since the year 2000, the City has built only 1.1% of its housing stock.

Chart II-11 illustrates the year that housing structures were built in the City of Altoona based on the 2013-2017 American Community Survey.

Chart II-11 – Year Structure Built in the City of Altoona, PA

Housing Profile	2006-2010 ACS		2013-2017 ACS	
	#	%	#	%
Total Housing Units	21,075	-	20,813	-
Built 2010 or newer	-	-	26	0.1%
Built 2000 to 2009	334	1.6%	212	1.0%
Built 1990 to 1999	747	3.5%	627	3.0%
Built 1980 to 1989	780	3.7%	694	3.3%
Built 1970 to 1979	1,771	8.4%	2,198	10.6%
Built 1960 to 1969	1,793	8.5%	1,633	7.8%
Built 1950 to 1959	2,288	10.9%	3,207	15.4%
Built 1940 to 1949	2,560	12.1%	2,162	10.4%
Built 1939 or earlier	10,802	51.3%	10,054	48.4%

Source: 2006-2010 and 2013-2017 ACS

According to the City’s Department of Codes and Inspections 2018 annual report there were 3,468 code enforcement complaints. Of those complaints, 28.2% were related to garbage/rubbish, 26.9% for overgrown lots, 15.9% for unregistered rentals, 11.0% for repairs, 7.7% for vacant properties, 7.6% for furniture, 1.5% for condemnations/red-tags, and 1.0% for demolition orders. The compliance rate for 2018 was 87%, for a total of 2,638 incidences corrected.

The Department of Codes and Inspections also conducts inspections of residential rental unit properties every three years. In 2018 the department completed a total of 1,317 unit inspections accounting for approximately 19.1% of the rental unit stock. The most common violations include smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, GFI outlets in kitchens and bathrooms, handrails on stairs, and openable windows. Life-safety related

violations must be addressed within 10 days whereas all other violations must be addressed within 45 days.

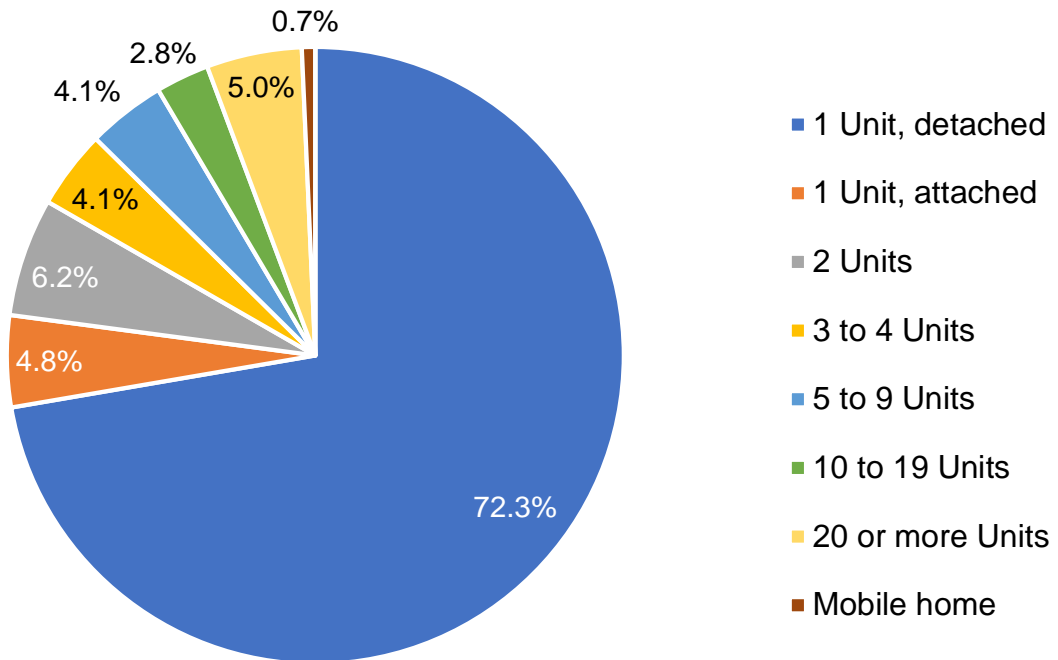
In 2010, the City's housing stock primarily consisted of detached single-family units (71.6%) and attached single-family attached (4.4%). In 2010, multi-family units in the City of Altoona consisted of: two units (7.7%); three to four units (4.8%); five to nine units (3.3%); ten to nineteen units (2.8%); and twenty units or more (4.8%). Mobile homes made up only 0.6% of the housing stock.

The median value of owner-occupied homes in the City of Altoona in 2010 was \$79,800 compared to \$97,400 for Blair County and \$159,300 for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Overall, the values of the housing stock in the City of Altoona seem to be lower than those of Blair County and much lower than the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as a whole.

In 2017, the City's housing stock primarily consisted of detached single-family homes (72.3%) and attached single-family homes (4.8%). In 2017, multi-family units in the City of Altoona consisted of: two units (6.2%); three to four units (4.1%); five to nine units (4.1%); ten to nineteen units (2.8%); and twenty units or more (5.0%). Mobile homes made up only 0.7% of the housing stock.

The median value of owner-occupied homes in the City of Altoona in 2017 was \$87,600 compared to \$117,300 for Blair County and \$170,500 for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Overall, the values of the housing stock in the City of Altoona continue to be lower than those of Blair County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as a whole. **Chart II-12** shows the change in types of housing stock over the last decade.

Chart II-12 – Housing Stock in the City of Altoona, PA



Source: 2013-2017 ACS

F. Financing:

Owner Costs

The median mortgage expense in the City of Altoona for 2010 was \$663, compared to \$674 in 2017. **Table II-13** illustrates mortgage status and selected monthly owner costs. Monthly owner costs increased by only 1.66%, while median income during the same time period increased by approximately 8.32%.

The number of homes in Altoona without a mortgage slightly increased from 42.44% in 2000 to 42.63% in 2012. This is most likely due to the owners having lived in their homes long enough to have paid off their mortgage.

Table II-13 – Mortgage Status and Selected Monthly Owner Costs

Monthly Owner Cost	2006-2010 ACS		2013-2017 ACS	
	Number of Housing Units	Percentage	Number of Housing Units	Percentage
Owner-Occupied Housing Units	12,652	66.8%	11,870	63.0%
Less than \$300	1,493	11.8%	1,305	11.0%
\$300 to \$499	3,087	24.4%	2,953	24.9%
\$500 to \$799	3,150	24.9%	2,805	23.6%
\$800 to \$999	1,923	15.2%	1,912	16.1%
\$1,000 to \$1,499	2,252	17.8%	2,127	17.9%
\$1,500 to \$1,999	531	4.2%	550	4.6%
\$2,000 or more	215	1.7%	218	1.9%
No Cash Rent	-	-	-	-
Median (dollars)	\$663	-	\$674	-

Source: 2006-2010 and 2013-2017 ACS

A fifth of all owner-occupied households (17.3%) are paying over 30% of their monthly income on housing, indicating a relatively high percentage of owners whose housing is not considered affordable. **Table II-14** illustrates housing costs for owner-households.

Table II-14 – Selected Monthly Owner Costs as a Percentage of Household Income

Owner Costs as a % of Income	2006-2010 ACS		2013-2017 ACS	
	Number of Housing Units	Percentage	Number of Housing Units	Percentage
Owner-Occupied Housing Units	12,652	66.8%	11,870	63.0%

Less than \$20,000	1,822	14.4%	1,423	12.0%
Less than 20 percent	139	1.1%	159	1.3%
20 to 29 percent	430	3.4%	199	1.7%
30 percent or more	1,253	9.9%	1,065	9.0%
\$20,000 to \$34,999	2,594	20.5%	2,139	18.0%
Less than 20 percent	1,139	9.0%	906	7.6%
20 to 29 percent	671	5.3%	587	4.9%
30 percent or more	784	6.2%	646	5.5%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	2,176	17.2%	1,946	16.4%
Less than 20 percent	1,278	10.1%	1,071	9.0%
20 to 29 percent	531	4.2%	638	5.4%
30 percent or more	367	2.9%	237	2.0%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	3,074	24.3%	2,708	22.8%
Less than 20 percent	2,062	16.3%	1,971	16.6%
20 to 29 percent	797	6.3%	681	5.7%
30 percent or more	215	1.7%	56	0.5%
\$75,000 or more	2,973	23.5%	3,636	30.6%
Less than 20 percent	2,720	21.5%	3,344	28.2%
20 to 29 percent	228	1.8%	247	2.1%
30 percent or more	25	0.2%	45	0.3%
Zero or negative income	13	0.1%	18	0.2%
No cash rent	-	-	-	-

Source: 2006-2010 and 2013-2017 ACS

Trulia.com provides comprehensive statistics on current housing market trends for the City of Altoona. According to the “Market Trends” data from Trulia: “The median sales price for homes in Altoona, PA in the September 2018 to December 2018 quarter was \$90,000. This represents an increase of 9.8%, or \$8,000, compared to the prior quarter and an increase of 3.7% compared to the prior year. Over the past five (5) years, the median sales price for home sales in the City, as tracked by Trulia, has fluctuated between a low of \$72,500 and a high of \$99,990.

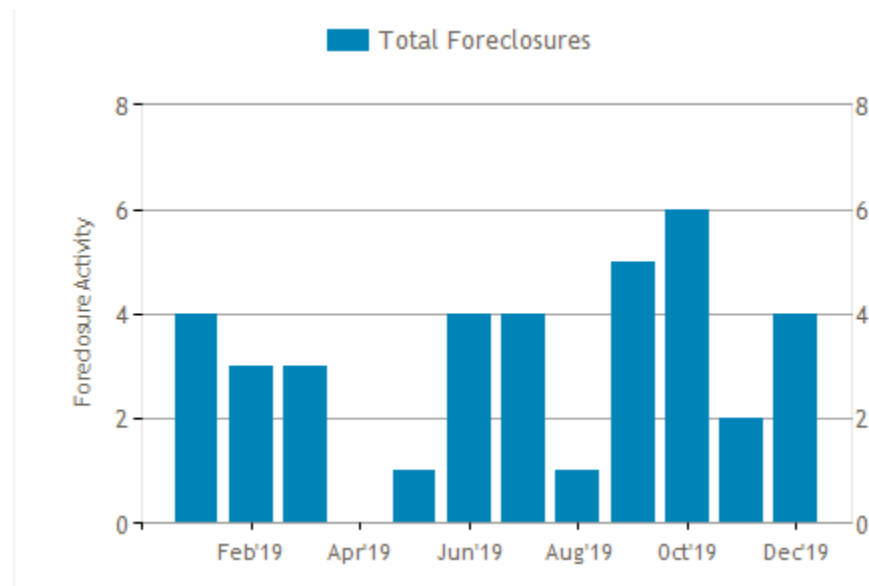
Trulia.com was reviewed for listing on February 10, 2020. At that time, there were 250 homes listed, including foreclosures and homes at auction, when searching for “Altoona, PA”. There was a single listing for a 1 bedroom home in the City of Altoona at the price of \$55,000. There were 30 listings for two bedroom homes ranging in price from \$20,000 to \$197,000. There were 199 listings for homes with three or four bedrooms ranging from \$14,900 to \$535,000.

Listings were also reviewed in the online Classifieds in the *Altoona Mirror*, Altoona’s local paper. There were no houses for sale when reviewed on February 10, 2020, only rental apartments.

Foreclosures

According to RealtyTrac, the City of Altoona had 142 homes in foreclosure in May 2019, which is a foreclosure rate of 1 in every 7,177 housing units. Blair County experienced a foreclosure rate of 1 in every 4,854 housing units, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania had a foreclosure rate of 1 in every 3,023 housing units. The following chart illustrates the monthly foreclosure filings in the City of Altoona from February 2019 through December 2019.

Chart II-15 – Foreclosures in the City of Altoona, PA



Source: www.realtytrac.com

The number of foreclosures for the City of Altoona was at its highest in October 2019 with six (6) foreclosures, and lowest was in April 2019 with no foreclosures filed.

Renter Costs

The median monthly rent increased by 22.4% between 2010 and 2017, from \$509 to \$623, respectively. **Table II-16** illustrates rental rates within the City at the time of the 2006-2010 American Community Survey and 2013-2017 American Community Survey.

Table II-16 – Gross Monthly Rent

Monthly Renter Cost	2006-2010 ACS		2013-2017 ACS	
	Number of Housing Units	Percentage	Number of Housing Units	Percentage
Renter-Occupied Housing Units	6,292	33.2%	6,965	37.0%
Less than \$300	1,057	16.8%	905	13.0%
\$300 to \$499	1,856	29.5%	1,043	15.0%
\$500 to \$799	2,328	37.0%	3,105	44.6%
\$800 to \$999	415	6.6%	976	14.0%
\$1,000 to \$1,499	365	5.8%	536	7.7%
\$1,500 to \$1,999	0	0.0%	60	0.9%
\$2,000 or more	13	0.2%	0	0.0%
No Cash Rent	258	4.1%	341	4.8%
Median (dollars)	\$509	-	\$623	-

Source: 2000 U.S. Census & 2008-2012 American Community Survey

The monthly housing costs for 48.7% of all renter-occupied households exceeded 30% of monthly income in 2010, indicating an even higher percentage of renters whose housing is not considered affordable. In 2017, that amount increased to 49.6%, which is a 1.1% increase from 2010. **Table II-17** illustrates the housing cost for renter-households.

Table II-17 – Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income

Rental Cost as a % of Income	2006-2010 ACS		2013-2017 ACS	
	Number of Housing Units	Percentage	Number of Housing Units	Percentage
Occupied Units paying rent	5,988	-	6,487	-
Less than 15 percent	721	12.0%	682	10.5%
15 to 19 percent	732	12.2%	660	10.2%
20 to 24 percent	736	12.3%	692	10.7%
25 to 29 percent	739	12.3%	998	15.4%
30 to 34 percent	491	8.2%	703	10.8%

35 percent or more	2,569	43.0%	2,752	42.4%
Not computed	304	-	478	-

Source: 2006-2010 ACS & 2013-2017 American Community Survey

The 2019 Fair Market Rents for Blair County are shown in **Table II-18** below.

Table II-18 –FY 2020 and FY 2019 FMR by Unit Bedrooms

	Efficiency	One-Bedroom	Two-Bedroom	Three-Bedroom	Four-Bedroom
FY 2020 FMR	\$561	\$616	\$770	\$960	\$1,043
FY 2019 FMR	\$600	\$638	\$796	\$997	\$1,076

Source: www.hud.gov

Trulia Real Estate at Trulia.com, and the online classifieds for *Altoona Mirror* rental listings were reviewed on February 10, 2020 for rental listings and rates. According to Trulia.com the median rental price over the past 12 months for the City of Altoona is \$745 for market rate units. The *Altoona Mirror* online classifieds had four (4) listings including apartments, single family homes, and manufactured cabins. Of the rental listings posted, one bedroom apartments rented for the price of \$450. Of the two bedroom apartments listed, one did not include a price; the other two were listed for an average of \$850. None of the listings included discriminatory language.

G. Household Types:

Based on a comparison between the 2009 and 2015 population, the City of Altoona had a 1% decrease in population of 505 persons. The number of households decreased by 3%, or 581 households. Furthermore, the median income of the area increased by 8%. This increase in median income represents a change in nominal dollars and not a change in real dollars. In order to calculate the change in real dollars, the Consumer Price Index is used to calculate the inflation rate for a given period. Between 2000 and 2011, the cumulative inflation rate was 10.5%, meaning that the \$33,623.00 median income in 2009 would be \$37,146.15 if it were expressed in 2015 dollars. By taking into consideration the rate of inflation, the median income in Altoona has not kept up with the rate of inflation and the purchasing power of residents is weaker.

Table II-19 – Demographic Changes Between 2000 and 2011

Demographics	Base Year: 2009	Most Recent Year: 2015	% Change
Population	46,320	45,815	-1%
Households	19,316	18,735	-3%
Median Income	\$33,623.00	\$36,215.00	8%

Source: 2005-2009 ACS (Base Year), 2011-2015 ACS (Most Recent Year)

Table II-20 - Number of Households

	0-30% HAMFI	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	>80-100% HAMFI	>100% HAMFI
Total Households *	3,230	3,205	3,530	1,905	6,860
Small Family Households *	955	940	1,385	705	3,580
Large Family Households *	120	140	210	210	535
Household contains at least one person 62-74 years of age	620	610	805	435	1,680
Household contains at least one person age 75 or older	370	775	600	240	475
Households with one or more children 6 years old or younger *	690	420	520	305	539

** The highest income category for these family types is >80% HAMFI*

Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

Housing Problems

A household is considered to have a housing problem if it is cost burdened by more than 30% of their income, is experiencing overcrowding, or has incomplete kitchen or plumbing facilities. The four housing problems are: lacks complete kitchen facilities; lacks complete plumbing facilities; more than one person per room; and cost burden greater than 30%. The following tables illustrate the households that have one or more housing problems, and those that are cost overburdened.

Table II-21 – Housing Problems (Households with one of the listed needs)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Substandard Housing - Lacking complete plumbing or kitchen facilities	70	75	0	4	149	15	15	0	0	30
Severely Overcrowded - With >1.51 people per room (and complete kitchen and plumbing)	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0
Overcrowded - With 1.01-1.5 people per room (and none of the above problems)	20	0	15	20	55	30	20	15	0	65
Housing cost burden greater than 50% of income (and none of the above problems)	1,295	210	35	0	1,540	420	230	155	20	825
Housing cost burden greater than 30% of income (and none of the above problems)	365	710	255	40	1,370	250	510	415	170	1,345
Zero/negative Income (and none of the above problems)	140	0	0	0	140	30	0	0	0	30

Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

When comparing owner occupied to renter occupied homes, households whose housing cost burden is 30% and 50% of income (and no other listed problems), these are the two most common housing problems, respectively.

Table II-22 – Housing Problems (Households with one or more Severe Housing Problems: Lacks kitchen or complete plumbing, severe overcrowding, severe cost burden)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Having 1 or more of four housing problems	1,385	290	50	30	1,755	465	265	170	20	920
Having none of four housing problems	905	1,465	1,025	445	3,840	305	1,190	2,285	1,410	5,190
Household has negative income, but none of the other housing problems	140	0	0	0	140	30	0	0	0	30

Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

Renter households have more instances of having one or more of the four housing problems, especially those earning 0-30% AMI. A total of 1,755 renter households have one or more housing problems which is almost double, compared to 920 owner occupied households.

Table II-23 – Cost Overburdened Greater Than 30%

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS								
Small Related	620	355	134	1,109	195	180	235	610
Large Related	75	29	15	119	24	75	35	134
Elderly	335	250	55	640	340	340	159	839
Other	720	310	100	1,130	145	175	140	460
Total need by income	1,750	944	304	2,998	704	770	569	2,043

Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

Of the households that are cost overburdened by greater than 30%, the most impacted are those renter households identified as “other” followed by small related households, and elderly households. For owner occupied homes, the elderly and small related households are the most cost overburdened groups.

Table II-24 – Cost Overburdened Greater Than 50%

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS								
Small Related	510	45	4	559	130	60	50	240
Large Related	60	25	0	85	4	0	25	29
Elderly	250	75	0	325	185	100	34	319
Other	515	70	30	615	120	75	45	240
Total need by income	1,335	215	34	1,584	439	235	154	828

Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

Of the households that are cost overburdened by greater than 50%, the most impacted are those renter households identified as “other” followed by small related households, and elderly households. For owner occupied homes, the elderly, “other” and small related households are the most cost overburdened groups.

Table II-25 – Overcrowding Conditions (More than one person per room)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Single family households	20	0	15	24	59	30	10	0	0	40
Multiple, unrelated family households	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	15	0	19
Other, non-family households	10	25	0	0	35	0	0	0	0	0
Total need by income	30	25	15	24	94	30	14	15	0	59

Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

According to the 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS), there were 18,835 households in 2017 in the City of Altoona. Based on this data, 6,289 (33.4%) of all households were single person households living alone. Single person households aged 65 and over comprised 2,566 households, or 13.6% of all households. It is presumed that as these seniors age in place, additional accommodations and special needs will be necessary for this portion of the City's population. The City may need to assist in providing funding, and working with housing service agencies and elderly support agencies to provide programs, activities, and accommodations for its elderly population.

Disabled Population – Based on the 2013-2017 ACS data, a total of 8,390 (18.9% of the population) individuals have a disability. Of the 8,390 individuals who have a disability: 20.3% have a hearing difficulty; 9.8% have a vision difficulty; 24.5% have a cognitive difficulty; 32.9% have an ambulatory difficulty; 12.1% have a self-care difficulty; and 22.1% have an independent living difficulty.

In consultations, interviews and surveys, the lack of safe, affordable accessible housing for people with disabilities is an unmet housing need and problem. In addition to a lack of accessible housing, stakeholders mentioned there are some public amenities such as public pools, and bathhouses, that are not accessible; the City's topography and uneven streetscape sidewalks also present difficulties to people with disabilities.

Many of the elderly and disabled are on a fixed or limited income and are unable to afford costs to maintain their homes. The lack of affordable housing that is decent, safe, and sound forces them into below code standard housing that is often inaccessible to them.

Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking – based on reports, the Altoona Police Department responded to 1,427 calls for domestic violence in 2019, approximately 100 of these calls were determined to be unrelated to domestic violence; 365 calls required an incident report. The Altoona Police Department does not complete lethality assessment reports but all victims are provided with referral materials with the contact information of service providers should they choose to seek help.

Homelessness –

The other large group affected by the lack of affordable housing is the homeless and persons at-risk of becoming homeless, including persons who are victims of domestic violence.

The City of Altoona is a member of the Eastern Pennsylvania Continuum of Care (PA-507). The Continuum of Care is comprised of 33 counties, including Blair County and the City of Altoona. The Continuum of Care is administered by the Blair County Community Action Agency and is comprised of four (4) committees that carry out the mission of the organization: The South-Central PA Regional Homeless Advisory Board (RHAB), the PA Homeless Steering Committee, the Continuum of Care Merger/Governance Committee, and the Ranking Committee.

The local organizations maintain records in the HMIS system and continue to monitor and tract assisted households. The HMIS reports indicate that only a small percentage of assisted clients return to homelessness after twelve (12) months of service.

Blair County Family Services Inc. is categorized as an “emergency shelter” and provides beds year-round for adults, families with children, and for unaccompanied youth. The agency provides a total of 7 beds for adults with children and 7 beds for adults without children and 9 beds for unaccompanied youth on a year-round basis.

UPMC Behavioral Health provides rental assistance, transitional housing services, and permanent supportive housing. For households without children they provide a total of 6 beds on a year-round basis through their transitional housing program and 4 beds through the permanent supportive housing. Additionally, they provide 17 beds for singles or couples without children through permanent supportive housing. Care managers will also assist patients in applying for section 8 vouchers and assist with paperwork to apply for the housing authority wait lists.

Blair County Community Action Agency (BCCAP) and Blair County Family Service Inc. (BCFS) both provide rapid rehousing services. BCCAP provides 153 beds on a year-round basis through various projects and BCFS provides 19 beds on a year-round basis for rapid rehousing.

The high cost of decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the City creates instability of housing for the lower income families in the area. Many families are living from paycheck to paycheck and are paying over 30% of their income for housing.

H. Cost Overburden:

A central housing problem facing households in the City of Altoona, PA is a lack of affordable housing and the fact that many of the City’s lower income households are paying more than 30% of their total household income on

the monthly cost for housing. The following information was noted: 2,995 households were cost overburdened by 30% to 50%, and 2,429 households were cost overburdened by greater than 50%. There were 2,790 White households cost overburdened by 30% to 50%, and 2,245 that were cost overburdened by over 50%; 90 Black/African American households were cost overburdened by 30% to 50%, and 70 Black/African American households were cost overburdened by greater than 50%; 15 Hispanic households were cost overburdened by 30% to 50% and 15 Hispanic households were cost overburdened by over 50%; and lastly, no Asian households were cost overburdened by 30% to 50% and no Asian households were cost overburdened by over 50%;

Table II-26 – Housing Cost Burden

Housing Cost Burden	<=30%	30-50%	>50%	No / negative income (not computed)
Jurisdiction as a whole	13,165	2,955	2,429	180
White	12,715	2,790	2,245	180
Black / African American	200	90	70	0
Asian	35	0	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	4	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0
Hispanic	150	15	15	0

Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

About 5,035 White households (28.4%) out of a total of 17,750 computed White households were considered cost overburdened by 30% and greater in the City of Altoona. Of the total Black/African American households in the City, there were 160 Black/African American households (44.4%) that were cost overburdened by 30% and greater. In addition, there were no Asian households and 30 (16.7%) Hispanic households that were cost overburdened by 30% and greater.

I. Housing Problems:

A household is considered to have a housing problem if it is cost overburdened by more than 30% of their income, is experiencing overcrowding, or has incomplete kitchen or plumbing facilities. The four housing problems are: lacks complete kitchen facilities; lacks complete plumbing facilities; more than one person per room; and cost burden greater than 30%.

During the planning process for the preparation of the City of Altoona’s Five Year Consolidated Plan, an evaluation and comparison was made to determine the needs of the racial/ethnic groups in comparison to the overall need in the City. Disproportionate need is defined as a group having at least 10 percentage points or higher than the percentage of persons as a whole. The City’s Black/African American Population is 1,528 persons; its Asian Population is 367 persons; and its Hispanic Population is 544 persons.

The following tables illustrate the disproportionate needs in the City of Altoona:

Table II-27 – 0%-30% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	2,465	595	170
White	2,285	560	170
Black / African American	114	4	0
Asian	0	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	0	25	0

Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

Table II-28 – 30%-50% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	1,775	1,425	0
White	1,700	1,355	0
Black / African American	25	45	0
Asian	0	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	0	20	0

Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

Table II-29 – 50%-80% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	890	2,640	0
White	840	2,555	0
Black / African American	14	40	0
Asian	0	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	4	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	30	14	0

Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

Table II-30 – 80%-100% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	260	1,640	0
White	215	1,575	0
Black / African American	4	45	0
Asian	10	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	0	20	0

Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

The racial composition of the City of Altoona, according to the 2011-2015 American Community Survey data, was 92.5% White; 2.7% African American; 0.19% Asian; 0.06 Other races; and 2.6% two or more races. The Hispanic or Latino population 1.7%. There were three racial/ethnic groups disproportionately affected by housing problems: in the 0-30% AMI group the Black/African American population makes up 3.6% of households but 96.6% of households are affected by housing problems; in the 50-80% AMI group the Hispanic population makes up 1.2% of households but 68.8% are affected by housing problems and; in the 80-100% AMI group Asian households make up 0.5% of households but 100% of Asian households in this income group are affected by housing problems. Note that these

proportions can largely be attributed to the fact that minorities make up such a small portion, 7.5%, of the overall population of the City of Altoona.

J. Disproportionately Greater Need: Severe Housing Problems:

A household is considered to have a housing problem if it is cost overburdened by more than 30% of their income, experiencing overcrowding, or having incomplete kitchen or plumbing facilities. The four severe housing problems are: lacks complete kitchen facilities; lacks complete plumbing facilities; more than 1.5 persons per room; and cost overburdened over 50%.

In order for the City of Altoona to determine its goals and strategies, it must determine the extent to which any racial/ethnic group has a greater need in comparison to the City’s overall population need. Data detailing information by racial group and Hispanic origin has been compiled from the HUD CHAS data. Disproportionate need is defined as a group having at least 10 percentage points higher than the percentage of persons in that group as a whole. The following tables illustrate the disproportionate needs of the City of Altoona.

Table II-31– 0%-30% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	1,850	1,210	170
White	1,690	1,155	170
Black / African American	95	30	0
Asian	0	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	0	25	0

Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

Table II-32 – 30%-50% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	555	2,655	0
White	535	2,525	0
Black / African American	4	65	0
Asian	0	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	0	20	0

Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

Table II-33 – 50%-80% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	220	3,310	0
White	205	3,185	0
Black / African American	0	50	0
Asian	0	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	4	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	15	35	0

Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

Table II-34 – 80%-100% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	50	1,855	0
White	25	1,765	0
Black / African American	0	50	0
Asian	10	0	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Hispanic	0	20	0

Source: 2011-2015 CHAS

Based on the above tables, there were three racial/ethnic groups disproportionately affected by housing problems: in the 0-30% AMI group the Black/African American population makes up 3.8% of households but 76.0% of households are affected by housing problems; in the 50-80% AMI group the Hispanic population makes up 2.6% of households but 30.0% are affected by housing problems and; in the 80-100% AMI group Asian households make up 0.5% of households but 100% of Asian households in this income group are affected by housing problems. Note that these proportions can largely be attributed to the fact that minorities make up such a small portion, 7.5%, of the overall population of the City of Altoona.

K. Disabled Households:

Table II-36 includes the 2013-2017 ACS data that estimates the population of individuals with disabilities in the City of Altoona. The total estimated population with a disability in the City is 8,390 individuals or 18.9% of the City’s population. This is indicative of the need for housing for the disabled which are mainly low- and moderate-income, and do not have housing resources that are accessible and/or affordable.

Table II-36 – Disability Status for Residents in Altoona, PA

Disability Status of the Civilian Non-Institutional Population	2008-2012 ACS		2013-2017 ACS	
	#	%	#	%
Total Civilian Population	46,120	-	44,423	-
Total Population with a disability	7,686	16.7%	8,390	18.9%
Total Population under 5 years	3,255	7.1%	2,748	6.2%
With a hearing difficulty	55	1.7%	26	0.9%
With a vision difficulty	19	0.6%	21	0.8%
Total Population 5 to 17 years	7,643	16.6%	7,383	16.6%
With a hearing difficulty	50	0.7%	70	0.9%
With a vision difficulty	39	0.5%	21	0.3%
With a cognitive difficulty	553	7.2%	697	9.4%
With an ambulatory difficulty	19	0.2%	11	0.1%
With a self-care difficulty	120	1.6%	153	2.1%



Total Population 18 to 64 years	28,221	61.2%	27,333	61.5%
With a hearing difficulty	680	2.4%	871	3.2%
With a vision difficulty	624	2.2%	564	2.1%
With a cognitive difficulty	2,278	8.1%	2,239	8.2%
With an ambulatory difficulty	1,953	6.9%	2,279	8.3%
With a self-care difficulty	474	1.7%	734	2.7%
With an independent living difficulty	1,720	6.1%	1,972	7.2%
Total Population 65 years and over	7,001	15.2%	6,959	15.7%
With a hearing difficulty	1,041	14.9%	1,063	15.3%
With a vision difficulty	567	8.1%	460	6.6%
With a cognitive difficulty	599	8.6%	482	6.9%
With an ambulatory difficulty	1,782	25.5%	1,705	24.5%
With a self-care difficulty	644	9.2%	510	7.3%
With an independent living difficulty	1,244	17.8%	1,037	14.9%
Sex				
Male	3,532	15.9%	4,334	19.8%
Female	4,154	17.3%	4,056	18.0%
Race with a disability				
White alone	7,289	16.9%	7,860	18.9%
Black or African American alone	231	13.7%	219	17.7%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	28	35.0%	0	0.0%
Asian alone	34	6.7%	5	5.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Some other race alone	14	15.1%	126	50.4%
Two or more races	90	13.0%	180	14.5%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	7,219	16.9%	7,726	18.8%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	96	17.3%	263	33.9%

Source: 2008-2012 and 2013-2017 ACS

III. Review/Update to Original Plan

The previous “Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice” was prepared by the City of Altoona in 2015. The identified Impediments to Fair Housing Choice are reviews twice each year in the City’s Annual Action Plan and again in the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Reports (CAPER). The following restates the previously identified impediments from 2015 and summarizes the progress made on each.

Impediment 1: Fair Housing Education and Outreach

There is a continuing need to educate residents of the community concerning their rights and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act and to raise awareness that all residents of the City of Altoona have a right under federal law to fair housing choice.

Goal: Improve the public’s knowledge and awareness of the Federal Fair Housing Act, and related laws, regulations, and requirements to affirmatively further fair housing in the region.

Strategies: In order to meet this goal, the following activities and strategies should be undertaken:

- **1-A:** Continue to promote Fair Housing awareness through the media, seminars, and training to provide educational opportunities for all persons to learn more about their rights under the Fair Housing Act and Americans with Disabilities Act.
- **1-B:** Continue to make available and distribute literature and informational material concerning fair housing issues, an individual’s housing rights, and landlord’s responsibilities to affirmatively further fair housing.
- **1-C:** Educate and promote that all residents have a right to live outside impacted areas.
- **1-D:** Include a link on the City’s website concerning the Fair Housing Act and information on filing a fair housing complaint.
- **1-E:** Contract with an outside Fair Housing Agency to provide fair housing services.

Accomplishments:

Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Services, Inc.(SPLAS) has been under contract with the City of Altoona to promote and to affirmatively further fair housing. They have held seminars, distributed literature and used social media to educate all residents and local officials. See response to Impediments #2.

Impediment 2: Continuing Need for Affordable Housing

The median value and cost to purchase and maintain a single-family home in Altoona that is decent, safe, and sound is \$77,380, which limits the choice of housing for lower income households. About 78.8% of homeowners and 51.3% of renters in the City are cost overburdened by more than 30% of their household income.

Goal: Promote the conservation of the existing housing stock and development of additional housing units for lower income households through new construction, in-fill housing, and rehabilitation of houses throughout the City.

Strategies: In order to meet this goal, the following activities and strategies should be undertaken:

- **2-A:** Continue to support and encourage plans from both private developers and non-profit housing providers to develop and construct new affordable housing.
- **2-B:** Continue to support and provide financing for the rehabilitation of the existing housing stock to become decent, safe, and sound housing that will remain affordable to lower income owner occupied households.
- **2-C:** Continue to support homebuyer education and training programs to improve homebuyer awareness and increase the opportunities for lower-income households to become home owners.

Accomplishments:

Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Services, Inc.(SPLAS) has been under contract with the City of Altoona to address the City's Fair Housing Impediments.

Trainings:

PY2015

*Altoona Housing Authority's Section 8 Landlords
Improved Dwellings for Altoona*

PY2016

*Altoona Housing Authority Section 8 Landlords
Blair County Community Action (Housing Case Managers)*

PY2017

*Veterans Association Staff Training
Altoona Housing Authority Landlord WorkShop regarding assistance
animals*

*Family Services Shelter
VA Reentry Fair (Fair Housing Act/Criminal Background)*

PY2018

*Family Services Shelter (4) trainings throughout program year
Landlord Workshop hosted by Operation Our Town*

PY2019

*Landlord Outreach training
Landlord workshop hosted by Altoona Housing Authority
Fair Housing training to Evergreen Manor and IDA property
(low/moderate income housing development)*

Meetings:

Attended 22 Local Housing Option Team (LHOT) meeting and 12 Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) Meetings and 1 Operation Our Town Meeting on behalf of the City to promote Fair Housing

SPLAS staff held 2 fair housing trainings at City Hall 1 with local agencies and 1 with the general public.

SPLAS held Poster Contests for local school students

SPLAS partnered with Tri County Patriots for Independent Living (TRIPL) in their Tech Petting Zoo at the Altoona Area Public Library. They highlighted various “assistive technology programs” which entail any device that allows a person with disability to live, work and play more independently and effectively. Staff provided guest with a flash drive containing fair housing info and contact info for the City’s Fair Housing Program.

SPLAS hosted two fair housing clinics at Altoona City Hall

SPLAS developed a fair housing network, including a directory of advocates, housing providers and protected class members in the City of Altoona or doing work in the City.

Events:

CommUNITY Resource Fair

Senior Fair

Family Fest Sponsored by the Altoona Housing Authority and CYS

Mental Health Awareness Month

Building Strong Families

The City established a Fair Housing Hot Line – Over the 5-year period there was the following:

202 Hotline calls:

- 20* calls from individuals with legitimate fair housing issues and were further contacted by the Law Center
- 50* callers had landlord/tenant issues and were provided advice on their issues. Where appropriate referrals were made to MidPenn Legal Services
- 32* callers where unreachable after multiple attempts 6 reached hotline number by error
- 34* general housing related questions
- 1* caller was a realtor making a referral to the FHLC testing program to investigate a condo association bylaw that restricted residency to families with children. An investigation was conducted. A housing discrimination complaint was filed with HUD based on positive tests.
- 3* eviction issues
- 2* callers were housing providers who received technical assistance on a fair housing issue
- 8* cases referred to FHLC's Enforcement program for representation; 4 referrals resided in the City of Altoona and the others resided in Blair County outside the City.

Note: * Multiple calls regarding code department complaints, tax sale ejectments, police issues, mental health issues.

SPLAS produced the following and were distributed at all events in the City of Altoona:

- brochures
- posters
- magnets
- claim kits

The City of Altoona has a link on their web site at www.altoonapa.gov under "Government" "City Departments" Community Development" under "Our Links" Fair Housing Program.

The City of Altoona has been under contract with Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Services, Inc. to provide Fair Housing Services for the duration of the 2015-19 Consolidated Plan.

Impediment 3: Continuing Need for Accessible Housing Units

As an older built-up urban environment, there is a lack of accessible housing units and developable sites in the City of Altoona, since 72.8% of the City's housing

units were built over 50 years ago, and do not have accessibility features, and 20.1% of the City's population is classified as disabled.

Goal: Increase the number of accessible housing units through new construction and rehabilitation of existing housing units for the physically disabled and developmentally delayed.

Strategies: In order to meet this goal, the following activities and strategies should be undertaken:

- **3-A:** Promote programs to increase the amount of accessible housing through the rehabilitation of the existing owner occupied housing stock by making accessibility improvements.
- **3-B:** Encourage the development of accessible housing through new construction of handicap units that are accessible and visitable through financial or development incentives on available vacant and developable land in the City.
- **3-C:** Encourage landlords to make "reasonable accommodations" to their rental properties so they become accessible to tenants who are disabled.
- **3-D:** Promote programs to assist elderly homeowners in the City to make accessibility improvements to their properties in order for these residents to remain in their own homes.

Accomplishments:

Annually, the City funds an owner-occupied housing rehabilitation program that provides accessibility improvements when needed. The City also funded a project from the Center for Independent Living of Southcentral Pennsylvania that builds accessibility infrastructure for the physically disabled.

City policy and the City building code encourage the development of new accessible housing. Even though no new construction projects were funded, several private market developments built in accessibility measures for market-rate housing.

Reasonable accommodations to rental properties are encouraged by the City, funded by the HOME Rental Rehabilitation Program, and required by the City building code.

Impediment 4: There is a Lack of Financial Resources

The Federal Government continues to reduce the amount of CDBG and other funds for housing programs in HUD's annual budget, which reduces the allocations

to entitlement communities, thus putting a strain on limited financial resources due to the housing crisis and increased unemployment.

Goal: Increase Federal funding for the CDBG and housing programs to pre- FY 2010 budget levels which will allow entitlement communities to better achieve their housing and community development goals.

Strategies: In order to meet this goal, the following activities and strategies should be undertaken:

- **4-A:** Work with the national housing and community development organizations to increase the appropriations for the CDBG program, as well as other HUD housing programs.
- **4-B:** Encourage and support non-profit housing agencies to apply for funding for housing from Federal, state, and private foundation resources to promote and develop affordable housing throughout the City of Altoona.
- **4-C:** The local Housing Authority should promote, sponsor, and partner with private developers to build affordable housing using the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program in the City.

Accomplishments:

Mayor Pacifico lobbied for increased CDBG funding on several occasions, contacting the City's U.S. Representative to Congress.

The City applied for a state PHARE grant, using the HOME funds as a match, to help the Redevelopment Authority create affordable housing.

The Altoona Housing Authority has worked with at least one potential developer using LIHTC, but the project did not receive LIHTC funding from PHFA.

Impediment 5: Economic Issues Affecting Housing Choice

There is a lack of economic opportunities in the City which prevents low-income households from improving their income and ability to live outside areas with concentrations of low-income households, which makes this a fair housing concern.

Goal: The local economy will improve, creating new job opportunities, which in turn will increase household income, and will promote fair housing choice.

Strategies: In order to meet this goal, the following activities and strategies should be undertaken:

-
- **5-A:** Strengthen partnerships and program delivery that enhances the City's business base, expands its tax base, and creates a more sustainable economy for residents and businesses.
 - **5-B:** Support and enhance workforce development and skills training that result in a "livable" wage and increases job opportunities.
 - **5-C:** Support programming that enhances entrepreneurship and small business development, expansion, and retention within low- and moderate-income areas and minority neighborhoods.
 - **5-D:** Promote and encourage economic development with local commercial and industrial firms to expand their operations and increase employment opportunities.

Accomplishments:

The City continues to work with its economic development agency and various Federal and State programs to encourage economic development: including, a local LERTA, a state Keystone Opportunity Zone, local revolving loan funds, and a Federal Qualified Opportunity Zone, as well as business support services.

The Blair County Community Action Program provides employment training to enhance workforce development, as does the Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission, the Altoona Area School District, and the Greater Altoona Career and Technology Center.

The City continues to work with its economic development agency, Penn State Altoona's Sheetz Fellows, and St. Francis University's Small Business Program to provide business support services to small businesses. Most of these have located in Downtown Altoona.

The City continues to work with the local economic development agency to provide business support services and funding for business expansions. This includes a local LERTA, a state Keystone Opportunity Zone, local revolving loan funds, and a Federal Qualified Opportunity Zone, as well as business support services.

Impediment 6: Public Policy

The City's Zoning Ordinance needs additional definitions and provisions concerning Fair Housing.

Goal: The City Zoning Ordinance will affirmatively further fair housing.

Strategies: In order to meet this goal, the following activities and strategies should be undertaken:

- **6-A:** Add under Title Three, Article I, Section 101. Purpose, a new subsection titled, “Fostering Housing Choice and Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing.”
- **6-B:** Add a definition for, “Accessibility” and “Visitability” to the definition section of the Zoning Ordinance.

Accomplishments:

The City of Altoona updated its zoning ordinance and brought it into compliance with the fair Housing Act and American’s with Disabilities Act. on 7-12-2017 by Ord. No. 5706. The City added a definition for “Accessibility” on 7-12-2017 by Ord. No. 5706

IV. Impediments to Fair Housing 2020

In order to determine if impediments to fair housing choice exist, interviews and meetings were conducted, and an analysis of the fair housing complaints in Altoona was undertaken.

A. Fair Housing Complaints:

1. City of Altoona Fair Housing Program

The City of Altoona's Fair Housing Program provides educational information and outreach programs to tenants, landlords, lending institutions, housing managers, contractors and anyone in the housing business regarding the Federal Fair Housing Laws. The Fair Housing Program is committed

to raising the level of awareness to the residents and businesses of the City of Altoona with respect to their rights and responsibilities under the Federal Fair Housing Act.

The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing because of: race or color, national origin, religion, sex, disability and familial status. Any person wishing to file a housing discrimination complaint may do so with the assistance of the Fair Housing Administrator (FHA). The FHA will review the complaint, make recommendations and provide help with filing a discrimination complaint. Funding for the City of Altoona's Fair Housing Program is provided by Community Development Block Grant funds through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The City partners with Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Services Inc. (SPLAS) to address fair housing complaints made to the City's Fair Housing Program. According to two six-month reports for July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 and July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 SPLAS held several opportunities for landlord and tenant outreach and training. Landlords were given a presentation on Service animals by the Altoona Housing Authority, and Operation Our Town meeting, and provided training to Evergreen Manor, a property owned by Improved Dwellings for Altoona Inc. (IDA).

**City of Altoona
Fair Housing Program
Address
Altoona, PA 16601
Phone: (814) 944-9958
Fax: (814) 949-0372
Email:
fairhousing@altoonapa.gov**

SPLAS completed several outreach events to tenants to help connect them to opportunities such as the VA CHALLENGE, the HOPE Drop In Center, and Blair Family Services and Shelter.

Additionally, SPLAS attended a total of nine (9) Local Housing Collaboration and seventeen (17) Criminal Justice Advisory Board meetings to provide fair housing training and outreach over the course of the year and a half.

SPLAS received forty-six (46) calls to their hotline regarding the following:

- 1 possible fair housing issue
- 3 eviction issues
- 21 landlord/tenant issues
- 2 tax sale/ejectment/other property issues
- 2 for homeless service referrals
- 2 other non-housing issues
- 6 unable to reach
- 8 calls for representation
- 1 call to investigate condo bylaws

SPLAS is dedicated to providing fair housing outreach and education. National Fair Housing Month is in April and the anniversary of the Fair Housing Act will be celebrated. SPLAS will be sponsoring a poster contest as part of the Fair Housing Month events in April.

2. Legal Services

MidPenn Legal Services is a non-profit, law firm that provides civil legal services to low-income residents and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in 18 counties in Central Pennsylvania, including Blair County. The Non-profit corporation was established on July 1, 2000 through the merger of Central Pennsylvania Legal Services (CPLS), Keystone Legal Services Inc. (KLS), Legal Services Inc., and Southern Allegheny Legal services. While MidPenn has been operating since 2000, the predecessor programs have been operating for more than 50 years.

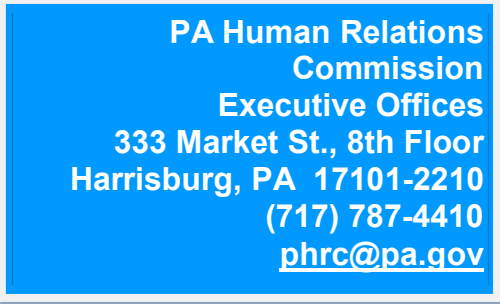
**MidPenn Legal Services –
Altoona Office
171 Lakemont Park Blvd
Altoona PA 16602
Toll Free: (800) 326-9177
Local: (814) 943-8139
Fax: (814) 944-2640
www.midpenn.org**

MidPenn Legal Services' major areas of work include: Family law, domestic violence, health, housing law, public benefits, consumer law, and elder law. Additionally they offer services to the community including, a Low Income Taxpayer Clinic, Legal Intervention for Victims and Empowerment, Medical Legal Partnership, Employment Law Project, the Pro Bono Program, Ombudsman, and Community Education.

MidPenn spent 4,364 hours on a total of 596 cases in Blair County in Fiscal Year 2018-2019. There were a total of 124 housing related cases that represented 20.8% of MidPenn's FY 2018-2019 caseload. A total of 1,056 residents benefitted from MidPenn's advocacy efforts.

3. Pennsylvania Human Rights Commission

The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC) enforces state laws that prohibit discrimination, such as: the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, which covers discrimination in employment, housing, commercial property, education and public accommodations; and the Pennsylvania Fair Educational Opportunities Act, which is specific to postsecondary education and secondary vocational and trade schools.



**PA Human Relations
Commission
Executive Offices
333 Market St., 8th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101-2210
(717) 787-4410
phrc@pa.gov**

Pennsylvania law prohibits discrimination based on race; color; religious creed; ancestry; age (40 and over); sex; national origin; familial status (only in housing); handicap or disability and the use, handling or training of support or guide animals for disability. Retaliation for filing a complaint, opposing unlawful behavior or assisting investigations is also illegal.

PHRC investigates employment discrimination complaints on behalf of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or EEOC, and housing discrimination complaints on behalf of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, or HUD. These partnerships protect the rights of complainants under both state and federal law.

The law also empowers the commission to educate the public in order to prevent discrimination and foster equal opportunity; and to

address incidents of bias that may lead to tension between racial, ethnic and other groups.

PHRC has administrative, legal and investigative staff, overseen by an executive director in Harrisburg and regional directors in Harrisburg, serving the Cities of Altoona, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh.



Eleven commissioners, appointed by the governor and confirmed by the PA Senate, act as public liaisons, establish policies and resolve cases that are not settled voluntarily. The commission is independent and nonpartisan, with no more than six commissioners from one political party. The chairperson is appointed by the governor, and a vice-chairperson, secretary and assistant secretary are elected by commissioners each year.

The commission holds monthly public meetings, inviting the public to address issues of discrimination or civil tension in their communities. In addition, if an individual feels that they have experienced illegal discrimination, that individual has the right to file a complaint with PHRC, and the PA Human Relations Commission will investigate the complaint.

According to PHRC's 2017-2018 Annual Report, the PHRC indicated a total of 180 housing complaints made during the program year. These complaints accounted for 15% of the total number of cases. The top three complaint bases for the housing category were: Disability, Retaliation, and Race/Color.

4. Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity (HUD)

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity (FHEO) receives complaints regarding alleged violations of the Fair Housing Act.

Pittsburgh HUD Field Office
The William Moorhead Federal Building
1000 Liberty Avenue, Suite 1000
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4004
Phone: (412) 644-6428 (Voice)

The complaints received for the City of Altoona and Blair County are shown in the following **Table IV-1** and **Table IV-2**, respectively, to illustrate the most common basis for complaints over the ten-year span from January 1, 2009 through December 24, 2019.

City of Altoona:

The most common basis for complaints in Altoona were ‘Race’ (53.3% of the complaints) and ‘Disability’ (40.0% of the complaints); Retaliation, Familial Status, National Origin, and Color each accounted for less than 15% of all complaints. Of the claims in Altoona, nine (9) were closed for ‘no cause’, two (2) were conciliated/settled, one (1) was elected to go to court, one (1) was withdrawn after resolution, one (1) the complainant was unable to be located, and one (1) is still open.

Table IV-1 – Basis for Complaint by Percent in Altoona

Basis	Number	Percentage
Race	8	53.3%
Disability	6	40.0%
National Origin	1	6.6%
Family Status	2	13.3%
Sex	0	0.0%
Retaliation	1	6.6%

Blair County:

The most common basis for complaints in the County was ‘disability,’ making up 50.0% of total complaints. ‘Race’ was a close second with 33.3% of complaints. Retaliation, Familial Status, National Origin, and Color each accounted for less than 10% of all complaints. Of the cases, eleven (11) of the cases (52.4%) were closed for no cause. Three (3) cases (14.3%) were conciliated/settled, one (1) case (4.7%) was withdrawn after resolution, one case (4.7%) was unable to locate the complainant, one case (4.7%) the complainant failed to cooperate, and one case (4.7%) was made to go to court.

Table IV-2 – Basis for Complaint by Percent in Blair County

Basis	Number	Percentage
Race	8	33.3%
Disability	12	50.0%
National Origin	1	4.1%
Family Status	2	8.3%
Sex	0	0.0%
Retaliation	1	4.1%

The following **Tables IV-3** and **Table IV-4** “HUD-FHEO Complaints” summarize all of the complaints filed with the Office of Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity between January 26, 2009 and December 24, 2019 in the City of Altoona and Blair County, respectively.

Table IV-3 – HUD-FHEO Ten Year Complaints for the City of Altoona

HUD Filed Date	Basis	City	Date Closed	Issues	How Closed
1/6/2009	Race	Altoona	1/26/2009	Discrimination in terms/conditions/privileges relating to rental	No cause determination
9/29/2010	Race	Altoona	4/25/2011	Discrimination in services and facilities relating to rental	No cause determination
6/24/2011	Race	Altoona	10/25/2012	Discriminatory refusal to rent and negotiate for rental; discrimination in terms/conditions/privileges relating to rental	Election made to go to court
2/6/2012	Race, Disability	Altoona	1/31/2014	Discriminatory refusal to rent; discriminatory advertising, statements, and notices; Discrimination in terms/conditions/privileges relating to rental	No cause determination
8/16/2012	Disability	Altoona	2/14/2013	Discriminatory refusal to rent and negotiate for rental; discriminatory acts under section 818 (coercion etc.); Failure to make reasonable accommodation	Complaint withdrawn by complainant after resolution
1/2/2013	Disability	Altoona	3/15/2013	Discrimination in terms/conditions/privileges relating to rental	No cause determination
2/17/2014	Disability, Retaliation	Altoona	12/30/2014	Discriminatory refusal to rent and negotiate for rental; discriminatory acts under section 818 (coercion etc.); Failure to make reasonable accommodation	No cause determination

6/23/2014	Race	Altoona	9/11/2014	Discrimination in terms/conditions/privileges relating to rental	No cause determination
9/12/2014	Race, National Origin	Altoona	9/17/2015	Discriminatory refusal to rent and negotiate for rental; Discriminatory terms, conditions, privileges, or services and facilities	conciliation/settlement successful
2/9/2016	Disability	Altoona	10/31/2016	Failure to permit reasonable modification; Failure to make reasonable accommodation	Unable to locate complainant
2/7/2017	Familial Status	Altoona	3/6/2018	Discriminatory refusal to rent; discriminatory advertisement-rental	Conciliation/settlement successful
5/18/2018	Race, Color	Altoona	9/4/2018	Discrimination in terms/conditions/privileges relating to rental	No cause determination
6/8/2018	Race	Altoona	6/4/2019	Discriminatory refusal to rent and negotiate for rental; discrimination in terms/conditions/privileges relating to rental	No cause determination
7/5/2018	Disability	Altoona	5/15/2019	Otherwise deny or make housing unavailable; failure to make reasonable accommodation	No cause determination
6/24/2019	Familial Status	Altoona		Discriminatory refusal to sell or negotiate for sale; Discriminatory advertising, statements, and notices	

Source: U.S. Dept. of HUD-FHEO, Pittsburgh Field Office

Table IV-4 – HUD-FHEO Ten Year Complaints for Blair County

HUD Filed Date	Basis	City	Date Closed	Issues	How Closed
1/6/2009	Race	Altoona	1/26/2009	Discrimination in terms/conditions/privileges relating to rental	No cause determination
9/29/2010	Race	Altoona	4/25/2011	Discrimination in services and facilities relating to rental	No cause determination
6/24/2011	Race	Altoona	10/25/2012	Discriminatory refusal to rent and negotiate for rental; discrimination in terms/conditions/privileges relating to rental	Election made to go to court
12/22/2011	Disability	Hollidaysburg	7/2/2013	Failure to make reasonable accommodation	Conciliation/settlement successful
2/6/2012	Race, Disability	Altoona	1/31/2014	Discriminatory refusal to rent; discriminatory advertising, statements, and notices; Discrimination in terms/conditions/privileges relating to rental	No cause determination
8/16/2012	Disability	Altoona	2/14/2013	Discriminatory refusal to rent and negotiate for rental; discriminatory acts under section 818 (coercion etc.); Failure to make reasonable accommodation	Complaint withdrawn by complainant after resolution
1/2/2013	Disability	Altoona	3/15/2013	Discrimination in terms/conditions/privileges relating to rental	No cause determination
2/17/2014	Disability, Retaliation	Altoona	12/30/2014	Discriminatory refusal to rent and negotiate for rental; discriminatory acts under section 818 (coercion etc.); Failure to make reasonable accommodation	No cause determination
6/23/2014	Race	Altoona	9/11/2014	Discrimination in terms/conditions/privileges relating to rental	No cause determination

8/12/2014	Disability	Hollidaysburg	1/26/2015	Discriminatory in terms/conditions/privileges relating to rental; discriminatory acts under Section 818 (coercion, etc.)	No cause determination
9/12/2014	Race, National Origin	Altoona	9/17/2015	Discriminatory refusal to rent and negotiate for rental; Discriminatory terms, conditions, privileges, or services and facilities	Conciliation/settlement successful
2/9/2016	Disability	Altoona	10/31/2016	Failure to permit reasonable modification; Failure to make reasonable accommodation	Unable to locate complainant
1/9/2017	Disability	Hollidaysburg	6/21/2017	Discriminatory terms, conditions, privileges or services and facilities; failure to make reasonable accommodation	Complainant failed to cooperate
2/7/2017	Familial Status	Altoona	3/6/2018	Discriminatory refusal to rent; discriminatory advertisement-rental	Conciliation/settlement successful
5/18/2018	Race, Color	Altoona	9/4/2018	Discrimination in terms/conditions/privileges relating to rental	No cause determination
6/8/2018	Race	Altoona	6/4/2019	Discriminatory refusal to rent and negotiate for rental; discrimination in terms/conditions/privileges relating to rental	No cause determination
7/5/2018	Disability	Altoona	5/15/2019	Otherwise deny or make housing unavailable; failure to make reasonable accommodation	No cause determination
7/16/2018	Disability	Tyrone	5/30/2019	Discriminatory refusal to rent; Failure to make reasonable accommodation	No cause determination
6/24/2019	Familial Status	Altoona		Discriminatory refusal to sell or negotiate for sale; Discriminatory advertising, statements, and notices	



7/24/2019	Disability	Duncansville		Otherwise deny or make housing unavailable; failure to make reasonable accommodation	
12/24/2019	Disability	Hollidaysburg		Discrimination in terms/conditions/privileges relating to rental; Failure to make reasonable accommodation	

Source: U.S. Dept. of HUD-FHEO, Pittsburgh Field Office

5. Housing and Human Services Agencies

The City of Altoona interviewed agencies offering housing and human services within the City in order to obtain their input and gain insight into potential impediments to fair housing. The following agencies were engaged in roundtable discussions or individual meetings:

- Altoona Blair County Development Corporation
- Altoona Center for Nursing Care
- Altoona Housing Authority
- Altoona School District
- AMTRAN
- Blair County Community Action Agency
- Blair County Drug and Alcohol Services
- Blair County Senior Services
- Catholic Charities
- Center for Independent Living of South Central PA
- Family Services, Inc.
- Improved Dwellings of Altoona
- NAACP
- The Nehemiah Project
- Twenty-Eighth Street church of the Brethren
- UPMC-Altoona
- UPMC-Behavioral Health

Each of these agencies provided feedback on housing-related issues in the City of Altoona. Complete meeting notes can be found in Part VI, Appendix A. The following is a summary of some of the comments that were received during the roundtable discussions:

Housing Agencies:

The City needs to focus on:

- Building affordable housing that is accessible and safe for the elderly and persons with disabilities.

-
- Blight remediation.
 - Fair housing education for renters and landlords.
 - Providing housing services for persons with criminal records who cannot receive housing from the non-profit housing providers.
 - Providing rental assistance to low- and moderate-income individuals who cannot afford a decent, safe, and sanitary place to live.
 - Addressing issues facing veterans such as homelessness, employment, and mental health.
 - Providing options for halfway homes and long term recovery homes to provide stable, safe, and sanitary housing for individuals recovering from addiction.
 - Providing more shelter beds for homeless individuals, especially for victims of domestic violence.

The City needs to reduce:

- Slum and blight, and the deterioration of housing conditions.
- Opioid use and other illicit substance abuse and the crimes related to drug use.

Housing Authority:

Resident Programs:

- At Fairview Hills the following resident programs are offered:
 - Altoona Police Department: Police Officers Stop and Talk program.
 - After School Program from September through May.
 - Fairview Hills Food Bank service is available by appointment and available to the whole community.
 - Resident Organization meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month,
 - Summer Program from June through August in cooperation with Penn State Altoona and the Blair Recreation Commission
 - Family Self Sufficiency Program
- At the Towers the following resident programs are offered:

- Bible Study.
- Blood pressure screenings are offered twice a month.
- Altoona Police department “Stop and Talk” Program.

Issues and needs:

- There is a need to employ effective maintenance and management policies to minimize the number of public housing units off line due to modernization.
- Need to continue working with the City of Altoona on Code Enforcement, Fair Housing, workshops
- Work on expansion of home-ownership programs working with the City of Altoona Planning and Community Development Office.
- There is a need to recruit more landlords to participate in the Section 8 Voucher program.
- There is a need to increase the amount of housing available to the lowest income individuals (those with incomes less than 30% AMI).

Social Services Agencies:

Issues and needs:

- Major employers, such as retail, are being lost and need to be replaced.
- Need for affordable housing that is also accessible.
- Need for permanent supportive housing.
- A need for senior and mixed income housing units.
- There is a need for more fair housing education for tenants and landlords; several tenants rent on a verbal contract leading to problems down the road.
- There are not many healthy food grocery stores in the City.
- Criminal records and past rental history is an issue for several people trying to find housing.
- Public transportation access needs to be improved for people to achieve and retain employment.
- Agencies are seeing more homeless families as opposed to chronically homeless individuals.

-
- There is an influx of Arabic speaking families and families with Asian origin in the school district with limited programming to assist them.
 - Public resources, such as community centers and pools, are not entirely accessible to individuals with physical disabilities.
 - Older homes are often more difficult and costly to rehab due to high labor costs; there is a need to build newer homes and units.
 - People with limited or fixed incomes have difficulty in meeting their needs, especially housing.
 - Workforce development is an unmet need in the City.
 - The City of Altoona needs to reduce the amount of drug activity in the City.
 - There is a need for childcare services for working parents, especially those working irregular hours.
 - The Weatherization Program has been successful in the past year and should be expanded to meet the City's needs.
 - There is a need for alternative activities for the City's youth.
 - Lead paint is an issue for families with children under the age of 6.
 - There is a need for a "one-stop-shop" for individuals experiencing homelessness in the City of Altoona.

Other Comments:

- The City of Altoona should address the livability of neighborhoods outside of housing, such as sidewalk conditions, street trees, storm sewers, etc.
- The City should explore other ways to access capital for business and economic development, including upper floor residential development.
- Identifying projects that can bridge the gap between current developments and the downtown area.
- There is a lack of broadband access for Fire and Emergency services to have vehicles connected to the 911 Center.
- The City should improve its infrastructure to include multi-modal options such as bike lanes, roads, improved sidewalks etc.

B. Public Sector:

Part of the Analysis of Impediments is to examine the public policies of the jurisdiction and the impact on fair housing choice. The local government controls land use and development through the comprehensive plan, zoning regulations, subdivision regulations, and other laws and ordinances passed by the local governing body. These regulations and ordinances govern the types of housing that may be constructed, the density of housing, and the

various residential uses in a community. Local officials determine the community’s commitment to housing goals and objectives. The local policies therefore determine if fair housing is to be promoted or passively tolerated.

This section of the Analysis of Impediments evaluates the City’s policies to determine if there is a commitment to affirmatively further fair housing.

1. CDBG Program

The “Vision” of the Five Year Consolidated Plan is to serve as a consolidated planning document, an application, and a strategic plan for the City of Altoona, PA. The following goals and objectives have been identified for the period of FY 2020 through FY 2024:

**Table IV-5 – Five Year Strategies and Objectives
for the City of Altoona**

Housing Priority – HS – High Priority
<i>Objective</i>
HS-1 Housing Construction - Encourage the development of new housing by private developers and non-profits that is affordable, decent, safe, accessible, and sanitary.
HS-2 Housing Rehabilitation - Conserve and rehabilitate existing affordable housing units occupied by owners and renters in the community by addressing code violations, energy efficiency improvements, and accessibility for persons with disabilities.
HS-3 Emergency Rental Assistance – Provide short term rental assistance or security deposit assistance for low- and moderate-income renters.
Homeless Priority – HMS – Low Priority
<i>Objective</i>
HMS-1 Housing Construction – Encourage the development of new housing by private developers and non-profits that is affordable, decent, safe, accessible, and sanitary.

<p>HMS-2 Housing Rehabilitation – Conserve and rehabilitate existing affordable housing units occupied by owners and renters in the community by addressing code violations, energy efficiency improvements, and accessibility for persons with disabilities.</p>
<p>HMS-3 Emergency Rental Assistance – Provide short term rental assistance or security deposit assistance for low- and moderate-income renters.</p>
<p>Other Special Needs Priority – SNS – Low Priority</p>
<p><i>Objective</i></p>
<p>SNS-1 Housing - Increase the supply of affordable, accessible, decent, safe, and sanitary housing for the elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDS, victims of domestic violence, persons with alcohol/drug dependency, and persons with other special needs through rehabilitation of existing buildings and new construction.</p>
<p>SNS-2 Social Services - Support social service programs and facilities for the elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDS, victims of domestic violence, persons with alcohol/drug dependency, and persons with other special needs.</p>
<p>Community Development Priority – CDS – High Priority</p>
<p><i>Objective</i></p>
<p>CDS-1 Community Facilities - Improve parks, recreational facilities, neighborhood facilities, and trails including accessibility improvements to public buildings and all community facilities in the City.</p>
<p>CDS-2 Infrastructure - Improve the public infrastructure through rehabilitation, reconstruction, and new construction of streets; sidewalks; bridges, curbs; walkways; water; storm water management; sanitary sewers; lighting; handicap accessibility improvements and removal of architectural barriers; etc..</p>
<p>CDS-3 Public Services - Improve and enhance public services, programs for youth, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, along with general social/welfare public service programs for low- and moderate-income persons and households.</p>
<p>CDS-4 Clearance/Demolition - Remove and eliminate slum and blighting conditions through demolition of vacant, abandoned, and dilapidated structures.</p>
<p>CDS-5 Accessibility Improvements - Improve handicap accessibility improvements and removal of architectural barriers to public and community facilities.</p>
<p>CDS-6 Transportation - Support the expansion of transportation options for low- and moderate-income residents, the disabled and elderly to access services, shopping, and employment.</p>

Economic Development Priority – EDS – Low Priority
<i>Objective</i>
EDS-1 Employment - Support and encourage job creation, job retention, and job training opportunities.
EDS-2 Development - Support business and commercial growth through expansion and new development.
EDS-3 Redevelopment - Plan and promote the development, redevelopment, and revitalization of vacant and underutilized commercial and industrial sites.
EDS-4 Financial Assistance - Support and encourage new economic development through local, state, and Federal tax incentives and programs such as Tax Incremental Financing (TIF), tax abatements (LERTA), Enterprise Zones/Entitlement Communities, Section 108 Loan Guarantees, Economic Development Initiative (EDI) funds, Opportunity Zones, etc.
EDS-5 Access to Transportation - Support the expansion of public transportation and access to bus and automobile service and facilities serving alternate modes of transportation to assist residents to get to work or training opportunities.
Administration, Planning, and Management Priority – AMS – High Priority
<i>Objective</i>
AMS-1 Overall Coordination - Provide program management and oversight for the successful administration of Federal, State, and locally funded programs, including planning services for special studies, annual action plans, five year consolidated plans, substantial amendments, consolidated annual performance and evaluation reports (CAPER), environmental reviews and clearances, fair housing, and compliance with all Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.
AMS-2 Fair Housing - Promote fair housing choice through education, training and outreach to affirmatively furthering fair housing.

The City of Altoona receives both CDBG and HOME funds from HUD. The City anticipates that it will receive \$1,643,245 in CDBG funds and \$353,129 in HOME funds in FY 2020. The City will allocate its funds to public facility improvements, public services, senior services, youth services, and emergency housing assistance.

The City in its FY 2020 CDBG and Home Programs has allocated the funds as follows:

Table IV-6 – CDBG Activities

Program Administration	
Community Development Administration	\$ 327,270.00
Fair Housing	\$ 25,000.00
Total:	\$ 352,270.00
Public Facility Improvements	
Altoona Housing Authority's Fairview Hills Playground Revitalization	\$ 65,500.00
6 th Avenue Playground Installation Phase II	\$ 101,543.00
2020 CDBG Street Reconstruction	\$ 200,500.00
Washington Avenue Storm Drainage Installation	\$ 385,581.00
Total:	\$ 753,124.00
Rehabilitation	
Single Family Homeowner Rehabilitation	\$ 487,540.00
Total:	\$ 487,540.00
Public Service	
Catholic Charities Emergency Financial Assistance Program	\$ 10,000.00
Total:	\$ 10,000.00
Clearance Activities	
Blighted Property Program	\$ 164,311.00
Total:	\$ 164,311.00
Total FY 2020 CDBG Funds for Project Activities	\$1,767,245.00

The following HOME activities are proposed for funding under the FY 2020 Annual Action Plan:

Table IV-7 – HOME Activities

HOME Activities	
Rental Rehabilitation Program	\$ 156,816.10
CHDO – Improved Dwellings for Altoona	\$ 161,000.00
HOME Administration	\$ 35,312.90
Total	\$ 353,129.00

2. Other Funds

In addition to its CDBG and HOME funds, the following other public resources have been received by agencies in the City of Altoona:

Table IV-8 – Other Funds

City Department	Grant/Fund Name	Source	Amount	Project
Engineering	ARLE Red Light	State	\$12,394	17th St School Signals
Engineering	ARLE Red Light	State	\$25,266	17th Street Cosswalks
Engineering	7th Ave Juniata Pipe (Phase 1)	State	\$15,400	BCCD Dirt and low Volume
Engineering	7th Ave Vacation	State	\$30,360	BCCD Dirt and low Volume
Engineering	Green Light Go 2020	State	\$60,000	Green Light Go Fund
Police	Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant	Federal	\$13,297	
Police	Bullet Proof Vest Grant	Federal	\$2,187.50	
Police	Aggressive Driving/Buckle Up Pa	Federal	\$14,000	
Police	Bullet Proof Vest Grant		\$3,937.50	
Fire Department	State Fire Commissioner Grant	State	\$15,000	Gear Washers
Clerk's Office	Martin & Mabel Goodman Trust Recreation Grant	Local/Private	\$9,920	Recreation

HOME Funds	50/50 Match	Federal	\$156,816	Rental Units in the City
CDBG Funds		Federal	\$585,581	Proposing Street Reconstruction & Storm Drainage Projects
CDBG Funds		Federal	\$177,543	Recreational Upgrades

3. Low Income Housing Tax Credits

The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program was created under the Tax Reform Act of 1986 and is intended to attract private investment to develop affordable rental housing for low- and moderate-income households.

There are currently no known projects, proposed projects, or planned projects in the City of Altoona that will be using LIHTC funds. The City is supportive of the use of LIHTC projects to provide affordable housing to low-income households, and had ten (10) previously developed LIHTC projects, between 1987 and 2011, totaling 310 housing units.

The following is a list of LIHTC projects which were built in the City of Altoona from 1987 through 2011:

Table IV-9 – LIHTC in the City of Altoona

HUD ID Number:	Year Placed in Service	Project Name:	Project Address:	Project City:	Project State:	Project ZIP Code:	Total Number of Units:	Total Low-Income Units:
PAA1989005	1989	1015 LEXINGTON AVE	1015 LEXINGTON AVE	ALTOONA	PA	16601	1	1
PAA1989010	1989	109 S 16TH ST	109 S 16TH ST	ALTOONA	PA	16602	1	1
PAA1989150	1989	2135 19TH ST	2135 19TH ST	ALTOONA	PA	16601	1	1
PAA1989695	1989	PENN ALTO	1130 13TH AVE	ALTOONA	PA	16601	150	138
PAA1989780	1989	TOWN HALL APARTMENTS	1100 13TH AVE	ALTOONA	PA	16601	6	6
PAA1993020	1993	1500 19TH STREET	1500 19TH ST	ALTOONA	PA	16601	2	2
PAA1993175	1993	LEXINGTON PARK		ALTOONA	PA		24	24
PAA1993180	1993	LEXINGTON PARK		ALTOONA	PA		24	24

PAA1999045	1999	CHARLES E WOLF APARTMENTS	1501 11TH AVE	ALTOONA	PA	16601	90	90
PAA2011015	2011	CHATHAM MEWS	200 LEXINGTON AVE	ALTOONA	PA	16601	11	

Source: <http://lihtc.huduser.org/>

4. Planning, Zoning, and Building Codes

City of Altoona Planning

The City of Altoona has a planning commission which was established in accordance with the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Act of 1968. P.L. 805, No. 247, as reenacted and amended. The Community Development Department is the planning agency for the City and the head of the department is the Planning Director.

The Altoona Planning Code divides the City into eleven (11) zoning districts. Each zoning district contains permitted and conditional land uses, along with associated development standards. These development standards establish minimum lot sizes, maximum lot coverage, parking requirements, minimum yard setbacks and related requirements. The City of Altoona has refined these broad categories into eleven (11) use districts:

- R-S - Suburban Residential
- R-SH - Single Household Residential
- R-L - Limited Residential
- R-MH - Multiple Household Residential
- R-U - Urban Residential
- M-RC - Residential/Commercial
- C-NB - Neighborhood Business
- C-HB - Highway Business
- C-CB - Central Business
- I-L - Light Industrial
- I-G - General Industrial

The City’s Comprehensive Plan, “Positively Altoona”, was adopted by City Council on May 22, 2013 and it appears to be in compliance with the Federal regulations governing fair housing. “Ahead of the

Curve Altoona” is an addition to “Positively Altoona” that focuses on a housing strategy and improving the Downtown Altoona as mandated as part of the City’s Act 47 Plan. The City’s Zoning Ordinance was amended and codified in September 28, 2016 by Ordinance number 5686.

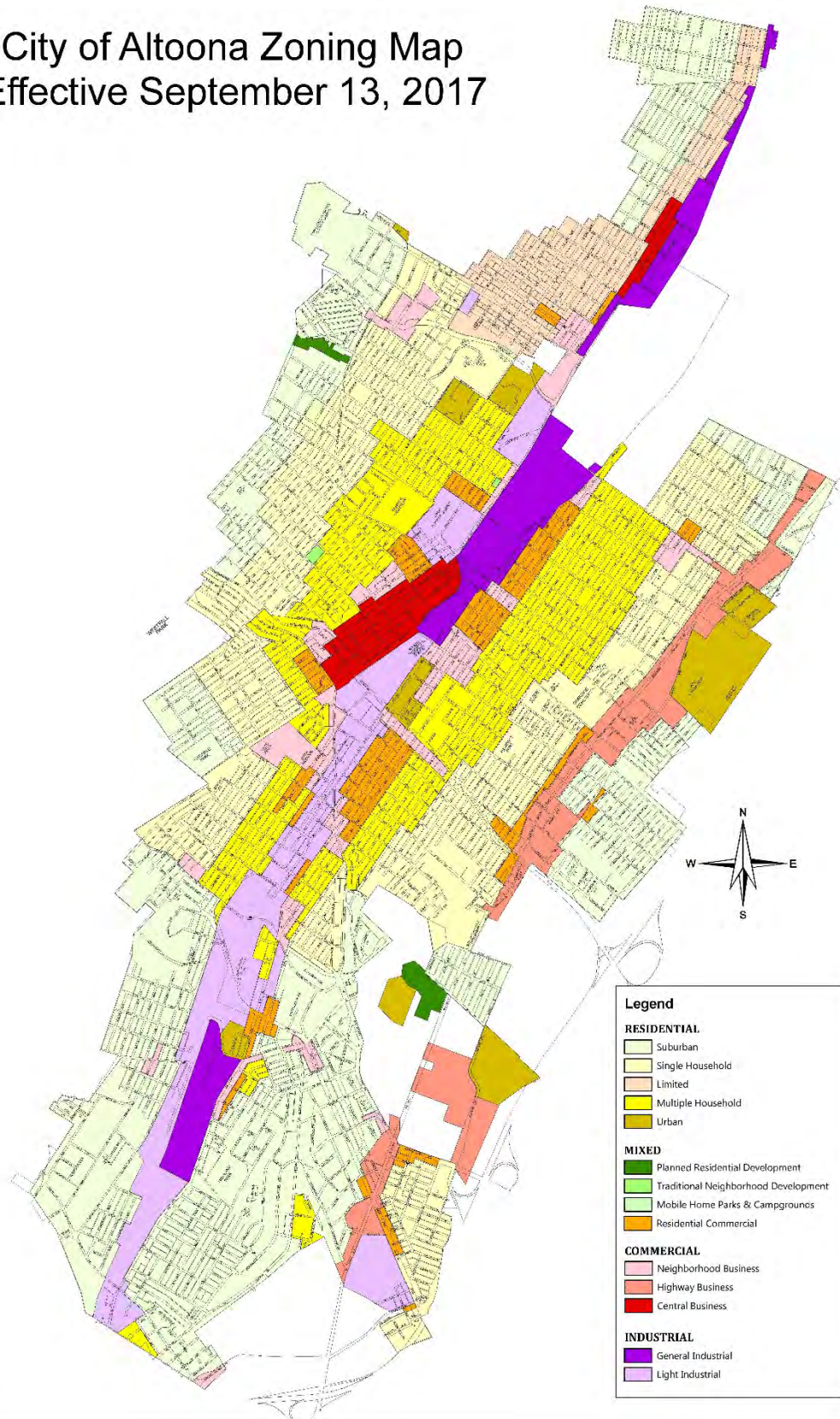
The previous 2015 Analysis of Impediments suggested several areas for improvement within the City’s Zoning ordinance in order to conform to the Federal Fair Housing Act. These suggestions are below.

- Creating a new subsection:
 - *O: Fostering housing choice and affirmatively furthering fair housing. This subsection of the ordinance is intended to affirmatively further fair housing in the City of Altoona by:*
 - *Abiding by the provisions of the Fair Housing Act of 1968, as amended.*
 - *Promoting fair housing choice for all residents in the City of Altoona.*
 - *Assuring the rights of all individuals that are identified as members of a protected class by the Federal Government.*
 - *Prevention of discrimination in housing based on a person’s race, color, national origin, religion, sex familial status or handicap.*
- *The City’s Zoning Ordinance does not appear to contain any discriminatory language, however several definitions should be reviewed by the Altoona Development and Planning Department, as well as the City’s Legal Counsel and consideration should be given to revising them through a minor text amendment.*
 - *Accessibility: A definition should be included; nothing is presently listed in the Zoning Ordinance. A suggested definition should include the ease of access into and around the interior of a building or facility without obstruction to a person who may be physically disabled.*

The City of Altoona has made all of the above changes to its zoning code and is in conformance to the Fair Housing Act and Americans with Disabilities Act.

The following is a copy of the City of Altoona’s Zoning District Map:

City of Altoona Zoning Map Effective September 13, 2017



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

HUD encourages its grantees to incorporate “visitability” principles into their designs. Housing that is “visitable” has the most basic level of accessibility that enables persons with disabilities to visit the home of a friend, family member, or neighbor. “Visitable” homes have at least one accessible means of egress/ingress for each unit, and all interior and bathroom doorways have 32-inch clear openings. At a minimum, HUD grantees are required to abide by all Federal laws governing accessibility for disabled persons.



Federal laws governing accessibility requirements include Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Fair Housing Act.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (24 CFR Part 8), known as “Section 504” prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities in any program receiving Federal funds. Specifically, Section 504 concerns the design and construction of housing to ensure that a portion of all housing developed with Federal funds is accessible to those with mobility, visual, and hearing impairments.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 12131; 47 U.S.C. 155, 201, 218, and 225) (ADA) prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities in all programs and activities sponsored by state and local governments. Specifically, ADA gives HUD jurisdiction over housing discrimination against persons with disabilities.

The Fair Housing Act was amended in 1988 to include persons with disabilities as a protected class, as well as to include design and construction requirements for housing developed with private or public funds. Specifically, this law requires property owners to make reasonable modifications to units and/or public areas in order to allow the disabled tenant to make full use of the unit. Additionally, property owners are required to make reasonable accommodations to rules or procedures to afford a disabled tenant full use of the unit. As it relates to local zoning ordinances, the Fair Housing Act prohibits local government from making zoning or land use decisions, or implementing land use policies that exclude or discriminate against persons of a protected class.

5. Taxes

Real estate property taxes may not be an impediment to fair housing choice, but it may impact the affordability of owner and renter housing.

The general residential real estate tax receipts in the City of Altoona are divided among the School District, Blair County, and the City of Altoona. The total levy rate for owner-occupied and non-owner occupied properties, including real property, personal property and utility, is as follows:

- School District 6.2053 levy rate
- City of Altoona 5.1290 levy rate
- Blair County 3.925 levy rate
- Total 15.2593 levy rate

Table IV-10 illustrates the taxes assessed for property valued at \$100,000 and the City’s median value of \$87,600. Real Estate taxes have been identified as a significant cause of housing cost overburden, especially for those who are on a fixed income.

Table IV-10 – Real Estate Property Taxes

Taxes for Owner and Non-Owner Occupied Property Assessed at \$100,000 In City of Altoona	
School	\$ 620.53
City of Altoona	\$ 512.90
Blair County	\$ 392.50
Total Owner Occupied	\$ 1,525.93

Taxes for Owner Occupied and Non-Owner Median Property Value (\$87,000) In City of Altoona	
School	\$ 539.86
City of Altoona	\$ 446.22

Blair County	\$ 341.48
Total Non-Owner Occupied	\$ 1,327.56

6. Public Housing

The Altoona Housing Authority is the public housing agency that serves the City of Altoona. The mission of the Altoona Housing Authority is to provide affordable, quality housing that promotes self-sufficiency and other opportunities based upon sound management which is a valuable asset to the community.

The Housing Authority owns and manages 536 units of public housing, of which 27 units (5%) are accessible. In addition, the Housing Authority administers 974 Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers and 27 VASH Vouchers for Veterans.

According to the Altoona Housing Authority’s Five Year Plan for the period of 2020-2024, the goals of the Housing Authority are as follows:

Current plans/goals of Housing Authority:

- Continue to reduce public housing vacancies through collaboration efforts between Management and Maintenance to reach 98% occupancy.
- Increase level of landlord participation in the Section 8 Voucher Program through landlord educational workshops and recruitment efforts.
- Continue to lease up Section 8 Vouchers for those applicants needing assistance through the Voucher Program based upon funding.
- Maintain Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS) score with High-Performer status.
- Maintain Section 8 Management Assessment Program (SEMAP) score with High-Performer status.
- Continuation of customer service training for staff and conduct resident customer satisfaction surveys to determine areas for improvement.
- Continuation of work with the City of Altoona on Code Enforcement, Fair Housing, workshops and work on

expansion of home-ownership programs working with the City of Altoona Planning and Community Development Office.

- Renovate and modernize public housing units through Capital Fund modernization.
- Dispose of scattered site public housing properties and utilize proceeds of sale of scattered sites to expand the Authority's Home Buyer program and upgrades at our Fairview Hills Development. Received approval from the Special Applications Center (SAC) for removal of 20 units (10 properties) from public housing. Utilize said funding to expand home ownership program. Properties are currently being sold. These include:
 - 114 Lexington Avenue
 - 504 Crawford Avenue
 - 705 6th Avenue
 - 820 6th Avenue
 - 1407 1st Street
 - 1501 15th Street
 - 1904 6th Avenue
 - 2021 811 Avenue
 - 2114 7th Avenue
 - 2514 West Chestnut Avenue (Vacant Lot)
- Continue to work with Blair County Housing Authority in housing VASH participants within the City of Altoona limits.
- Continue to update and monitor Authority's Physical Needs Assessment (PNA)
- Continue the educational community workshops with surrounding agencies to meet the needs of clients with housing assistance.
- Continue security services to keep safety of our residents a top priority.
- Install additional security cameras and conduct staff training on safety protocols.
- Continue to hold resident and staff training on Emergency Procedures

-
- Continue to provide a Head Start/ Day Care Facility on site at public housing family development for the residents needing day care services.
 - Continue health awareness programs for the residents.
 - Recruit residents to become active in Resident Organizations in their housing community.
 - Continue education for residents and staff on Fair Housing regulations.
 - Update Maintenance and Prevention Maintenance Plans.
 - Continue promoting self-sufficiency through the ROSS-Family Self Sufficiency Coordination Program.
 - Continue to partner with the Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation to provide an After-School Enrichment Program for public housing family development.
 - Undertake affirmative measures to ensure access to assisted housing regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, or disability.
 - Continue marketing the rental units through the Authority with advertisements and open houses.
 - Effectively manage and continue of upgrades for ADA compliance deficiencies.
 - Continue to promote a healthy living environment for the residents residing in public housing.
 - Continue to monitor Section 8 funding to house as many participants as possible within the PHA funding level.
 - Continue to upgrade Section 8 Vouchers and Public Housing policies on regulatory changes.
 - Continue staff training on regulatory changes to maintain compliance requirements.
 - Continue internal staff cross training for employees.

The Altoona Housing Authority is not rated as a “troubled” agency by HUD. The Housing Authority’s biggest challenges are the lack of sufficient Housing Choice Vouchers to meet the demand for housing by low income persons, and renovating the existing public housing units. There is a total of 236 people on waiting lists for Fairview Hills, Pleasant Village, and Green Avenue and 11th Street Tower. At least 50 persons on the waiting list are elderly or disabled persons

indicating a need for additional accessible housing units and accommodations. The Housing Authority has been working to make reasonable accommodations to its public housing units to satisfy the Section 504 requirements for persons with physical disabilities such as mobility, visual, and hearing impairments.

The Housing Authority's current operating budget provides funds for routine maintenance and operating costs. The Altoona Housing Authority obtains an annual grant from HUD through the Capital Fund Program (CFP) for capital improvements and renovation costs. The CFP funds include the construction of capital maintenance initiatives identified in the Housing Authority's Five Year Plan, and implementation of the agency's Section 504 handicap accessibility improvements.

The Housing Authority's FY 2020 Capital Fund Program Budget for Fairview Hill and Green Avenue Tower is as follows:

Operations = \$50,000
Site Improvement = \$716,614
Dwelling Improvement = \$169,659
Total = \$936,273

The Altoona Housing Authority is working to recruit additional landlords to expand the Section 8 Voucher Program. The Housing Authority offers landlords training and resource guides to help educate and guide landlords on policies and procedures, such as the inspection, payment, and termination of the Section 8 process, as well as Fair Housing laws. The Housing Authority also offers several workshops and trainings to tenants throughout the year to educate about available programming, such as the Family Self-Sufficiency program, and Fair Housing laws.

7. Comprehensive Plan

On May 22, 2013, the City of Altoona's Comprehensive Plan, "Positively Altoona", was adopted by the Altoona City Council. "Positively Altoona", was developed simultaneously with the City's Act 47 Recovery Plan and emphasizes the necessary balance between the City's planning initiatives and fiscal investments.

The following principles were adopted to help guide planning in the City of Altoona:

- Instill Pride in the City.
- Build new community partnerships.

-
- Nurture local economic development.
 - Promote transportation options for convenient, healthy living.
 - Improve the infrastructure and appearance of the City.
 - Incorporate sustainable development principles.
 - Invest for future generations.

The “Positively Livable” section of “Positively Altoona” explains that the City’s livability is dependent upon the relationships of land use and housing, services and infrastructure, transportation, economic development, urban design, and the public realm. This section identifies objectives and action steps in order to achieve housing, transportation, service and infrastructure, economic development, and urban design goals. The plan identifies key partners in order to achieve the goals and objectives including but not limited to, local and state representatives and legislators, Civic Groups, the Justice System, Penn State University-Altoona Campus, and Volunteers, among others.

The Comprehensive Plan provides recommendations for the City to prioritize it’s needs, improve the quality of life, and identify patterns of short and long term spending. The final takeaway points for the City are as follows:

1. Continue to advocate for an update to the real estate property for Blair County.
2. Re-evaluate and amend the charges for services it collects in context of the specific rates that the other communities assign to the various services that are offered.
3. Determine ways in which to facilitate new income generating opportunities. One area worth discussion may be determining ways in which some or all of the 8.3% of Altoona’s land area that is classified as public and/or quasi-public could become revenue generating.
4. Identify public amenity sites which could be redeveloped and maintained at limited cost to the City while serving as catalysts for surrounding investment and initiate greater investment.
5. Define and act upon ways in which culture and recreation-related spending and/or investments of the City’s time in cooperating with the Central Blair Recreation and Park Commission can be increased.
6. Re-examine the Altoona earned income rates/percentages in comparison with other cities/municipalities/home rule

communities to determine if adjusting to that rate/percentage would be applicable and advantageous.

8. Transportation

Altoona Metro Transit, better known as AMTRAN, is over 50 years old, though the transportation entity has existed in some form since 1882. AMTRAN has consistently met the transportation needs of the people of Altoona and Logan Valley by constantly reinventing itself and adapting to the needs of its riders.

The Altoona Metro Transit (AMTRAN) operates a number of transportation programs within the City of Altoona. AMTRAN operates fifteen (15) routes within city limits throughout the workday and workweek, plus a Saturday service. There are no buses running on Sundays, or between the hours of approximately 11 PM and 6 AM. The transit's HelpLine assists riders on finding route options and is open from 6:30 AM to 6:30 PM, Monday through Saturday.

Fares are expected to increase on July 1, 2020. Adults paying with cash will be charged \$1.75, adults using the myFare Smart Card will be charged \$1.65, Seniors over the age of 65 can ride for free with a Senior Transit ID card. AMTRAN vehicles and operators are equipped to serve customers who use mobility devices, such as wheelchairs. AMTRAN will also accommodate individuals with equipment such as oxygen tanks, service animals, will announce bus stops and display stops on an LED sign, and buses are equipped with a speaker on the outside of the bus which announce the route at stops served by multiple bus routes. Additionally, riders can request a bus deviate from its fixed route before 7:00 am and after 6:00 pm in order to get a rider closer to their destination. Individuals with disabilities and persons with a Medicare Card are charged \$0.85 per ride on fixed routes. For individuals, not able to access fixed routes, paratransit services are available for a fee of \$3.40, Monday through Friday and Saturdays.

All day passes are available to riders at the cost of \$3.30. Monthly passes are also available for the price of \$50.00. Students (age 6-21) can purchase a punch card for 10 rides for \$10. AMTRAN also services Penn State Altoona campus through its Crosstown, Flash, and Pleasant Valley routes, which connect the Ivyside Campus to the Downtown Campus; students are also able to access businesses at the Logan Towne Centre, Logan Valley Mall, and Walmart.

AMTRAN has a vehicle fleet of 26, including 16 buses that run on compressed natural gas, 3 that are diesel-electric hybrids and 7 buses that are electric.

In September 2017, PennDOT initiated an Act 44-mandated performance review for AMTRAN

1. Initial notification of performance review selection and transmission of document request:
 - a. Review available data and request additional information.
 - b. Peer selection: AMTRAN and PennDOT agree to a set of peer agencies that would be used for comparative analysis.
2. Conduct PennDOT-sponsored customer satisfaction survey (CSS).
3. Review of Act 44 variables including current performance, targets from the previous 2012 review, and action plan implementation.
4. Perform Act 44 performance criteria analysis.
5. Conduct on site review, interviews and supplementary data collection/reconciliation.
6. Evaluate performance, financial management and operations.
7. Report results and determine agency compliance with performance requirements.
8. Finalize performance review report.
9. Develop, implement and monitor five-year action plan.

In 2017, PennDOT sponsored a fixed-route rider survey to be conducted for AMTRAN based on 15 questions that addressed customer satisfaction, rider characteristics and patterns in service usage. Over a period from February 1, 2017 to February 17, 2017 AMTRAN surveyed their fixed-route passengers and collected 435 completed surveys:

1. 98% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the service.
2. 95% of respondents indicated they would continue using the service.
3. 96% of respondents said they would recommend the service to others.

AMTRAN received the highest ratings in driver courtesy and friendliness, safe and competent drivers, and helpfulness of employees. AMTRAN received the lowest ratings for frequency of weekend service, comfort at bus stops, and comfortable bus seats.

AMTRAN was found to be “incompliance” for four measure and “At Risk” for four. It was identified that management’s efforts in coming years should continue to focus on containing costs, increasing ridership, and improving farebox recovery. Performance targets will be reviewed again in 2023.

9. Education

Education is often an important factor influencing where people choose to live. According to the 2013-2017 American Community Survey, 10.9% of the population does not have a high school diploma; 46.7% of the population age 25 and over has a high school diploma or GED; 26.4% of the population 25 and over has an Associate’s degree or higher;

The public schools serving Altoona are part of the Altoona Area School District. There are eleven (11) public schools that serve the area, including eight (8) elementary schools, one (1) junior high school, one (1) alternative school and one (1) high school. During the 2019-2020 school year, there were a total of 7,755 students, of which 3,970 were male and 3,785 were female. In terms of demographics, 6,855 students were White, 683 students were Black, 136 students were Latino/Hispanic, 48 students were Asian and 9 students were Native American. There is a total of 146 homeless students in the Altoona Area School System. Homeless students receive free lunch, transportation, and school supplies in order to give homeless students equal opportunities for learning in a school environment. Additionally, 63.6% students were classified as economically disadvantaged; a total of 4,687 students received free or reduced lunch, 20.3% are enrolled in special education, and 0.3% are English Language Learners.

The 2018-2019 Future Ready PA Index was analyzed for academic performance measures, as well as how students performed in comparison to the Pennsylvania Statewide 2030 Goals.

In the Junior High School the district performed worse than the statewide average and did not meet the interim goal/improvement target set by the State for English/Language Arts, Mathematics, or Science/Biology.

The High School performed better than the Statewide average and exceeded Interim Goal and Improvement Targets in both English/Language Arts, and Mathematics however, the district did not meet these goals for Science/Biology.

Of the high school students in the four-year cohort, 86.1% graduate compared to the statewide average of 85.8%. The Statewide 2030 graduation rate goal is a rate of 92.4% in four years. For students who belong to the five-year cohort 89.3% graduate within five years compared to the state-wide average of 88.5%.

Table IV-11 – Trend Data of Student Performance Altoona Area Jr. High school (percentage of student's scores at proficient level)

	Altoona School District % Proficient	State of Pennsylvania % Proficient	Statewide 2030 Goal
English/Language Arts	58.8%	62.1%	81.1%
Math	34.6%	45.2%	71.8%
Science	55.1%	66.0%	83.0%

Table IV-12 – Trend Data of Student Performance Altoona Area High school (percentage of student's scores at proficient level)

	Altoona School District % Proficient	State of Pennsylvania % Proficient	Statewide 2030 Goal
English/Language Arts	76.0%	62.1%	81.1%
Math	70.6%	45.2%	71.8%
Science	64.3%	66.0%	83.0%

10. Section 3

HUD’s definition of Section 3 is:

Section 3 is a provision of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968. The purpose of Section 3 to ensure that employment and other economic opportunities generated by certain HUD financial assistance shall, to the greatest extent feasible, and consistent with existing Federal, State

and local laws and regulations, be directed to low- and very low income persons, particularly those who are recipients of government assistance for housing, and to business concerns which provide economic opportunities to low- and very low-income persons.

The following is the City of Altoona's guidelines that are used to accomplish Section 3 compliance:

- The City will notify residents of the Section 3 requirements of HUD and the City, as well as the opportunities these requirements create. This notification will appear on the City website (www.altoonapa.gov), and annually in newspaper advertisements. It will also be publicized through the Altoona Housing Authority.
- The City will notify contractors of the Section 3 requirements of HUD and the City, as well as the opportunity these requirements create.
- The City will maintain databases of known Section 3 businesses and residents. This list may be developed with the help of the Altoona Housing Authority, the Blair County Community Action Agency, minority and women's business enterprise (MBE/WBE) contractor associations, the Blair County Chamber of Commerce, the Altoona Blair County Development Corporation, and other community organizations.
- The City will notify known Section 3 businesses of any bidding opportunities in which the City feels they may be interested.
- The City will help interested Section 3 businesses find training on contracting procedures, bonding, insurance, or other pertinent requirements.
- The City will penalize contractors for noncompliance by barring them from future bidding on Section 3 covered projects after they cannot provide an adequate explanation as to why Section 3 goals were not met.
- The City will incorporate Section 3 clauses into all applicable contracts.

-
- The City will facilitate the training of the City's Section 3 residents by maintaining links with and referring residents to training providers.
 - The City will award contracts to Section 3 Business Concerns (defined as companies that are at least 51% or more owned by Section 3 residents, that have a staff that is at least 30% current Section 3 residents, or that assign 25% or more of their subcontracts to Section 3 businesses) whenever feasible or required by HUD.
 - The City will hire Section 3 residents as City staff to perform work related to housing construction, rehabilitation, or other public construction whenever it is feasible, whenever they are among the most qualified candidates, and whenever the civil service and union rules allow.
 - The City will assist contractors with compliance by explaining Section 3 to them and maintaining lists of Section 3 residents and business concerns available for their use.
 - The City will submit annual 60002 forms, as well as certifications signed by the highest elected officials, as required by HUD.
 - The Department of Planning Community Development, as a whole, shall serve as the designated Section 3 Coordinator, responsible for the requirements of this section of our plan, as well as for reporting any relevant grievances to HUD. The Department will work in concert with the Altoona Housing Authority and the Blair County Community Action Agency to help the City's Section 3 residents take advantage of the opportunities provided by this plan.
 - The City Department of Planning & Community Development will document actions made to reach Section 3 goals and the results. This will also be documented: job vacancies, notification efforts, solicitations for bids or proposals, selection materials, penalties imposed, 60002 forms, contract documents, and any Section 3 grievances filed.

All contractors/businesses seeking Section 3 preference must, before submitting bids/proposals to the City, be required to complete certifications, as appropriate, as acknowledgement of the Section 3 contracting and employment provisions required by the City. Such

certifications shall be adequately supported with appropriate documentation as referenced in the form.

C. Private Sector:

The private sector has traditionally been the greatest impediment to fair housing choice in regard to discrimination in the sale, rental or advertising of dwellings, the provision of brokerage services, or in the availability of financing for real estate purchases. The Fair Housing Act prohibits such practices as the failure to give the same terms, privileges, or information, charging different fees, steering prospective buyers or renters toward a certain area or neighborhood, or using advertising that discourages prospective buyers or renters because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin.

1. Real Estate Practices

The Allegheny Highland Association of Realtors serves Blair County and surrounding areas. The Allegheny Highland Association of Realtors has an open membership policy and does not discriminate. Members are bound by the Code of Ethics of the National Association of Realtors (NAR). This Code of Ethics obligates its members to maintain professional standards including efforts to affirmatively furthering fair housing. All realtors are required to complete annual continuing education classes. These classes cover the Federal Fair Housing Act and related laws.



2. Newspaper Advertising

Under Federal Law, no advertising with respect to the sale or rental of a dwelling unit may indicate any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin. Under the Fair Housing Act Amendments, descriptions are listed in regard to the use of words, photographs, symbols or other approaches that are considered discriminatory.

Real estate advertisements were reviewed for several real estate publications, including the *Altoona Mirror*, which is the local newspaper. The real estate and lender's advertisements in each of these publications include the equal housing opportunity logo. However, the publications included the HUD publisher's notice. None of the sample advertisements that were reviewed contained language that prohibited occupancy by any group.

3. Private Financing

The Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (F.I.R.R.E.A.) requires any commercial institution that makes five (5) or more home mortgage loans, to report all home loan activity to the Federal Reserve Bank under the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA). The annual HMDA data can be found online at www.ffiec.gov/hmda/. This analysis uses 2018 HMDA data. The available data indicates there may be discriminatory lending patterns between minority and non-minority households. The following tables provide an analysis of the HMDA data in the Altoona, PA Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Data for the City of Altoona and Blair County is highlighted where possible. All other data is that of the entire Altoona, PA MSA, which includes Blair County.

The following table provides a summary of the home loan activity in the City of Altoona and Blair County. The Altoona MSA is comprised of the City of Altoona and all of Blair County. The population of the City of Altoona represents approximately one-third of the population of Blair County. With the exception of refinancing and home improvement loans, the percentage of Home Purchase Loans in the City was slightly greater than the comparative population; it is not a disproportionate comparison. Disproportionate is defined as a group having at least 10 percentage points higher than the percentage of persons in that group as a whole.

TABLE IV-13 HMDA Data Analysis for 2018

	Home Purchase Loans							
	FHA, FSA/RHS & VA		Conventional		Refinancing		Home Improvement Loans	
	#	Amount	#	Amount	#	Amount	#	Amount
Altoona	204	20,200,000	317	26,315,000	521	43,405,000	178	7,220,000
Blair County/MSA	531	64,385,000	901	114,545,000	1656	186,770,000	600	27,330,000
% of lending in Altoona	38.4%	31.3%	35.2%	22.9%	31.5%	23.2%	29.7%	26.4%

Source: <http://www.ffiec.gov/hmda/>

The following table provides a summary of the disposition of conventional loans in the City of Altoona as compared to Blair County. Just over forty-percent (41.1%) of applications were completed for the City of Altoona. Approximately, one-third (31.2%) of loans originated in Blair County are attributed to the City of Altoona.

TABLE IV-14 Disposition of Conventional Loans

	Altoona Applications	Blair county Applications	% of Altoona Applications	% of Blair County/MSA Applications
Loans Originated	155	373	75.9%	31.2%
Approved, Not Accepted	1	11	0.49%	0.2%
Applications Denied	21	59	10.3%	4.2%
Applications Withdrawn	22	52	10.8%	4.4%
File Closed for Incompleteness	5	48	2.5%	1.0%
TOTAL	204	496	--	41.1%

Source: <http://www.ffiec.gov/hmda/>

The following table provides a summary of the disposition of conventional loans in the Altoona Metropolitan Statistical Area. The data indicates that there is a direct correlation between incomes and loans originated in the City; the higher the income level of the loan applicant, the higher the acceptance rate with the exception of the 100-119% AMI group. The data also supports that the lower the income level of the loan applicant, the higher the denial rate with the exception of the 100-119% AMI group.

The following tables show the disposition of conventional loans disaggregated by minority status and income level for the Altoona MSA. The number of applications for conventional loans submitted by White, non-Hispanic applicants significantly outnumbers minority applicants in each income level analyzed.

In general, the loan origination rates were much lower for minorities and denial rates were higher for minorities. While the data may appear to support that lending discrimination exists in the area it may be problematic to infer that lending discrimination exists in the

Altoona MSA due to the small sampling size of the data, meaning the results may not be statistically significant.

TABLE IV-16 Conventional Loan Disposition Rates by Minority Status, 2018
Less than 50% of MSA Median Income

Minority Status	Applications Received	% of Total Applications	Loans Originated	% of Applications Received	Applications Approved but Not Accepted	% of Applications Received	Applications Denied	% of Applications Received	Applications Withdrawn	% of Applications Received	Applications Closed for Incompleteness	% of Applications Received
White, Non-Hispanic	588	97.1%	307	52.2%	10	1.7%	189	32.1%	54	9.2%	28	4.8%
Minority, Including Hispanic	17	2.9%	6	35.3%	0	0.0%	6	35.4%	2	11.7%	3	17.6%
TOTAL	605	100%	313	51.7%	10	1.6%	195	32.2%	56	9.3%	31	5.1%

Source: <http://www.ffiec.gov/hmda/>

In the MSA there were a total of six hundred five (605) applications made by households that have incomes less than 50% of the MSA median income. Of those applicants, 35.3% of minority applications resulted in loan originations. This is considered disproportionate compared to white applicants with a difference of 16.4%. However, further research is necessary since two minority applications were withdrawn (11.7%) and 3 minority applications were incomplete (17.6%). Based on denial rates: 32.1% of White loans were denied and 35.4% of minority loan applications were denied.

**TABLE IV-17 Conventional Loan Disposition Rates by Minority Status,
50-79% of MSA Median Income**

Minority Status	Applications Received	% of Total Applications	Loans Originated	% of Applications Received	Applications Approved but Not Accepted	% of Applications Received	Applications Denied	% of Applications Received	Applications Withdrawn	% of Applications Received	Applications Closed for Incompleteness	% of Applications Received
White, Non-Hispanic	888	98.1%	568	63.9%	8	0.90%	192	21.6%	95	10.7%	25	2.8%
Minority, Including Hispanic	17	1.9%	7	41.1%	0	0.0%	8	47.1%	2	11.8%	0	0.0%
TOTAL	905	100%	575	63.5%	8	0.88%	200	22.1%	97	10.7%	25	2.8%

Source: <http://www.ffiec.gov/hmda/>

There was a total of nine hundred five (905) applications made by households that have incomes between 50% and 79% of the MSA median income. Of those applicants, 41.1% of minority applications resulted in loan originations compared to 63.9% of the white population. When comparing the loan originations for minority applicants the amount is considered disproportionate with a difference of 22.4%. However, there were only 17 minority applications filed versus 888 White applications.

**TABLE IV-18 Conventional Loan Disposition Rates by Minority Status,
80-99% of MSA Median Income**

Minority Status	Applications Received	% of Total Applications	Loans Originated	% of Applications Received	Applications Approved but Not Accepted	% of Applications Received	Applications Denied	% of Applications Received	Applications Withdrawn	% of Applications Received	Applications Closed for Incompleteness	% of Applications Received
White, Non-Hispanic	223	98.2%	159	71.3%	1	0.45%	32	14.3%	18	8.1%	13	5.8%

Minority, Including Hispanic	4	1.8%	2	50.0%	0	0.0%	1	25.0%	1	25.0%	0	0.0%
TOTAL	227	100%	161	70.9%	1	0.445	33	14.5%	19	8.4%	13	5.7%

Source: <http://www.ffiec.gov/hmda/>

There was a total of two hundred twenty-seven applications made by households that have incomes between 80% and 99% of the MSA median income. Of those applicants, 50.0% of minority applications resulted in loan originations. When comparing the loan originations and denials for minority applicants the amount is considered disproportionate with a difference of 20.9% and 16.6%, respectively. Once again, this is skewed by the fact there were only 4 minority applications and only 1 was denied.

**TABLE IV-19 Conventional Loan Disposition Rates by Minority Status,
100-119% of MSA Median Income**

Minority Status	Applications Received	% of Total Applications	Loans Originated	% of Applications Received	Applications Approved but Not Accepted	% of Applications Received	Applications Denied	% of Applications Received	Applications Withdrawn	% of Applications Received	Applications Closed for Incompleteness	% of Applications Received
White, Non-Hispanic	706	97.6%	477	67.6%	19	2.7%	127	17.9%	55	7.8%	28	3.9%
Minority, Including Hispanic	17	2.4%	9	52.9%	1	5.9%	6	35.3%	1	5.9%	0	0.0%
TOTAL	723	100%	486	67.2%	20	2.8%	133	18.4%	56	7.7%	28	3.9%

Source: <http://www.ffiec.gov/hmda/>

There was a total of seven hundred twenty-three (723) applications made by households that have incomes between 100% and 119% of the MSA median income. Of those applicants, 52.9% of minority applications resulted in loan originations. When comparing the loan originations for minority applicants the amount is considered slightly disproportionate with a difference of 14.3% This may also be skewed since there were only 17 minority applications received.

**TABLE IV-20 Conventional Loan Disposition Rates by Minority Status,
120% or More of MSA Median Income**

Minority Status	Applications Received	% of Total Applications	Loans Originated	% of Applications Received	Applications Approved but Not Accepted	% of Applications Received	Applications Denied	% of Applications Received	Applications Withdrawn	% of Applications Received	Applications Closed for Incompleteness	% of Applications Received
White, Non-Hispanic	1240	97.3%	924	74.5%	10	0.81%	153	12.3%	115	9.3%	38	3.1%
Minority, Including Hispanic	34	2.7%	18	52.9%	0	0.0%	4	11.8%	8	23.5%	4	11.8%
TOTAL	1274	100%	942	73.9%	10	0.78%	157	12.3%	123	9.6%	42	3.3%

Source: <http://www.ffiec.gov/hmda/>

There was a total of one thousand two hundred seventy-four (1,274) applications made by households that have incomes above 120% of the MSA median income. Of those applicants, 52.9% of minority applications resulted in loan originations. The percentage of applications denied for White applicants was 12.3% and the percentage for minority applicants was 11.8%. This tends to show that the denial rates for both White and minority loan applications is similar. Which leads to the possible conclusion that loan applicants in the higher income bracket are not being denied because of race, however there is a disproportionate denial rate for lower income applicants. Further study by an outside organization may be necessary.

The table below provides a closer look at the denial rates of conventional loans by denial reason and income level. The data reported is from 2017 as data for 2018 was not available in this format. For applicants earning less than 50% AMI the most common reason for denial was debt-to-income ratio; for those earning 50-79% AMI the most common reasons were credit history and collateral was; for those earning 80-99% AMI the most common reason was credit history; and for those earning 100-119% and 120% or more AMI the most common reason was an incomplete credit application.

TABLE IV-21 Conventional Loan Denial Rates by Denial Reason and Income Level (2017)

	Less than 50% Low		50-79% Middle		80-99% Upper- Middle		100-119% Upper		120% or More High		Income Not Available		Total Denials	
	Count	% of Income Level	Count	% of Income Level	Count	% of Income Level	Count	% of Income Level	Count	% of Income Level	Count	% of Income Level	Count	% of Total
Debt- to-Income Ratio	4	57.1%	2	25.0%	1	11.1%	0	0.0%	2	33.3%	0	0.0%	9	25.7%
Employment History	1	14.3%	0	0.0%	1	11.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	50.0%	3	8.6%
Credit History	1	14.3%	2	25.0%	4	44.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	7	20.0%
Collateral	0	0.0%	2	25.0%	2	22.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	11.4%
Insufficient Cash	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	33.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	2.8%
Unverifiable Information	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	50.0%	1	2.8%
Credit Application Incomplete	1	14.3%	1	12.5%	0	0.0%	2	66.7%	4	66.7%	0	0.0%	8	22.8%
Mortgage Insurance Denied	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%	1	12.5%	1	11.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	5.7%
Total Denials and % of Total	7	20.0%	8	22.8%	9	25.7%	3	8.6%	6	17.1%	2	5.7%	35	100%

Source: <http://www.ffiec.gov/hmda/>

D. Citizen Participation:

The City of Altoona's FY 2020-2024 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice was made available for public comment on the City's website (<http://www.altoonapa.gov/>).

The document was available beginning on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 until Monday, April 20, 2015. Citizens were encouraged to submit written or oral feedback on the Analysis of Impediments by Monday, April 20, 2015.

As a part of the consolidated planning process, the City of Altoona distributed a Resident Survey. Surveys were made available through the Department of Planning and Community Development. Additionally, a link was posted on the City's website to an electronic version of the survey. A total of twenty (20) surveys were completed.

Some of the notable characteristics of respondents included (as a percentage of those that answered each question):

- The majority of respondents are female at 65.0% and 84.21% of respondents are White.
- 45.0% were between the ages of 21 and 29.
- Of those that answered the question, 82.3% are low- to moderate-income for their family size.
- More than half, (75.0%), come from one or two-person households.
- 88.24% indicated they are renters.

Some of the notable needs identified by respondents included problems with the following (as a percentage of those that answered each question):

- Litter – 50.0%
- Curbs/Sidewalks – 42.86%
- Property Maintenance – 35.71%
- Parking – 35.71%
- Streets – 14.29%
- Storm Sewers – 14.29%
- Traffic – 14.29%
- Handicap Access – 7.14%
- Public Safety – 0.0%
- Sanitary Sewers – 0.0%

Additional Comments or Concerns:

- Rats
- Street lights that turn off when they shouldn't

The following is a list of needs/issues associated with different areas of community and economic development. Values were calculated as a percentage of those that answered each question.

Recreation:

- Playground Equipment – 63.64%
- Benches and Picnic Tables – 45.45%
- Open Grass Fields – 36.36%
- Pools – 36.36%
- Baseball Fields – 18.18%
- Basketball Courts – 27.27%
- ADA Surfacing – 27.27%
- ADA Equipment – 27.27%
- Splash pads – 27.27%
- Tennis Courts – 9.09%

Additional Comments or Concerns:

Residents did not share any additional comments or concerns for recreation.

Social Services:

85% of respondents indicated that they use the social services. The following indicate the most commonly used services among those who answered the question.

- Homeless – 65.0%
- Medical – 64.71%
- Mental Health – 58.82%
- Employment – 23.53%
- Addictions – 11.76%
- Aging – 5.88%

The following received 0.0% of responses:

- Legal
- Child Development
- Disabled

Programs that are Missing or Under-funded:

- Homeless Shelters
- Mental Health Services
- Affordable Housing
- WIC Agency

Employment:

- 56.25% indicated there is a lack of job opportunities available.
- 31.25% indicated a lack of transportation as a barrier to employment.
- Less than 20% indicated job training, discriminatory practices, and legal issues as a barrier to employment opportunities.

Housing:

- 66.67% indicate a lack of affordable housing, and 58.33% mention a lack of accessible, safe, quality, and affordable rental housing.
- 58.33% also indicated the need for major home rehabilitation.
- 33.33% indicated the need for minor home rehabilitation.
- One resident also included the need for yard care in their open response.

Blight:

- 84.62% indicated vacant residential structures as an issue within the City.
- 69.23% indicated uncut lawns.
- 53.85% indicated vacant commercial structures.
- The following received less than 50% of responses: Squatting, Open Dumping Grounds, and Vacant Lots.

Transportation:

- 58.33% of residents indicated there are not enough service hours for public transit services.

- 33.33% indicated a lack of parking as an issue.
- 16.67% indicated both the cost of service, and no reliable transit as an issue.
- 8.33% indicated unsafe public transit as an issue.

Crime:

- 92.86% indicate that drugs are a problem in the City
- The remaining responses: Violent Crime, Theft, Gangs, Lack of Interaction between police and Residents, received less than 50%.

Fair Housing:

- Responses to whether or not residents are aware of how to report fair housing violations or concerns:
 - 57.89% Yes
 - 10.53% No
 - 31.58% Unsure

Reasons Fair Housing Complaints Are Not Reported:

- People don't know how
- People don't want to start conflict
- People are afraid to speak up
- Lack of knowledge of how to report/lack of knowledge of discrimination

The following situations result in further discriminations and/or barriers to fair housing in the City of Altoona:

TABLE IV-22 SUMMARY OF CITIZEN COMMENTS

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral/Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Concentration of subsidized housing in certain neighborhoods	21.05%	21.05%	57.89%	0.0%	0.0%
Lack of affordable housing in certain areas	20.0%	45.0%	25.0%	10.0%	0.0%

Lack of accessible housing for persons with disabilities	15.0%	30.0%	40.0%	10.0%	5.0%
Lack of accessibility in neighborhoods (i.e. curb cuts)	20.0%	25.0%	35.0%	15.0%	5.0%
Lack of fair housing education	15.0%	25.0%	40.0%	10.0%	10.0%
Lack of fair housing organizations in the City	10.53%	31.58%	52.63%	0.0%	5.26%
State or Local laws and policies that limit housing choice	15.0%	30.0%	40.0%	10.0%	5.0%
Lack of knowledge among residents regarding fair housing	15.0%	45.0%	30.0%	10.0%	0.0%
Lack of knowledge among landlords and property managers regarding fair housing	15.0%	40.0%	40.0%	5.0%	0.0%
Lack of knowledge among bankers/lenders regarding fair housing	25.0%	40.0%	35.0%	00%	0.0%
Other barriers	5.56%	22.22%	66.67%	5.56%	0.0%

Public Meeting on the Draft AI Public Comments

The City of Altoona’s FY 2020-2024 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice was made available for public comment on the City of Altoona’s website (<http://www.altoonapa.gov/>).

The document was available beginning on Friday April 10, 2020. Citizens were encouraged to submit written or oral feedback on the Analysis of Impediments by Wednesday May 6, 2020. The City of Altoona also held a Public Hearing on the “draft” 2020-2024 Analysis of Impediments on Wednesday May 6, 2020.

V. Actions and Recommendations

The City of Altoona's FY 2020-2024 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice has identified the following impediments, along with the goals and strategies to address those impediments.

IMPEDIMENT 1: FAIR HOUSING EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

There is a continuing need to educate residents of the community concerning their rights and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act and to raise awareness that all residents of the City of Altoona have a right under Federal Law to fair housing choice.

Goal: Improve the public's knowledge and awareness of the Federal Fair Housing Act, and related laws, regulations, and requirements to affirmatively further fair housing in the region.

Strategies: In order to meet this goal, the following activities and strategies should be undertaken:

- **1-A:** Continue to promote Fair Housing awareness through partnerships, the media, seminars, and training to provide educational opportunities for all persons to learn more about their rights under the Fair Housing Act and Americans with Disabilities Act.
- **1-B:** Continue to make available and distribute literature and informational material concerning fair housing issues, an individual's housing rights, and landlord's responsibilities to affirmatively further fair housing and to make reasonable accommodations.
- **1-C:** Continue to affirmatively further fair housing and continue working with Southwestern PA Legal Services to provide fair housing services.

IMPEDIMENT 2: CONTINUING NEED FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The median value and cost to purchase and maintain a single-family home in Altoona that is decent, safe, and sound is \$87,600, which limits the choice of housing for lower income households. About 24.1% of homeowners and 65.7% of renters in the City are cost overburdened by more than 30% of their household income.

Goal: Promote the conservation of the existing housing stock and development of additional housing units for lower income households through new construction, in-fill housing, and rehabilitation of houses throughout the City.

Strategies: In order to meet this goal, the following activities and strategies should be undertaken:

- **2-A:** Continue to support and encourage plans from both private developers and non-profit housing providers to develop and construct new affordable housing.
- **2-B:** Continue to support and provide financing for the rehabilitation of the existing housing stock to become decent, safe, and sound housing that will remain affordable to lower income owner and renter occupied households.
- **2-C:** Continue to support homebuyer education and training programs to improve homebuyer awareness and increase the opportunities for lower-income households to become home owners.
- **2-D:** Continue to promote the rental rehabilitation program through outreach to landlords and partnership with the CHDO.

IMPEDIMENT 3: CONTINUING NEED FOR ACCESSIBLE HOUSING UNITS

As an older built-up urban environment with a varied terrain, there is a lack of accessible housing units and developable sites in the City of Altoona, since 74.2% of the City's housing units were built over 50 years ago and do not have accessibility features, and 18.9% of the City's population is classified as disabled.

Goal: Increase the number of accessible housing units through new construction and rehabilitation of existing housing units for people with disabilities and those who are developmentally delayed.

Strategies: In order to meet this goal, the following activities and strategies should be undertaken:

- **3-A:** Promote programs to increase the amount of available accessible housing through the rehabilitation of the existing owner occupied housing stock by making accessibility improvements.
- **3-B:** Encourage private and non-profit development of accessible housing through new construction of units that are accessible and visitable through financial or development incentives on available vacant and developable land in the City.
- **3-C:** Encourage landlords to make "reasonable accommodations" to their rental properties so they become accessible to tenants with disabilities.
- **3-D:** Promote programs to assist elderly homeowners in the City to make accessibility improvements to their properties in order for these residents to remain in their own homes.

IMPEDIMENT 4: ECONOMIC ISSUES AFFECTING HOUSING CHOICE

The City of Altoona is experiencing a slow but steady decline in population, and companies are unable to fill employment positions due to low pay and an underqualified work force. There is a gap in the type of employment available and the employability of the City's working age population. This prevents low-income households from improving their income and ability to live outside areas with concentrations of low-income households, thus creating a fair housing concern.

Goal: The local economy will improve, creating new job opportunities, which in turn will increase household income, and will promote fair housing choice.

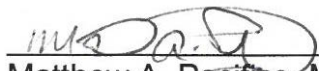
Strategies: In order to meet this goal, the following activities and strategies should be undertaken:

- **4-A:** Support and enhance workforce development and technical skills training that result in more opportunities to earn a "livable" wage and increases job opportunities.
- **4-B:** Strengthen partnerships and program delivery that enhances the City's business base, expands its tax base, and creates a more sustainable economy for residents and businesses.
- **4-C:** Support programming that enhances entrepreneurship and small business development, expansion, and retention within low- and moderate-income areas and minority neighborhoods.
- **4-D:** Promote and encourage economic development with local commercial and industrial firms to expand their operations and increase employment opportunities.
- **4-E:** Explore opportunities for improving public transportation through expansion of existing routes and times, or partnerships with third parties to allow residents to access new employment opportunities.

VI. Certification

Signature Page:

I hereby certify that this FY 2020-2024 Fair Housing Analysis is in compliance with the intent and directives of the Community Development Block Grant Program and HOME Investment Partnerships Program regulations.



Matthew A. Pacifico, Mayor
City of Altoona

05/13/20
Date

VII. Appendix

The following items are included in the appendix:

- A. Appendix A – Agency/Organization Meeting Notes and Additional Consultations
- B. Appendix B – Surveys and Agency Surveys
- C. Appendix C – Citizen Participation

A. Appendix A – Agency/Organization Meeting Notes and Additional Consultations

Attached are summaries of the following meetings:

- Community Development Staff – Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at 9:00 AM
- AMTRAN – Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at 10:00 AM
- Public Works Department – Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at 10:00 AM
- Public Safety – Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at 11:00 AM
- Meeting with Mayor Matt Pacifico – Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at 1:30 PM
- Building Codes Department – Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at 2:30 PM
- Housing Authority – Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at 2:30 PM
- Healthcare Agencies – Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at 3:30 PM
- Meeting with Dave Butterbaugh – Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at 5:30 PM
- Social Service Providers – Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at 8:30 AM
- Redevelopment Authority – Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at 10:00 PM
- Housing Agencies – Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at 1:30 PM
- Social Services Meeting Two – Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at 3:00 PM
- Faith Based Organizations – Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at 4:00 PM
- Education Providers – Thursday, August 8, 2019 at 8:30 AM
- Recreation Department – Thursday, August 8, 2019 at 8:30 AM
- Fair Housing Organizations – Thursday, August 8, 2019 at 9:30 AM
- Business & Economic Development Organizations – Thursday, August 8, 2019 at 11:00 AM

List of Organizations, Agencies and Stakeholders to Interview for the FY 2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan, FY 2020 Annual Action Plan, and FY 2020 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice for the City of Altoona, PA

ORGANIZATION	CONTACT	TELEPHONE	EMAIL
Key City Staff/Departments			
Department of Planning & Community Development/Redev. Auth.	Lee C. Slusser	(814) 949-2470	planning@altoonapa.gov
Public Works	David L. Diedrich, P.E.	(814) 949-2446	ddiedrich@altoonapa.gov
School District	Dr. Charles Prijatelj	(814) 946-8350	cprijatelj@aadscat.com
City Clerk	Linda M. Rickens	(814) 949-2486	cityclerk@altoonapa.gov
Department of Accounts and Finance	Omar Strohm	(814) 949-2439	ostrohm@altoonapa.gov
Human Resources	Omar P. Strohm	(814) 949-2428	ostrohm@altoonapa.gov
City Soliciter	Larry C. Clapper	(814) 946-4391	lclapper@ghscoslaw.com
Information Techonology	Victor Curfman	(814) 949-2536	vcurfman@altoonapa.gov
AMTRAN (Public Transportation)	Eric Wolf	(814) 944-4074	ericwolf@amtran.org
Altoona Parking Authority	Patrick Miller	(814) 944-6113	patm@abcdcorp.org
Public Safety			
Police Chief	Janice Freehling	(814) 949-2489	jfreehling@altoonapa.gov
Fire Chief	Tim Hileman/Mike Tofano	(814) 949-2529	thileman@altoonapa.gov
Elected & Public Officials			
Mayor	Matt Pacifico	(814) 949-2486	council@altoonapa.gov
City Manager	Peter S. Marshall	(814) 949-2408	manager@altoonapa.gov
Housing Agencies/Organizations			
Altoona Housing Authority Board	Robin Beck, Chairperson	(w) (814) 944-0884	rbeck@unitedwayofblaircounty.org
	Robin Beck	(h) (814) 942-6971	rbbss@aol.com
Altoona Housing Authority Staff/Section 8 Pub. Housing	Cheryl Johns, Director	(814) 494-2000	Cheryl.Johns@altoonahousing.org
Assisted Living-Center for Nurse Care Altoona	Chrissy Dambeck	(814) 946-2700	cdambeck@grane.com
HUD Assisted Housing Providers	Marj Kashella	(814) 946-0603	mkashella@calibreresidential.com
Housing Counseling Services - Bl. Co Community Action	Ms. Billie Egan	(814) 946-3653	billie.egan@blaircap.org
CHDO - Improved Dwellings for Altoona (IDA)	Michelle Peterson	(814) 944-9466	mpeterson@improved-dwellings.org
CDCs	Michelle Peterson	(814) 944-9466	mpeterson@improved-dwellings.org
Blair Senior Services	Dana Shade	(814) 946-1235	
Blair Senior Services	Alicia Madden		
Habitat for Humanity	Kathy Spade	(814) 943-3480	hffbc@verizon.net
Altoona Evergreen Manors, Inc.	Michelle Peterson	(814) 944-9466	mpeterson@improved-dwellings.org
Allegheny Highland Realtors	Dolores Capriotti President	(814) 946-9355	
	Scott Strayer VP	(814) 472-4761	
Home Nursing Agency	Jimmy Hoyer		
Home Nursing Agency	Kelly Williams		
American Rescue Workers	Nicole Davidson		
Homeless Agencies and Providers			
Home Nursing Agency Community Services	Diana Packech	(814) 943-0414	DPACKECH@HOMENURSINGAGENCY.com
Blair County Community Action	William Hunter	(814) 946-3651	bill.hunter@blaircap.org
Family Services, Inc.	Lisa Hann	(814) 944-3583	Lhann@familyservicesinc.net
Skills of Central PA	Kristen Luciano	(814) 944-4519 x 331	kluciano@skillsgroup.org
Altoona Veterans Association	Ginny Vayda	(814) 943-8164	virginiavayda@va.gov
Social Service Agencies			
Home Nursing Agency - Blair County	Diana Packech	(814) 943-0414	DPACKECH@HOMENURSINGAGENCY.com
Children and Youth Services - Family Services, Inc.	Lisa Hann	(814) 944-3583	Lhann@familyservicesinc.net
Altoona Area Public Library	Jennifer Neisley	(814) 946-0417 ext. 136	
Blair County Community Action	Sergio Carmona	(814) 946-3651	Sergio.carmona@blaircap.org
Blair County Mental Health- Dept of Social Services	James Hudack	(814) 693-3023	jhudack@blairco.org
Blair County Drug and Alcohol Services	Judy Rosser	(814) 381-0921	jrosser@blairdap.org
Blair County Assistance Office	Christine Lysinger	(814) 946-7111	clysinger@pa.gov
Skills of Central PA	Kristin Luciano	(814) 944-4519 x 331	kluciano@skillsgroup.org
Salvation Army	Captains Ashley & Larry Fulmer	(814) 942 8104	ashley.fulmer@use.salvationarmy.org
Child Advocates of Blair County Child Care	Terry Wasovich	(814) 946-5247 ext 104	twasovich@cabc-bchs.org
Lilly Pond Child Care Services	Emily Freidhof	(814) 943-8177	efreidhof@kidsfirstblair.org
Kids First Blair/Lily Pond	Casey Shoup	(814) 943-8177	cshoup@kidsfirstblair.org
Central Blair Recreation Commission	Mike Hofer	(814) 949-2233	hofer@cbrcparks.org
Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation	Toni Bilik	(814) 949-8838	director@ggmf.org
Blair/Clearfield Assoc. for the Blind & Visually Impaired	Gloria Pattie	(814) 944-2021	bcabgloria@verizon.net
Catholic Charities	Beth Dodson	(814) 944-9388	bdodson@dioceseag.org
Catholic Charities	Michelle Johnston		
Blair Health Choices	Trina Illig		
Department of Social Services	Cathy Crum		
PA Department of Aging	Beth Gerber		
Fair Housing Organizations			
Fair Housing Advocates - Catholic Charities	Jean Johnstone	(814) 944-9388	jjohnstone@dioceseaj.org
Legal Services - Mid Penn Legal	Diana Ingersoll	(814) 943-8139	dingersoll@midpenn.org
NAACP	Donald Witherspoon	(814) 942-1126	DEW2312@yahoo.com
Self-Determination Housing Project of PA Inc.	Howard Ermin	(814) 502-4448	howard@sdhp.org

Center for Independent Living	Marty Dombrowski		mdombrowski@cilscca.org
Center for Independent Living	George Palmer	(814) 949-1905	gpalmer@cilscca.org
Operation Our Town, Inc. (OOT)	Shawna Hoover	(814) 296-8730	OOT@lsfiore.com
Blair County Human Relations	Ron Miller		ronald1944.1@verizon.net
Landlord Association	William Kitt	(814) 695-2138	bvproperties@hotmail.com
Blair/Beford Builders Association	John Degenhardt	(814) 693-9710	info@blairbedfordbuilders.com
Local Housing Option Team (LHOT)	Luann Rabenstein	(814) 693-3046 x1482	lrabenstein@blairco.org
PA Eastern COC/Local contact	William Hunter	(814) 946-3651	bill.hunter@blaircap.org
Economic Development Agencies			
Chamber of Commerce	Joe Hurd	(814) 943-8151	jhurd@blairchamber.com
Altoona Redevelopment Authority Board	Ron Beatty Secretary/Treasurer	(814) 931-6919	
Altoona Redevelopment Authority Staff	Lee Slusser	(814) 949-2470	planning@altoonapa.gov
Altoona and Blair County Development Corporation	Stephen McKnight	814-944-6113 ext 1109	stevem@abcdcorp.org
Altoona and Blair County Development Corporation	Tom Seasult	814-944-6113 x 1108	toms@abcdcorp.org
Enterprize Zone	Patrick Miller	(814) 944-6113	patm@abcdcorp.org
Job Training- Southern Alleghenies P&D Commission	Susan Whisler	(814) 949-6507	whisler@sapdc.org
Greater Altoona Economic Development Corporation	Pat Miller	(814) 942-3929	patm@abcdcorp.org
Appalachian Intermediate Unit 08	Dr. Thomas Butler	(814) 940-0223	tbutler@iu08.org
Local Banks			
Altoona First Savings Bank	Troy Campbell	(814) 943-5411	tcampbell@altoonabank.com
Reliance Bank	Lisa Michelone	(814) 949-6260	lmichelone@reliancebank.com
First Commonwealth Bank	Michele Banks	(814) 943-8780	mbanks@fcbanking.com
First National Bank	Dave Clary	(814) 946-0817	clary@fnb-corp.com
C&G Savings Bank	Wendy Nagle	(814) 944-2011	wnagle@cgsbonline.com
M&T Bank	Dave Worthing	(814) 946-6633	malbright@mtb.com
Credit Unions:			
ARC Federal Credit Union	Victor Gioiosa	(814) 946-0857	vgioiosa@arcfcu.org
American Pride Credit Union	Ted Glunt	(814) 946-3045	apcu@atlanticbnn.net
Blair County Federal Credit Union	Milly Pincher	(814) 944-2821	acfcu@aol.com
Altoona Area Employees Fed CU	Darci Robison	(814) 942-5431	aaefcu@altoonafcu.com
A B Federal Credit Union	Robin Walls	(814) 944-4025	rwalls@yahoo.com
Altoona Reg Health System FCU	Carol Ann Stevens	(814) 949-3076	castevens1@verizon.net
Your Choice FCU	Delores Lepore	(814) 946-1293	dlepor@yourchoicefcu.com
Insurance Agents:			
Warren A. Gingrich Agency	Gary Gingrich	(814) 204-2418	ggingrich@gingrichinsurance.com
Allstate	Cullen Sheehan	(814) 944-1615	cullensheehan@allstate.com
Major Employers			
UPMC Altoona	Ron McConnell	814-889-2011	rmcconnell@altoonaregional.org
Sheetz Corporation	Bob Franks		bfranks@sheetz.com
Faith-Based Institutions			
Altoona Bible Church	Linda	(814) 942-2131	altoonabile@ltoonabile.org
Cornerstone Fellowship	Pastor Steve Olivieri	(814) 942-4003	runninman2005@yahoo.com
Mount Carmel Rectory	Father Frank Scornaienchi	(814) 942-8501	olmc806@aol.com
Abundant Life Assembly of God	Pastor Walt and Lynn Smith	(814) 942-6650	smithroshell@gmail.com
Our Lady of Fatima	Father Zatalava	(814) 942-0371	olfoffio@hotmail.com
Soverign Grace Chr-CENTRAL PA	Tom Kurtz	(814) 949-5940	tomkurtz@sovgracepa.org
Twenty-Eighth Saint Church Brethren	Pastor Barron K Deffenbaugh	(814) 241-8956	altoona28stcob@verizon.net
Pleasant Valley Assembly of God	Karen Maher	(814) 944-1948	kmaher@pvag.org
Evangelical Methodist Church	Bradley Reider	(814) 943-8786	
Riggles Gap Bible Church	Riggles Gap BC	(814) 946-3376	rigglesbgc@verizon.net
Sacred Heart Formation Center	Msgr. Stanley Carson	(814) 943-8553	sacredheart511@verizon.net
St. Mary's Rectory	Msgr. Stein	(814) 942-2416	StMarvaltoona@dioceseai.org
Seventh-Day Adventist Church	Robert Snyder	(814) 943-2658	
Christ Community UMC	Rev. Rebecca L. Holland	814-942-5586	ccumc@outlook.com
Grace Brethren Church	No answer	(814) 942-8861	
Fields of Harvest Fellowship	Hud Crossman	(814) 943-4384	
Simpson Temple United Parish	Patty Jo	(814) 942-0840	simpsontemple@atlanticbnn.net
Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament	Msgr. Robert C. Mazur	(814) 944-4603	altocathedral@dioceseai.org
Hope Community Church	Tammy Gray	(814) 381-7020	tgray@atlanticbb.net
Juniata United Methodist Church	Pastor Brent Salsgiver	(814) 942-6065	juniataumc@atlanticbnn.net
Altoona Restoration Church of God	Pastor Jeff Suhoney	(814) 941-2773	cog911@atlanticbnn.net
Lighthouse Ministries	Left Message	(814) 949-4031	
Mt. Zion Baptist Church	Charles DuPree	(814) 215-4095	chasranduncan@yahoo.com
Eighteenth Street Community Church	Pastor Paul Johnson	(814) 943-3650	
Islamic Center of Altoona		(814) 949-0577	



Healthcare Round Table

City of Altoona, Pennsylvania

2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan, and FY 2020 Annual Action Plan

Community Development Conference Room; City Hall Fourth Floor

Tuesday August 6th, 2019 at 3:30pm

Name	Organization	Phone Number	Email Address
Jake Cross for MIKE COPSON	UPMC Altoona	814-889-2223	corson@upmc.edu
Ron Hodgson	ACNC	814-946-2700	—
Carl Fischer	City of Altoona	812-949-2472	
Doree Jorde	UPU	(717) 553-7747	
Walt Haglund	U.D.V.	(412) 461-6916	
Diana Packech	UPMC Behavioral Health	814-943-8114	packechd@upmc.edu



Social Service Agencies and Providers Round Table

City of Altoona, Pennsylvania

2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan, and FY 2020 Annual Action Plan

Large Conference Room; City Hall Fourth Floor

Wednesday August 7th, 2019 at 8:30am

Name	Organization	Phone Number	Email Address
Rhonda Smith	Family Services Inc	814 944 3583	rsmith@familyservicesinc.net
Dennis Wisla	Blair Senior Serv	814-695-3500	dwisor@blairsewio.org
Dave Jordan	YDV	(717) 553-7147	
Jean Johnstone	Catholic Charities	814-944-9388	jjohnstone@dioceseaj.org
Mary Johnson	City's CD Staff	814-949-2497	mjohnson@altoonapaper
Sergio Carrara	BCCAP	814-946-3651	sergio.carrara@blaircap.org
Judith Rossen	BOAP	814 381 0921	jrossen@blandag.org



Social Service Agencies and Providers Round Table

City of Altoona, Pennsylvania

2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan, and FY 2020 Annual Action Plan

Large Conference Room; City Hall Fourth Floor

Wednesday August 7th, 2019 at 8:30am

Name	Organization	Phone Number	Email Address
Carl E. Foch...	COA	935-6341	
Walt Hasbun d	Urban Design/Ventura	(412) 461-6916	
Tina Illey	County of Blair	643-3023	



Housing Agencies and Organizations Round Table

City of Altoona, Pennsylvania

2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan, and FY 2020 Annual Action Plan

Large Conference Room; City Hall Fourth Floor

Wednesday August 7th, 2019 at 1:30pm

Name	Organization	Phone Number	Email Address
Michelle Peterson	IDA, Inc.	814-944-9466	mpetersun@improved-dwellings.org
Cheryl Johns	A+FA	814-949-2020	Cheryl.johns@altoonahousing.org
Dore Jordan	UDV	(717) 553-7747	



Homeless Agencies and Providers Round Table

City of Altoona, Pennsylvania

2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan, and FY 2020 Annual Action Plan

Community Development Conference Room; City Hall Fourth Floor

Wednesday August 7th, 2019 at 3:00pm

Name	Organization	Phone Number	Email Address
Lisa Hann	Family Services Inc.	814-944-3583	Chanellefamilyservicesinc.net
April Hileman	Blair County Community Action	814-946-3651	April.Hileman@blaircap.org
Erica Matko	Blair county Community Action	814-946-3651	Erica.Matko@blaircap.org
Jodi Williams	Blair County Community Action	814-946-3651	Jodi.Williams@blaircap.org
Amy Compton	Blair County Community Action	814-946-3651	Amy.Compton@blaircap.org
Dore Jordan	UPDC	(717) 553-7747	



Faith Based Organizations Round Table

City of Altoona, Pennsylvania

2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan, and FY 2020 Annual Action Plan

Large Conference Room; City Hall Fourth Floor

Wednesday August 7th, 2019 at 4:00pm

Name	Organization	Phone Number	Email Address
Baron K. Deffenbaugh	Twenty-Eighth St Church of the Brethren	814-241-8956	bdeffenb@homeside.to
Peter A Joudry	THE NEWSPAPER PROJECT	814 201 2086	PAJoudry@aol.com
Crystal Batlos	THE NETHEMINT PROJECT	814 201 2094	CRYSTAL@TNPPA.ORG



Education Round Table

City of Altoona, Pennsylvania

2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan, and FY 2020 Annual Action Plan

Community Development Conference Room; City Hall Fourth Floor

Thursday August 8th, 2019 at 8:30am

Name	Organization	Phone Number	Email Address
Su Franks	Altoona Area School District	814 946-8207	sfranks@aa.sdcats.com
Brad Hatch	Altoona Area School District	814-946-2218	bhatch@aa.sdcats.com



Fair Housing Organizations Round Table

City of Altoona, Pennsylvania

2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan, and FY 2020 Annual Action Plan

Large Conference Room; City Hall Fourth Floor

Thursday August 8th, 2019 at 9:30am

Name	Organization	Phone Number	Email Address
DONALD WITHENSPOON	NAACP	814-944-5390	DEW 2312@yahoov
Marty Dombrowski	Center for Independent Living of South Central PA	814-949-1905	m.dombrowski@cilscca.org
GEORGE PALMER	Center for Independent Living of South Central PA	" "	gpalmer@cilscca.org
CARL FISCHER	City of Altoona	814-935-6341	cfischer@altoonapa.gov
Walt Haglund	Urban Design Ventures	(412) 461-6816	walt@urbandesignventures.com
Mary Johnson	City of Altoona	814-949-2477	mjohnson@altoonapa.gov
Bill Kitt	Central PA Landlords Assoc	814-732-4181	bvproperties@att.net



Fair Housing Organizations Round Table

City of Altoona, Pennsylvania

2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan, and FY 2020 Annual Action Plan

Large Conference Room; City Hall Fourth Floor

Thursday August 8th, 2019 at 9:30am

Name	Organization	Phone Number	Email Address
Dave Jordan	UDU	(717) 555-7747	



Business and Economic Development Round Table

City of Altoona, Pennsylvania

2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan, and FY 2020 Annual Action Plan

Large Conference Room; City Hall Fourth Floor

Thursday August 8th, 2019 at 11:00am

Name	Organization	Phone Number	Email Address
Brandon Peters	SAP & DC	814 949 6543	bpeters@sapdc.org
Alex Miller	ABCD CORP GAEDC/PARKING AUTH.	814-944-6113	patm@abcdcorp.org
Cobe Hurd	Blair County Chamber	(814) 943-8151	jhurdo@blairchamber.com
Derek Martin	Altoona Curve	814-283-3102	dmartin@altoonacurve.com
Carl Fischer	City of Altoona	814-949-2470	cfischer@altoona.pa.gov
Walter H. Hurd	Urban Design Ventures	(412) 461-6916	walt@urban.design.ventures.com
Paul J. Hurd	UDV	(717) 552-7747	

**FY 2020 – 2024 Five-Year Consolidated Plan, 2020 Annual Action Plan
and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice
City of Altoona, Pennsylvania
August 6 – 8, 2019**

Transcription of Meeting Minutes – Day One

Community Development Staff – 8/6/19 @ 9:00 a.m. (Mary Johnson & Carl Fischer)

- Good drawdown ratio – 1.05 as of the end of June
- Rehab Program going strong
 - \$25k Loan
 - \$10K Lead Based Paint Grant
- HOME Funds allow the city to do affordable housing
 - Low/mod
 - Elderly
- Working with housing authority

Problems – Needs:

- Curb and walk replacement
- Codes office doesn't push for people to vacate
- Better connection w/Codes & C.D. Department
- Rehab working well w/ Codes
- BSRA System (Computer Software) is working well
- Need more contractors for the Rehab Program
 - 10 rehabs per year
 - 12 this year
- HOME \$ for rental rehab
 - 8 per year plus the CHDO
 - Down to 2 small landlords
 - Will do 50 units this year through CHDO
- Currently funding an accessibility program
 - Rentals
 - Homeowners
 - Blair CAP is doing accessibility up to 11 units to prevent DBRA
- Center for Independent Living
 - 12 houses in 2019
- Pat Obringer – CD Rep from Pittsburgh HUD
 - FY 2019 CDBG Application approved HUD Rep
 - In the system
- Homelessness does not appear to be a problem – visually
 - Not living in the street
- Blair CAP
 - Building a shelter w/ six – 2-bedroom units
 - One stop shop for homeless
 - \$2.8m cost

- FY 2019 CDBG Funds
- Plus 12 beds
- CIL provides rent to landlords for +/- 6 mo.
- UPMC Behavioral Health Services
 - Rental assistance
 - Case management
- Blair CAP managing the COC Program
- City created blight taskforce
 - Housing Alliance facilitated meeting
 - Involved various departments, realtors, business community
 - Discovered a lot of blight in the community
 - Need to upgrade the entrance portals
 - 10 – 15 demolitions per year w/ 2-man crew
 - City does most of the demolitions
 - Board up structures
 - Large structures are contracted out – large brick home
 - Lien the property

amtran – Public Transportation – 8/6/19 @ 10:00 a.m. (Eric Wolf)

- Considered small urban transit system
- Covers central portion of county around Altoona
- More operating \$ from the state than feds
- Used to receive some CDBG
- Leverage 30 to 1 on local funds to other funds
- Receive from general funds
- Hollidaysburg Borough and Logan Township main service area with Altoona

Problems – Needs:

- Opioid crisis and resulting crime
- Poverty
- Shootings have decreased
- Starting to see people communicating to resolve issues
- “Operation Our Time”
 - Corporate leaders committee
 - \$3-4M to address shootings & drugs
 - Related to treatment
- Portage proposal
 - Build a treatment center
 - Had public meeting and it was wanted
- Railroad was major employment center
- Retail is major employment which is being lost
- Community college has increased its footprint at the mall
- Steve McKnight
 - Altoona Blair Economic Development
 - Finding qualified employees
- Not hearing about housing discrimination
- Middle range housing is an issue

- Lots of cheap housing
- Issue of blight
 - Push back of owners to do anything to their properties

Public Works Department – 8/6/19 @ 10:00 a.m. (Jane Gill & Mark Criste)

- Sidewalks & curbs
- Street reconstruction and paving
- Area without storm sewers and drainage
- 4 streams that are in a flood plain
- Nuisance drainage problems
 - Lack of storm sewers in CDBG areas
 - Upcoming 2020 storm sewer project.
 - Got approval from HUD based on city's survey
- Inventory Street annually
 - Projected 5-year plan
 - No problems getting contractors
- Engineering work 50% in house
- EADS is the consulting engineer
- City staff does curbs and walks
- Paving work is in house
- Using \$ for Parks & Rec Dept.
 - Works w/ CDBG & other depts for doing work
- Update the Sec. 504 plan
 - Every time they do an upgrade to a facility
 - Do handicap work
- Takes care of police, parks & City Hall
- Fire Dept does their own building
- 9-13 staff in engineering dept. including electrical and janitors
- Engineering prepares a Capital Improvement list & CDBG list
- Construction season starts in April/May
- Pave in June done by end of June
- May have a small parks project coming up this year
- Question on Beall Ave.
 - State Access Route
 - Not a State Road
 - Applying for a State Motor Grant
- Mary – Sec. 504 Plan updated regularly
- City's Policy & Procedures Manual
 - Mary will provide

Public Safety – 8/6/19 @ 11:00 a.m. (Janice Freehling – Chief of Police & Tim Hileman – Fire Chief)
Police Chief:

- Resurgence of Meth
- Still have Opioid problem
- Not enough treatment centers/providers for the addicted
- Not enough long-term treatment facilities

- Meth problems
 - More violence
 - More crime
- Crimes decreased over the last five-years
- Full complement (66 total)
 - 6 in police academy
 - Was down by 7 in January
- Still does bike patrol
- Community Policing
 - Sargent in charge of program
 - 3 officers
 - 6-9:00 p.m. tonight – National Night Out
 - Work with non-profit agencies
 - Fire Department
 - At Heritage Plaza

Public Safety Needs:

- Mental Health Issues – not enough facilities
- Domestic Violence – staying about the same
 - Lethality Assessment Program
 - Ask 11 questions
 - Answer yes to three or more
 - A number is provided to call for help
 - Family Services is promoting it
 - Need to train entire department on this
- Don't have a lot of homeless
- Homeless tend to hide
- Many live in cars
- Only one police station – no substations
- County supplies people to stay with Homeless at fire stations during extreme weather

Fire Chief:

- 4 stations
- 1 reserve station/garage w/back-up facility
- Manned 24/7/365
- 65 firefighters
 - All paid
 - Surrounded by volunteer companies
- City goes outside city limits for Technical Assistance and Hazardous aide
- 3 ½ minute response time
- QRS – Quick Response Services
 - Does all basic life support
 - Can be anywhere in the City
- Community Risk Reduction Program
 - Joined the Blair County Drug & Alcohol program
 - Police & Fire do drug prevention & assistance
 - All police and fire carry Narcan
- All firemen are EMT's
 - No problem recruiting

- Problem with retention
- Likely due to cuts in benefits
- Same issue in police dept
- Wage freezes and cuts under Act 47 hurt public safety personnel
- Foresee recruitment problem in the future
- Higher cost of maintenance of fire equipment
- Equipment is very good
- Able to raise funds when the City was under Act 47
- Need to sustain the equipment
- I.S.O. 2 – rating for insurance purposes
- Fire hydrants
 - Excellent
 - 90 psi at most
- City owns the water system
- Water Authority maps in G.I.S. all hydrants
- Can pull on phone app all data on each hydrant
- All firefighters classified FF1, many are FF2
 - 600 hours per year training goal
 - Last year achieved 800 hours
- Had 2 train incidents last year
- Norfolk Southern goes through city not very cooperative
- Fire Chief also Emergency Management Coordinator
 - City set up
 - County now manages
- Lacking broadband access to have vehicles tied to 911 Center
- Probably won't be done for next 5 years
- Police already has good broadband
- Upcoming pilot program w/MSA equipment
- First commercial building fire this year hadn't had one in many years
- Only 1 fire inspector previously
 - 128 inspections up to 700+ inspections per year
 - 1 official inspector
 - 2 overtime inspectors
- 2012 150 working structure fires
- 2019 under 100
- Fire Prevention – US fire fighting
- Talk to 20,000 students about fire prevention
- Number of caused fires (arson)
 - has not gone down
 - 17 – 19 this year
- Abandoned buildings a problem and homeless living in them
- Emergency demolition program in cooperation with CD Dept
- "Get Out Alive" Program
 - Smoke alarms
 - Fire extinguishers
 - CO detectors

- City-wide
- Income eligible
- Use 10-year lithium batteries

Meeting w/ Mayor – 8/6/19 @ 1:30 p.m. (Matt Pacifico)

Needs:

- Entrance corridors
 - 6th & 7th Avenues
 - 7th & 8th Avenues
 - Entrance portals
 - Sidewalks & Trees
- Housing
 - Market rate & Affordable
 - Accessibility improvements
- Reconstruct Margaret Avenue and Broad
 - URA Project
 - Needs improvement
- Expanding/Redo area onto Margaret & Beall Avenues at 24th St.
- Expansion of downtown
 - Create new district in old industrial area
- Blight is a top priority
- More Multi-model uses
 - Bike and pedestrian opportunities
 - Incorporate into future road projects
- Park & Rec is in pretty good shape
 - More all ability equipment has been installed
 - Walking trail through City
 - Need a rec plan
 - Going through planning process , starting to do RFP
- City now has a land bank
- Can't weed out the speculators

Code Enforcement – 8/6/19 @ 2:00 p.m. (Rebecca Brown)

- Logantown Area – lower Fairview
 - By the UPMC hospital area
 - Properties in very poor condition
 - Older homes
- 7th & 8th Streets – access to UPMC
- Rental properties increasing
 - Almost 4,000 structures in city are rental
 - 6 – 7,000 units
 - Do have land bank
 - About 50/50 of local & outsiders
 - A number of these units are purchased and flipped
- Parts of Juniata/lower Dutch Hill are getting rough
- 5th Avenue from 12th to 8th – 4 block area to 3rd Avenue by the bakery
- Spotty areas

- The "Hole" behind the Jaffa (Shriners) behind Dawdo's (?)
- Rental registry – yes
 - \$50 per year for each up to 4 units
 - \$15 for additional units
- County repository
 - County takes care of their properties
 - City cites bad property and County boards it up
- Vacant program
 - For all vacant properties
 - \$0 for first year
 - \$500 per year after
- Workload
 - 65-70% complaint-based code enforcement
 - 4 Code Officers
 - Scheduled weekly sweeps of areas
 - 4-5 hot spots
 - More complaints in the bad areas
- 2 good Magistrates
 - Split by areas of the city
 - 40 hearings per month
 - About 260 open complaints at the magistrates
 - First Thursday of every month
 - Owners live out of town
- Sidewalk problems throughout the City
- Complaints
 - Garbage, gutters sidewalks
- Inspections on rentals but not owner-occupied
- Talk to realtors
 - Disclose prior to purchase any outside code violations
- With code violations send out CD pamphlet
- Complaint about eviction not discrimination
- Not hearing anything related to discrimination
- Issue of not reporting due to fear of eviction
- Who handles escrow issues

Healthcare Services – 8/6/19 @ 3:30 p.m. (Jacob Cross – UPMC; Ron Hodges – Altoona Center for Nursing Care; Diana Packeck - UPMC Behavior Health)

Ron

- Have 6 residents that need accessible and affordable housing
- 200 bed capacity – 30 rooms – 3 units 2 bedroom, 27 are single
- Assisted living facility
- 92% capacity most of the time
- Length of stay – unknown
- Program started by Altoona Hospital

Diana

- Owned by UPMC
- Affiliated w/ hospital for 5 years

- Operates a personal care home
- Resources, services
- Mental health services
- Drug and alcohol services
- Own and operate a personal care facility
- Have a housing manager for transitional and supportive housing
- Need for permanent supported housing
- Housing for non-elderly
- 3 buildings for the elderly downtown
 - 2 of 3 are public
 - Run through CDC
 - Primarily for elderly waiting list open couple of times a year for a couple of weeks
- Have been successful in getting Sec. 8 vouchers for their clients
- 5 or 6 people on Sec. 8 last year
- Not refunded for COC funding as of July 1st
- Do M.H. assessment
- Come in for a service and get connected to several
- Works with homeless population or mental health
- COC Program was a housing first program
- Last building done by organization had a lot of interest and concerns from area residents when the unit was rehabbed but didn't say no
- No problems with tenants and has worked out well
- Need for more personal care homes in the City
- Would be willing to open up another if \$ were available acquisition and rehab
- Currently 13 beds in community
- Have not experienced any discrimination complaints
- Good relationship with landlords
- Lead paint is an issue for families with children under 6
- No longer does its rental assistance program

Jacob

- Clients have problems finding accessible units
- Safety issues with defective units
- Recruiting issues for people moving into the area finding good, sound housing

Carl

- Nehemiah housing 24 new condo units coming on-line
- 11 new units in last year
- Not many new units being built in the City
- Most new units in Hollidaysburg

Jacob

- Child-care a concern w/ nurses (recruiting)

Diane

- Transportation issues – buses run every hour

Jacob

- Need for food pantries/food banks

Meeting w/ City Council – 8/6/19 @ 5:30 p.m. (Dave Butterbaugh)

- Blight remediation in the City
- Housing repair program – old housing stock
- Senior housing – affordable condos
- Mixed income housing
- Altoona doesn't have slums
- Sidewalks
- Storm Sewers – Margaret Avenue
- Trees – need a street tree program – Dutch Hill area – 8th & 9th Street

Transcription of Meeting Minutes – Day Two

Social Service Meeting 1 – 8/7/19 @ 8:30 a.m. (Blair Senior Services – Dennis Wisor; Catholic Charities - Jean Johnston; Family Services – Rhonda Smith; Blair County Drug & Alcohol Services - Judy Rosser; Blair County Community Action – Sergio Carmona; Blair County – Trina Illy)

Dennis Wisor

- amtran does good transportation service
- Blair Senior Services also provides Shared Ride Monday – Friday
- Saturday service is amtran no Sunday service
- Seeing less senior citizen riders
- 3-5% decrease per year over the last several years
- Paratransit rides 450-500 trips per day to and from
- 20-23 vans
- PennDOT funds
- DHR 30% of funds
- 62% from Lottery funds
- All vehicles purchased through PennDOT funding
- 12-year capital replacement program on vehicles
- Last year 2,700 unduplicated consumers
- Schedule 2 weeks out at least 24 hours in advance
- Avg. cost/mileage based
- MH/MR -\$0-
- Senior up to 3 miles \$1/\$3.40 max. round trip, most pay less than \$2.00
- Have care management drivers
- Referrals 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. – paratransit
- Paratransit 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. general public - mandated off the bus
- Can't do restricted contracts during regular hours/only in the evenings
- Problem – flat funded for years

Jean Johnston

- 8 county service area – Altoona office serves 4 counties
- 8:30 to 4:30 daily
- Private funded
- PHARE Funds
- Some grants
- \$70-80,000 for housing & rental payments 3-4 times more in requests
- Avg. \$300/case, generally \$50 – 300 in assistance

- They are last resort for services
- Seniors are a big need
- People on fixed income – not enough affordable housing
- \$500 - \$600 cost of apts. Not affordable
- No domestic violence shelter
- Can't find housing for criminal offenders
- Referrals for fair housing to legal services
- Has come across fair housing issue "rent for sex"
- The city has a substantial number of landlords
- Tenants don't know what to do in "Withholding Rent", rally no process for escrowing rent

Trina Illy

- Grants Coordinator for Blair County
- CDBG Admin for the County
- County is Admin for ESG funds
- Also has applied for State HOME funds
- Was awarded a lead abatement program grant
- Receives PHARE funds from Marcellus Shale

Rhonda Smith

- Counseling programs for victims of domestic violence
- 2 intervention staff
- 16 bed shelter, 160 people assisted – men, women & children
- Need to build new family shelter – 35 bed facility – 6 units on 2nd floor for 12 persons
- 300 persons will be provided in a year
- Largest program is Intellectual Disabilities Program
- Community Rehabilitation Program
- 10 group homes in the county
- Drop-in Shelter for Children at a teen center
 - 12 – 17 age group assisted
- Victims Services
 - +/- 300 open cases at any time
- Victims of domestic Violence Program
 - PA Victims of Crimes Funds
 - Legal Aid
 - Mobile Advocacy
 - Civil Protection Orders (PFAs) – last week 10 PFAs
- Sexual Advocacy & Domestic Violence
 - DV Shelter is not what it was, model is changing
 - PFA process goal to keep victims in their own homes and get perpetrator out
 - Strict confidentiality goal of program
 - Try to place victims in homes of relatives
 - Trying to break the cycle of violence
 - Peer to Peer group – Batters Program
 - Possible use HOME for rental units @ new shelter
- Serve about 4,000 persons per year
- Purchased 2 buildings in July

Judy Rosser

- Planning & Implementation for folks in recovery
- Serves person coming out of jail
- Housing for ex-offenders
- Transportation need
- Couch surfing, half-way houses, recovery housing, monitoring recovery housing
- State has issued new regulations on recovery houses – will send link
- 40% of the persons served are City residents
- Need a stable housing situation to prevent relapse
- Employment issues
- Trying to provide additional structure
- Some issues with zoning particularly related to recovery houses
- Adoption of recovery regs in zoning ordinance
- Generally 4-5 persons per house

Sergio Carmona

- 20 contracts w/state in Blair & Cambria Counties
- 9 counties served – Center to Adams to Somerset
- Serves veterans also working with Lawrence Community Action
- Homeless prevention services – main focus
- Operates a large weatherization program
 - 220 units this past year
 - Furnace replacement - \$750,000
- Rental assistance - \$30 - \$40,000/month
- \$10 - \$20,000 per week for moving, rental payments, utilities
- 50-60 call per day
- Using the HUD coordinated entry system
- State agencies are switching to system also
- Housing Insecure definition more flexibility
 - Will allow couch surfers or those with eviction notice to receive assistance
- Opioid use – program to assist
 - May allow those addicted to stay in treatment longer
- Intensive case management for clients w/ long term assistance
- Affordable housing is disappearing

Needs

- Better transportation
- Affordable housing
- Employment
- Resources for chronic homeless
- County & City jail
- The COC local rep is Sergio
- Do January P.I.T. count
- Notable increase in numbers
 - No longer 1st come 1st served now most needy
- Abuses of Fair Housing
 - Don't get the rent in writing
 - Verbal contracts
- 2 great food banks in the City

- Community Action provides the Back-Pack program
 - 700 – 800 back packs a week
- Food Insecurity
 - Dollar General sells food
 - Not inexpensive or always healthy
- Blair Senior Services does Meals on Wheels
 - 2,500 meals per week
- Why not set-up a HDC to develop new family and affordable housing

Redevelopment Authority – 8/7/19 @ 10:00 a.m. (City of Altoona – Lee Slusser, Mayor Matt Pacifico; ABC Development Corp. – Stephen McKnight)

Lee

- Redevelopment Area Plan to repurpose area adjacent to downtown
- Feasibility
- Repurpose of old hospital – “Grey Stone”
- \$15m investment in tech site
- Mixed use – office/commercial/ high end residential
- Trying to develop an intermodal facility and transit stop
- ABC-DC paid for an appraisal but owners wouldn’t accept
- Construction of 27 new townhomes by the project area
- Silk Mill property
- Mayor envisions it as Strip District in PGH
- Bridge the gap between the downtown and what is being developed
- Occupied
 - Smoke shop
 - Pharmacy
- Discussion of Redevelopment Area Plan
- Certification of an overall plan
- NS – Norfolk Southern
- Can eminent domain be used on railroad property
- Economic Development
 - Need townhomes \$185-\$250,000
 - 24-27 townhomes 6th & 7th Avenue & 24th & 25th Street
 - Elizabeth Apts. 21 units
 - \$850 eff.
 - \$1,100 1 bed
 - \$1,495 top floor
 - 13 units in the Mill – same price point

Housing Agencies – 8/7/19 @ 1:30 p.m. (Altoona Housing Authority (AHA) – Cheryl Johns; Improved Dwellings of Altoona (IDA) – Michelle Peterson)

Public Housing

- 536 Public Housing Units
- 974 Section 8 Vouchers
- 27 VASH
- 0 Reunification
- Mainstream for Disabled Vouchers – applying for

- 5% of all units are 504 compliant per regulations
- Pay exception rents when landlord does accessible units
- Does an annual landlord workshop
- 120 landlords attend Section 8 Program
- Waiting list open twice a year
- 374 on Section 8 wait list
- 100 on PH wait list
- 98% occupancy rates
- Elderly
 - 55 years old or
 - Disabled
- Preferences
 - Working family
 - Veterans
 - Residency
 - Homeless

Improved Dwellings of Altoona

- 600 units in Altoona
- 400 in the 4 counties
- 98-99% occupied
- In business 50 years
- 501 (c) 4 also a CHDO
- Mainly rehab some new construction

Housing Authority applying for Mainstream vouchers for the disabled

Transportation issues

Limited Life Skills of low and very low-income households

- Housekeeping, parenting, etc.

Social services coordinator at the Evergreen Project 159 1 to 4 bedroom

Housing Authority – family units

Blair Towers – elderly units

- has an active resident council
- age 62+
- any disability

Public Housing 84 in Family Self Sufficiency from both public housing and Section 8

No project-based Section 8

No Housing Development Corporation

Low crime rate in the public housing communities

Has a resident police officer living at Fairview Apts

136/176 at hotel across from city hall

- a number are section 8

Getting ready to expand to scattered site PH units received HOME Choice Units

Interim City Manager – 8/7/19 @ 3:00 p.m. (City of Altoona – Peter Marshal)

- 3rd Class City – property taxes
- 50 years no reassessment
- 15 years at its cap
- Became a home rule community

- \$450m to \$1b tax assessment
- City took back its water authority
- Sewers and infrastructure were let go for 15 years
- 20 years to catch up on infrastructure

Social Service Meeting 2 – 8/7/19 @ 3:00 p.m. (Family Services – Lisa Hann; Blair County Community Action – April Hileman, Erica Matko, Jodi Williams, Amy Compton)

Lisa

- Affordable, decent housing
- Tenancy background has been on family member with accessibility

April

- \$623 one-bedroom FMR
- Past history is still a major issue
- Prison system – local jail and release
- Water & sewer deposits where landlords are charging
- Each person over 18 must pay application fee
- Substance abuse #'s are increasing
- People with mental health disorders
- Used to be chronic homeless – seeing more families
- CAA does limit amount of assistance
- Assistance from other agencies will add to the limit amount
- People are coming back more often
- A lot of young families for eviction
- Smallest group is elderly homeless
- Do see youth
- Community has a program for 18-25 year-old youth

Faith Based Organizations – 8/7/19 @ 4:00 p.m. (Twenty-Eighth Street Church of the Brethren – Barron Deffenbaugh; The Nehemiah Project – Peter Joudry, Crystal Ballos)

Barron

- Problems/Issues
 - Accessibility issues and affordability
 - Handicap accessibility

Crystal

- Lifelong resident
- Storm drainage poor, clogged
- Maintenance of property
- Trash
- Prospect pool is not accessible
- Problem w/ fed regs on housing and services for former felony offenses
- Nehemiah School
 - Need more activities for children
- Nehemiah Project built playground at 16th St. and 10th Avenue
- Paying over \$900/month for the water consumption
 - 3" line
 - Capacity not consumption being billed

- Paying for water on playground that doesn't have use of water
- City has removed houses in the neighborhood
 - Would like to develop housing in the neighborhood
- Problem of landlords not taking care of their properties
- Problem with "anti-skid" on roads left from winter
- Nehemiah lunch program was serving 50-60 kids now down to 25

Barron

- Church serves 800 families/month in the pantry
- Seeking ways (cooperation) for partnerships with political parties and faith-based organizations

Crystal

- Hope Center pantry is open 3 nights per week

Transcription of Meeting Minutes – Day Three

Education – 8/8/19 @ 8:30 a.m. (Altoona School District – Brad Hatch & Susan Franks)

- 21% Special Ed students to age 21 w/ diploma
- 10-12% don't graduate w/their cohorts
- 89% graduate w/cohorts
- Mainstreamed – only a small group in a sheltered setting
- GED testing – multiple testing throughout the year
- Future Reading Index
 - 8 elementary standards
 - 2 secondary standards
 - ATSI designation w/state
 - Have a mentoring program
 - Academic
 - Attendance
- 8.6% African American
- 1.9% Hispanic
- 0.7% Asian
- 88% white
- No charter schools
- 2 magnet schools
- Cyber school operated by school district
- In house local program for troubled youth
- Total enrollment +/- 7,600 students
- College & career readiness – train students for the future
- Increasing the STEM education fields
- C.T.C. program for vocational training
- Eric Palmer, C.T.C. Executive Director
- Free to students – School District pays
- 56-58% on free & reduced lunch
- At risk population of students is growing
- Not a lot of drugs in schools
- Increase in marijuana use

- Increase in vaping and e-cigarettes
- Not seeing a lot of meth in schools
- Limited English
 - Not a lot of Hispanic
 - Influx of Arabic speaking & Asian
 - 30 to 35 students
- School doesn't have a literacy program
- Hired former community police officer

Recreation Department – 8/8/19 @ 8:30 a.m. (Mike Hofer)

- 3 entities
 - City
 - Township
 - School District
- 2 funding sources & fair support
- Have received CDBG and used it quite extensively
- Prospect Pool
 - Access to bathhouse is problem
 - Do have a lift chair
 - Could be substantial improvement due to topo
 - Bathhouse is accessible inside
- Do use school district pool as well as 3 other private pools
- 2 community centers
 - Both built in the 70's
 - Both are accessible
 - Restrooms are not
 - +/- \$75,000 per building to make accessible
- Parks are in pretty good shape generally do upgrades every year
- Finding lifeguards has become a problem
- ADA accessibility is biggest priority
 - Topo is major factor
- Have a source for scholarships
 - CDBG was source
 - Could be beneficial if brought back
- Blight issue in community particularly in center part of city
- Occasionally have folks spending the night in parks but not to great extent
- Camp at Garfield & Prospect Parks
- Vandalism in parks has significantly gone down
- Last 5 years +/- 10 new parks

Fair Housing Organizations – 8/8/19 @ 9:30 a.m. (NAACP – Don Witherspoon; C.I.L. – George Palmer, Marty Dombrowski; Landlord Association – William Kitt; SWPAFH – Jamie Milligan)

Don

- President of NAACP for Blair County
- Evergreen Manor & Fairview Hills
- City planning – Fair & equal treatment
- Over the years number of complaints

- Education is still needed
- Ramps in zoning ordinance are a special exception

George

- Serve people with disabilities
- They are “invisible”
- Need to build “new” hard to rehab to make homes accessible
- Will provide data on numbers
- SSDI - \$700 - \$800 per month

Marty

- Her background is education
- A lot of their clients do not have jobs
- Provide
 - Exercise
 - Support groups
 - Nurturing
 - Sign language, etc.
 - Community garden
 - Program called “Thursdays” when most clients come in includes a meal
 - Fellowship is big
- Federally funded center
 - 5 core areas
 - Free services
 - Hunger is a main “pain point”
 - 260 consumers case load
 - 100 clients through the office per month
- Para Transit
 - Covers 7 counties in South Central PA
 - Positive experience w/Paratransit and amtran
 - Evenings and weekends are a problem
 - Service best in the City

Bill

- Represents the landlords
 - 160 members
 - +/- 2,000 properties
 - Covers large area including State College & Johnstown
 - Police illegal student housing
- Issue of rehab cost for accessibility vs renting to non-handicapped
- Caliber of landlords
 - Have a landlords workshop in the fall
 - Willing to be conduit to address issues with landlords
 - Sponsor a program w/ city on college rentals and illegal rentals
- Sits on “Our Town” committee meetings
- Developed a resource book
- Works to educate landlords
- Also involved with state association

Marty

- C.I.L. doesn't own or manage any housing

- Trying to place 3 or 4 individuals in a good residence
- Partnerships could be formed

Lee – City

- A.I.
 - Need to look at families & group homes
 - Recovery houses & Half-way houses
 - Ramps by special exception can be built within the setbacks
 - Need for ramps increasing daily

DGJ

- Where are housing discrimination complaints filed
- Escrow of rent – Bill has never experienced putting rent in escrow
- Legal process

Jaimie

- Need to do more outreach on where to report a fair housing complaint

Bill

- Monthly training & yearly conference of Landlords
- Average rent w/o utilities \$500 - \$600/month

Business & Economic Development Organizations – 8/8/19 @ 11:00 a.m. (Chamber of Commerce – Joe Hurd; Altoona and Blair County Economic Development Corporation (ABCD) – Pat Miller; Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission (SAPDC) – Brandon Peters; Altoona Curve – Derek Martin)

Pat

- Business & economic development organization
 - Work with Sheetz, Penn State Econ. Dev.
- Marketing for potential clients
- Grantsmanship
- Coordinate job training opportunities
- Manage small revolving loan fund for upper floor residential development
- Unmet need
 - Access to capital for development
 - Managed a revolving loan fund in the past from CDBG funds
 - End due to complexity of program requirements
- Infrastructure in pretty good shape and city is doing a lot of upgrades
- Need more downtown parking
 - \$46/month surface lot
 - \$51/month garage
- Section 108 loans
- Land becoming a premium
- New development to increase space in downtown
- Blight problem spreading
- Need for more affordable housing and market rate housing
- Workforce development
 - City unemployment below state average
 - Population is slowly declining
 - May turn around but still need employees
 - Companies have openings and can't fill with workers

- There are employment opportunities
- People come to Altoona from surrounding counties
- Blight removal

Brandon

- Serve business, non-profits and municipalities
- Division of business development w/ an international trade association
- Marketing for small business
- Small business development
 - Ben Franklin grants, etc.
- Work w/ municipalities and offer grantsmanship
- Training for municipalities
- Job training programs to build technical expertise
- Serve 6 counties
- Located in Blair County
- Paid internship program
- Companies can't fill positions
- Some companies are dropping drug testing
- Potential issue of training people and then they leave the area

Derek

- AA baseball
- Second smallest market in AA league
- 2020 collective bargaining is up
- MLB team wants housing for 6 months for players
- 21 years in business
- Workforce
 - 25 full time
 - 150 game day
 - 70 home game schedule
 - Most full-time staff comes from out of state
 - Struggle with Millennials and work ethic
 - Cost of living is low
 - Long hours and low pay
 - \$28k starting salary
 - 290k to 315k yearly attendance
 - Stadium is owned by County
 - Ground is owned by another entity
 - Affordable family entertainment
- Ballpark Improvement Fund
 - Team was required to pay for all improvements
 - County redirected some of "bed tax" to pay loan on improvements
 - \$1.5m in improvements

Joe

- 1,000 to 1,100 businesses w/ 46,000 employees
- Mainly Blair County organizations
- One of largest chambers in the state
- May establish a PAC
- Advocates recruitment of businesses

- Works closely with Explore Altoona on travel & recruitment
- Works with ABCD Corp. & SAPDC
- Heavy involvement with Hospitality & entertainment
- Strong transportation committee
- Works with school districts
- B.A.S.I.C.S. for school students
- Youth Programs
 - Young Entrepreneurs
 - Career fair for 8th graders and high school seniors
 - Career technology program at schools has been very good
 - Leadership Blair County and similar program for high schoolers
 - Entrepreneurship program for high schoolers
- Workforce Development biggest need
 - Worked with U.S. Chamber to develop some programs
 - Workforce development is key

B. Appendix B – Surveys and Agency Surveys

Attached are copies and summaries of the following surveys:

- Resident Survey
- Agency Survey

CITY OF ALTOONA, PA – CONFIDENTIAL RESIDENT QUESTIONNAIRE
CDBG, AND HOME PROGRAMS NEEDS

The City of Altoona is conducting a survey to identify residents' needs in the community. It will also identify ideas on how residents would like to see **HUD Programs' funds** spent, and fair housing concerns, such as acts of discrimination or barriers that might limit the housing choices of families and individuals. This survey will help the city prepare its Five Year Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan and its Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice.

Please take a few minutes and complete this confidential questionnaire. If you are unsure of an answer, or the question does not apply to you, please feel free to skip that question.

When completed, please return completed survey to the City of Altoona Community Development Department, 1301 12th Street, Suite 400, Altoona, PA 16601, OR COMPLETE ONLINE at altoonapa.gov. The City would appreciate your response by Friday, September 27, 2019.

1. What is your street name and ZIP Code where you live in the City of Altoona?
Street Name _____ ZIP Code: _____
2. Gender: Male Female
3. Race/Ethnicity (choose all that apply):
 White Black or African-American American Indian or Alaskan Native Asian
 Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander Hispanic or Latino Some Other Race Two or More Races
4. Age: 17 or younger 18-20 21-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60 or older
5. Number of persons living in your household? One Two Three Four Five Six +
6. What is the approx. total family income per year based on the number of persons in your household?

1 person household	<input type="checkbox"/>	over \$35,400		4 person household	<input type="checkbox"/>	over \$50,550
	<input type="checkbox"/>	under \$35,400			<input type="checkbox"/>	under \$50,550
2 person household	<input type="checkbox"/>	over \$40,450		5 person household	<input type="checkbox"/>	over \$54,600
	<input type="checkbox"/>	under \$40,450			<input type="checkbox"/>	under \$54,600
3 person household	<input type="checkbox"/>	over \$45,500		6 person household	<input type="checkbox"/>	over \$58,650
	<input type="checkbox"/>	under \$45,500			<input type="checkbox"/>	under \$58,650
7. Are you a homeowner? Yes No 8. Are you a renter? Yes No
9. Any housing conditions in the City of Altoona that require (Choose all that apply):
 Minor Rehabilitation Major Rehabilitation Decent, Safe, and Affordable Rental Units
 Affordable Housing Other: _____
10. Are there any other housing issues in the City of Altoona? Please list:

11. Are there any needs or improvements to the recreational facilities that you would like to see?
Please check all applicable boxes:
 Playground Equipment Benches & Picnic Tables Basketball Courts Tennis Courts
 Open Grass Fields Baseball Fields ADA Surfacing ADA Equipment Splash Pads Pools
 Other: _____
12. Are there any problems in your neighborhood with the following (Choose all that apply):
 Public Safety Streets Curbs/Sidewalks Handicap access Parking
 Traffic Storm sewers Sanitary sewers Litter Property Maintenance
Other: _____
13. Do you use any of the social service programs available in the City? (Choose all that apply):
 Medical/Mental Issues Homeless Aging Legal Employment Addictions

(Turn Over to Complete)

Disabled Childhood Development Other_____

14. Are there any programs or services that are missing or under-funded in the City? Please list:

15. Are there any employment issues in the City of Altoona? (Choose all that apply):

Lack of Job Opportunities Discriminatory Practices Job Training Legal Transportation
 Disabled Childhood Development Other_____

16. Are there any transportation issues in the City of Altoona? Please check all applicable boxes:

No Reliable Public Transit Not Enough Service Hours Cost of Service Unsafe Public Transit
 Lack of Parking Other_____

17. Are there any crime issues in the City of Altoona? Please check all applicable boxes:

Theft Drugs Violent Crime Gangs Lack of Interaction Between Police and Residents
 Other_____

18. Are there any blight (clearance/demolitions) issues in the City? (Choose all that apply):

Vacant Commercial Structures Vacant Residential Structures Open Dumping Grounds
 Uncut Lawns Vacant Lots Squatting Other_____

Fair Housing concerns/impediments include any act of discrimination or barrier that might limit the housing choices of families and individuals. Impediments to fair housing choice are defined as any actions, omissions, or decisions that restrict, or have the effect of restricting, the availability of housing choices based on race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin.

19. In your opinion, are residents of the City of Altoona aware of how to report fair housing violations or concerns? Yes No Unsure

20. What do you think are the primary reasons why fair housing complaints are not reported?

21. Please evaluate whether the following situations result in further discriminations and/or barriers to fair housing in the City of Altoona:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral/ Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Concentration of subsidized housing in certain neighborhoods	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of affordable housing in certain areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of accessible housing for persons with disabilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of accessibility in neighborhoods (i.e. curb cuts)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of fair housing education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of fair housing organizations in the City	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State or Local laws and policies that limit housing choice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of knowledge among residents regarding fair housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of knowledge among landlords and property managers regarding fair housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of knowledge among real estate agents regarding fair housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of knowledge among bankers/lenders regarding fair housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other barriers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

22. Are there any additional comments or concerns that you wish to share?

Q1 What is the name of the street and ZIP Code where you live?

Answered: 20 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Street Name:	100.00%	20
ZIP Code:	95.00%	19

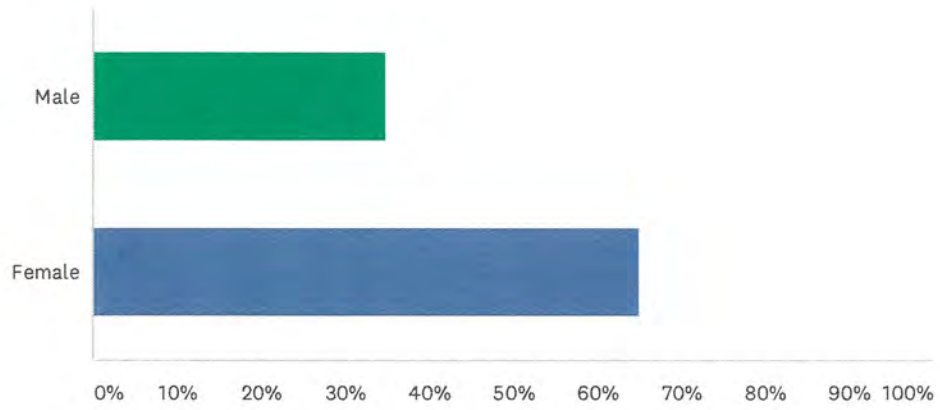
#	STREET NAME:	DATE
1	8th Avenue	1/21/2020 9:30 AM
2	13th Avenue	1/21/2020 9:28 AM
3	Pine Avenue	1/21/2020 9:26 AM
4	5th Avenue	1/21/2020 9:25 AM
5	14th Avenue	1/21/2020 9:24 AM
6	19th street	1/21/2020 9:21 AM
7	Pine	1/21/2020 9:19 AM
8	Beale Avenue	1/21/2020 9:17 AM
9	4th Avenue	1/21/2020 9:14 AM
10	Broad Street	1/21/2020 9:12 AM
11	5th Avenue	1/21/2020 9:11 AM
12	8th avenue	1/21/2020 9:09 AM
13	6th Avenue	1/21/2020 9:07 AM
14	5th avenue	1/21/2020 9:05 AM
15	6th Avenue	1/21/2020 9:04 AM
16	6th avenue	1/21/2020 9:02 AM
17	5th Avenue	1/21/2020 9:00 AM
18	6th Avenue	1/21/2020 8:58 AM
19	4th Avenue	1/21/2020 8:56 AM
20	16th	8/1/2019 10:22 AM

City of Altoona, PA - Resident Survey

#	ZIP CODE:	DATE
1	16602	1/21/2020 9:30 AM
2	16601	1/21/2020 9:26 AM
3	16601	1/21/2020 9:25 AM
4	16601	1/21/2020 9:24 AM
5	16601	1/21/2020 9:21 AM
6	16602	1/21/2020 9:19 AM
7	16601	1/21/2020 9:17 AM
8	16602	1/21/2020 9:14 AM
9	16601	1/21/2020 9:12 AM
10	16601	1/21/2020 9:11 AM
11	16602	1/21/2020 9:09 AM
12	16602	1/21/2020 9:07 AM
13	16602	1/21/2020 9:05 AM
14	16602	1/21/2020 9:04 AM
15	16602	1/21/2020 9:02 AM
16	16602	1/21/2020 9:00 AM
17	16602	1/21/2020 8:58 AM
18	16602	1/21/2020 8:56 AM
19	16601	8/1/2019 10:22 AM

Q2 Gender

Answered: 20 Skipped: 0



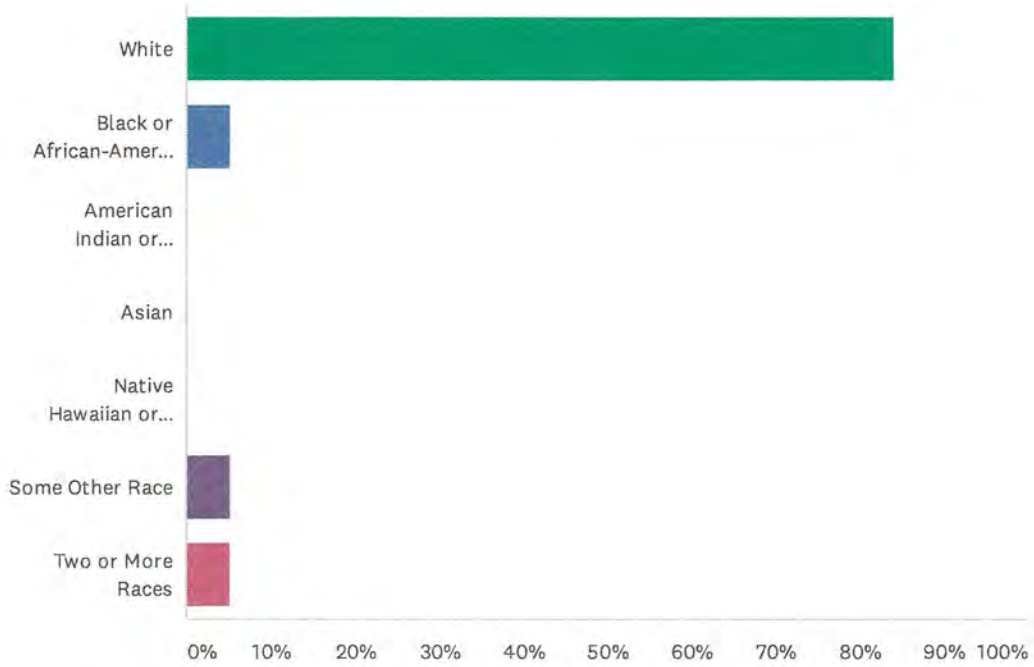
ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

Male	35.00%	7
Female	65.00%	13
TOTAL		20

Q3 Race

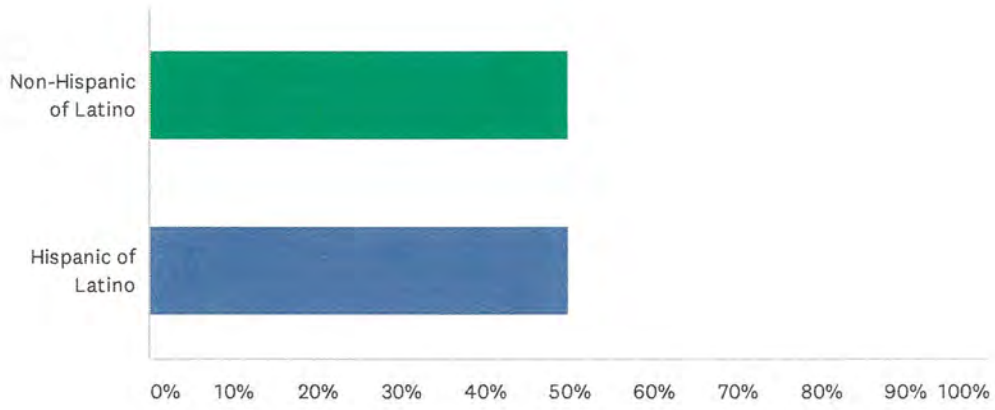
Answered: 19 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
White	84.21%	16
Black or African-American	5.26%	1
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.00%	0
Asian	0.00%	0
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.00%	0
Some Other Race	5.26%	1
Two or More Races	5.26%	1
Total Respondents: 19		

Q4 Ethnicity:

Answered: 2 Skipped: 18



ANSWER CHOICES

Non-Hispanic of Latino

Hispanic of Latino

Total Respondents: 2

RESPONSES

50.00%

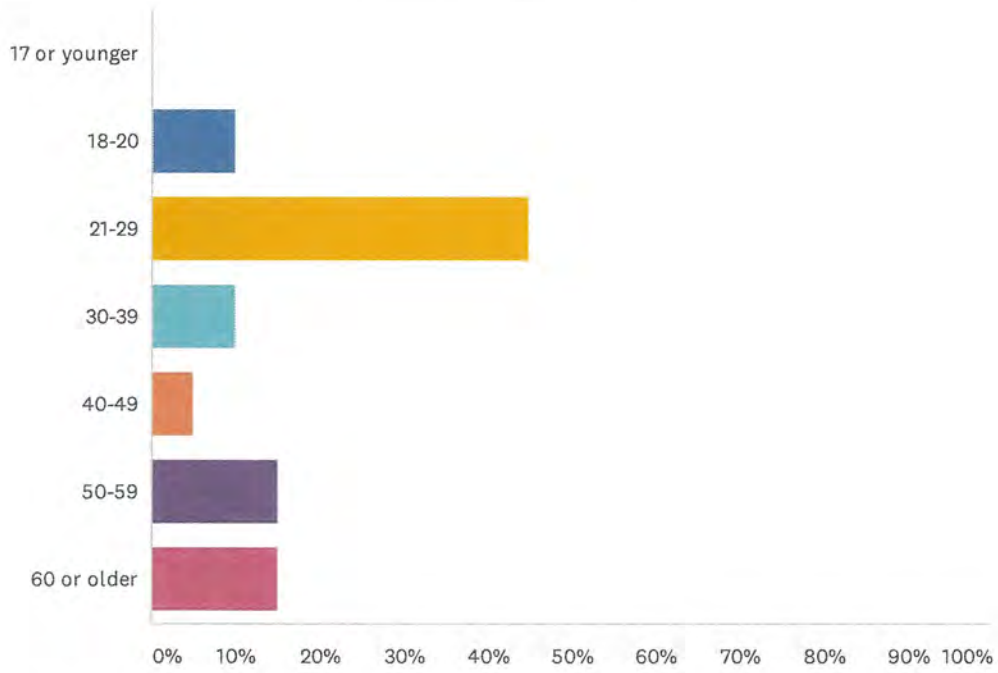
50.00%

1

1

Q5 Age

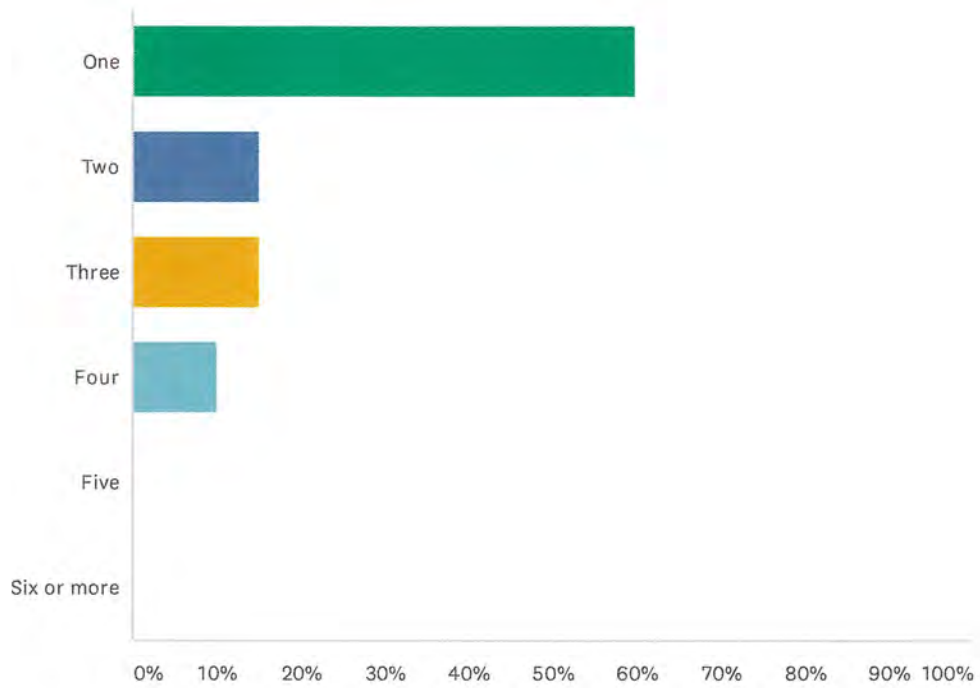
Answered: 20 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
17 or younger	0.00%	0
18-20	10.00%	2
21-29	45.00%	9
30-39	10.00%	2
40-49	5.00%	1
50-59	15.00%	3
60 or older	15.00%	3
TOTAL		20

Q6 Number of persons living in your household?

Answered: 20 Skipped: 0



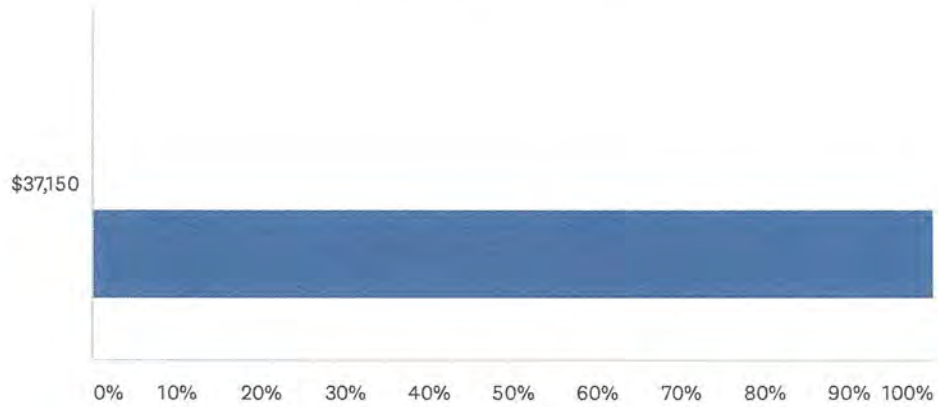
ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

One	60.00%	12
Two	15.00%	3
Three	15.00%	3
Four	10.00%	2
Five	0.00%	0
Six or more	0.00%	0
TOTAL		20

Q7 If you are a one (1) person household, is your total household income above or below \$37,150 per year?

Answered: 9 Skipped: 11

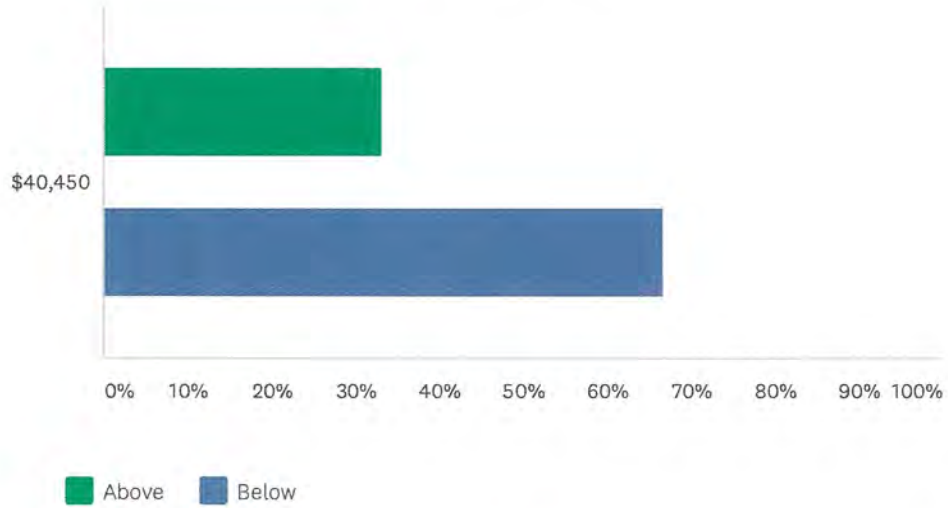


■ Above ■ Below

	ABOVE	BELOW	TOTAL	
\$37,150	0.00%	100.00%		
	0	9		9

Q8 If you are a two (2) person household, is your total household income above or below \$40,450 per year?

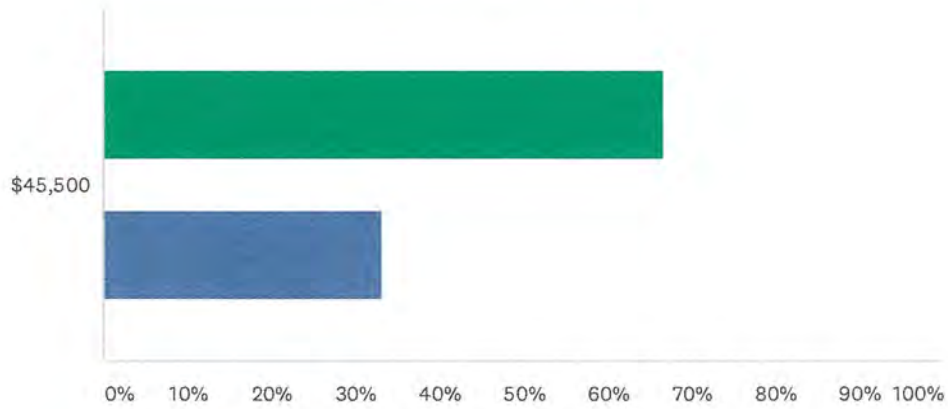
Answered: 3 Skipped: 17



	ABOVE	BELOW	TOTAL	
\$40,450	33.33%	66.67%		
	1	2	3	

Q9 If you are a three (3) person household, is your total household income above or below \$45,500 per year?

Answered: 3 Skipped: 17

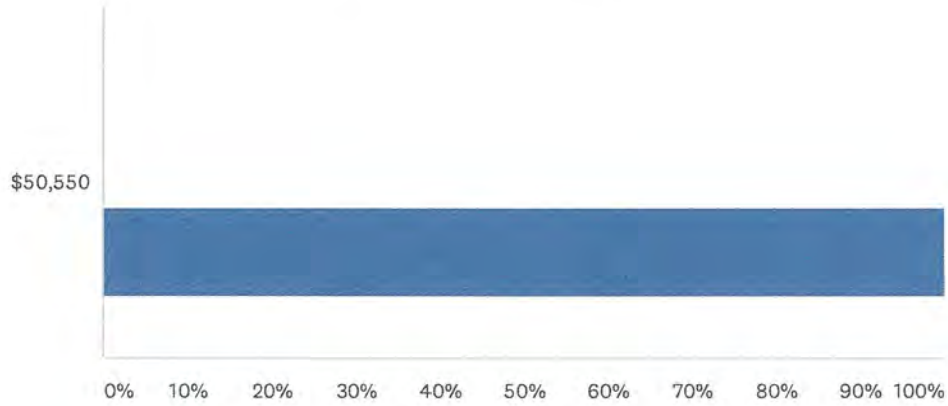


■ Above ■ Below

	ABOVE	BELOW	TOTAL	
\$45,500	66.67%	33.33%		
	2	1	3	

Q10 If you are a four (4) person household, is your total household income above or below \$50,550 per year?

Answered: 2 Skipped: 18



■ Above ■ Below

	ABOVE	BELOW	TOTAL	
\$50,550	0.00%	100.00%		
	0	2		2

Q11 If you are a five (5) person household, is your total household income above or below \$54,600 per year?

Answered: 0 Skipped: 20

▲ No matching responses.

	ABOVE	BELOW	TOTAL
\$54,600		0.00% 0	0.00% 0
			0

Q12 If you are a six (6) person household, is your total household income above or below \$58,650 per year?

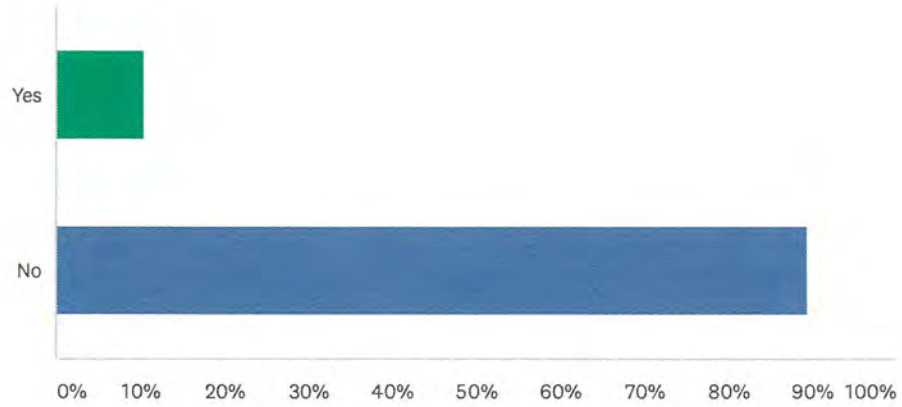
Answered: 0 Skipped: 20

▲ No matching responses.

	ABOVE	BELOW	TOTAL
\$58,650	0.00%	0.00%	0
	0	0	0

Q13 Are you a homeowner?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 1



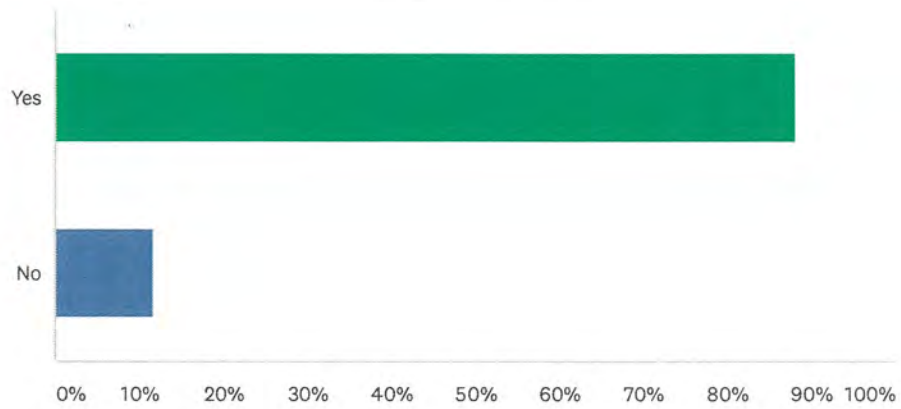
ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

Yes	10.53%	2
No	89.47%	17
TOTAL		19

Q14 Are you a renter?

Answered: 17 Skipped: 3



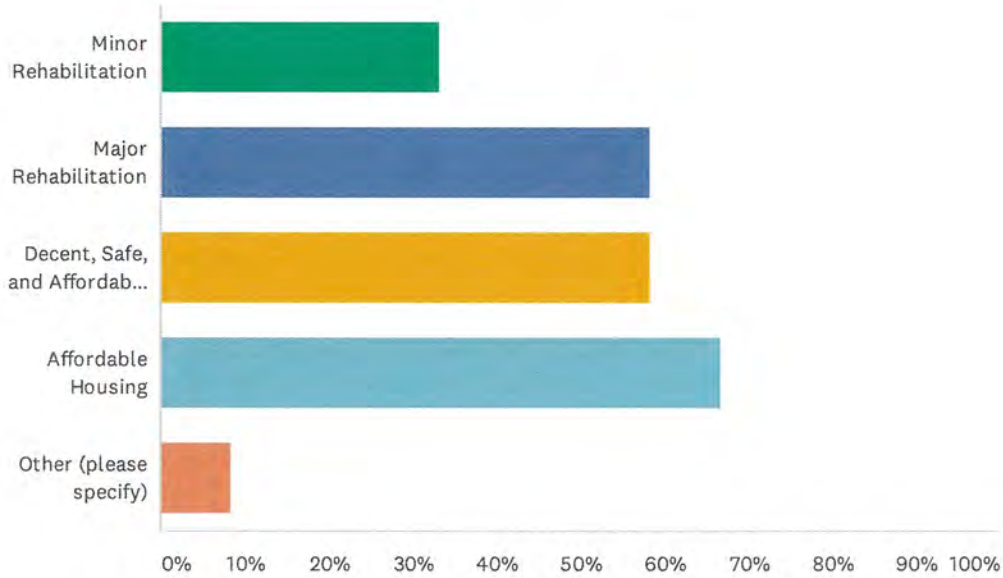
ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

Yes	88.24%	15
No	11.76%	2
TOTAL		17

Q15 Housing conditions in the City of Altoona require: (please check all applicable boxes)

Answered: 12 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Minor Rehabilitation	33.33%	4
Major Rehabilitation	58.33%	7
Decent, Safe, and Affordable Rental Units	58.33%	7
Affordable Housing	66.67%	8
Other (please specify)	8.33%	1
Total Respondents: 12		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	yard care	1/21/2020 9:22 AM

Q16 Are there any other housing issues in the City of Altoona? Please list:

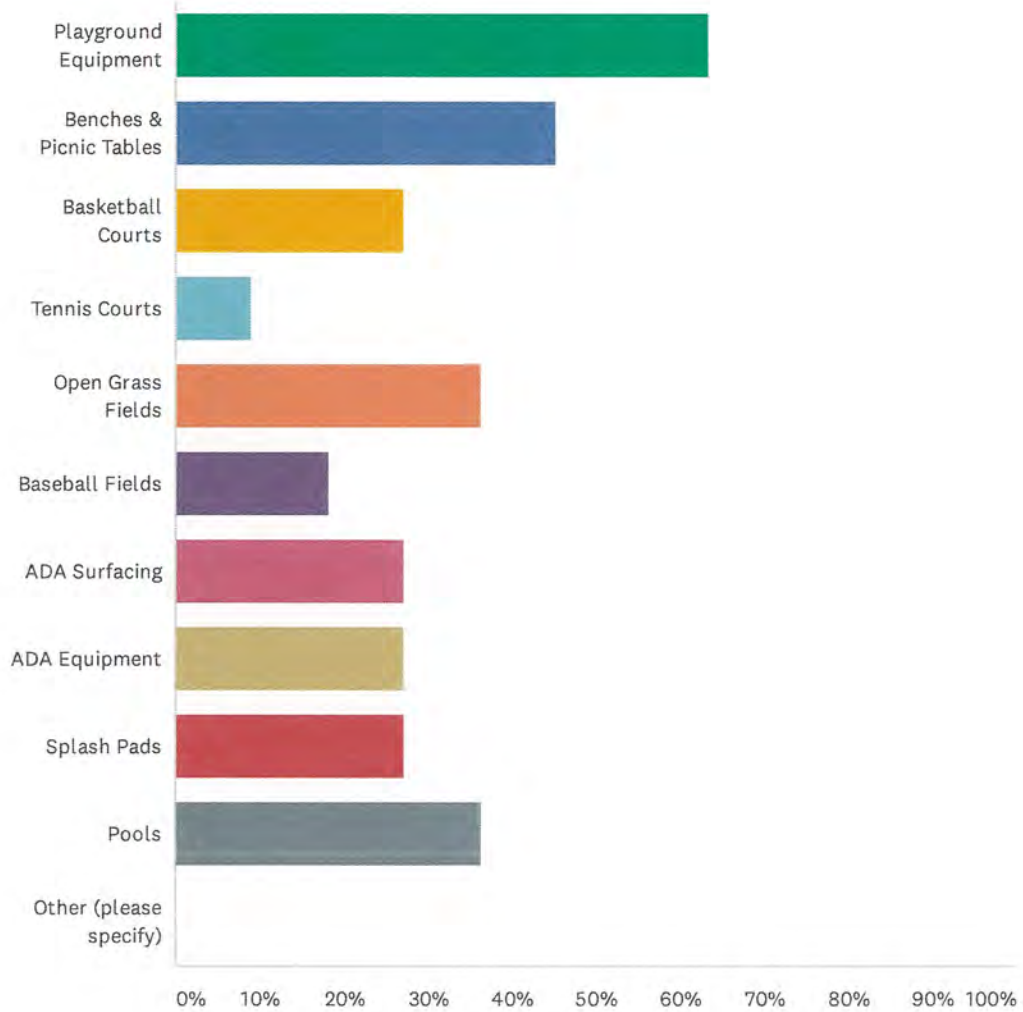
Answered: 2 Skipped: 18

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Lack of affordable rentals	1/21/2020 9:15 AM
2	It is difficult to find housing for individuals who are not senior citizens.	8/1/2019 10:28 AM

non-senior housing

Q17 Are there any needs or improvements to recreational facilities that you would like to see? (Please check all applicable boxes):

Answered: 11 Skipped: 9



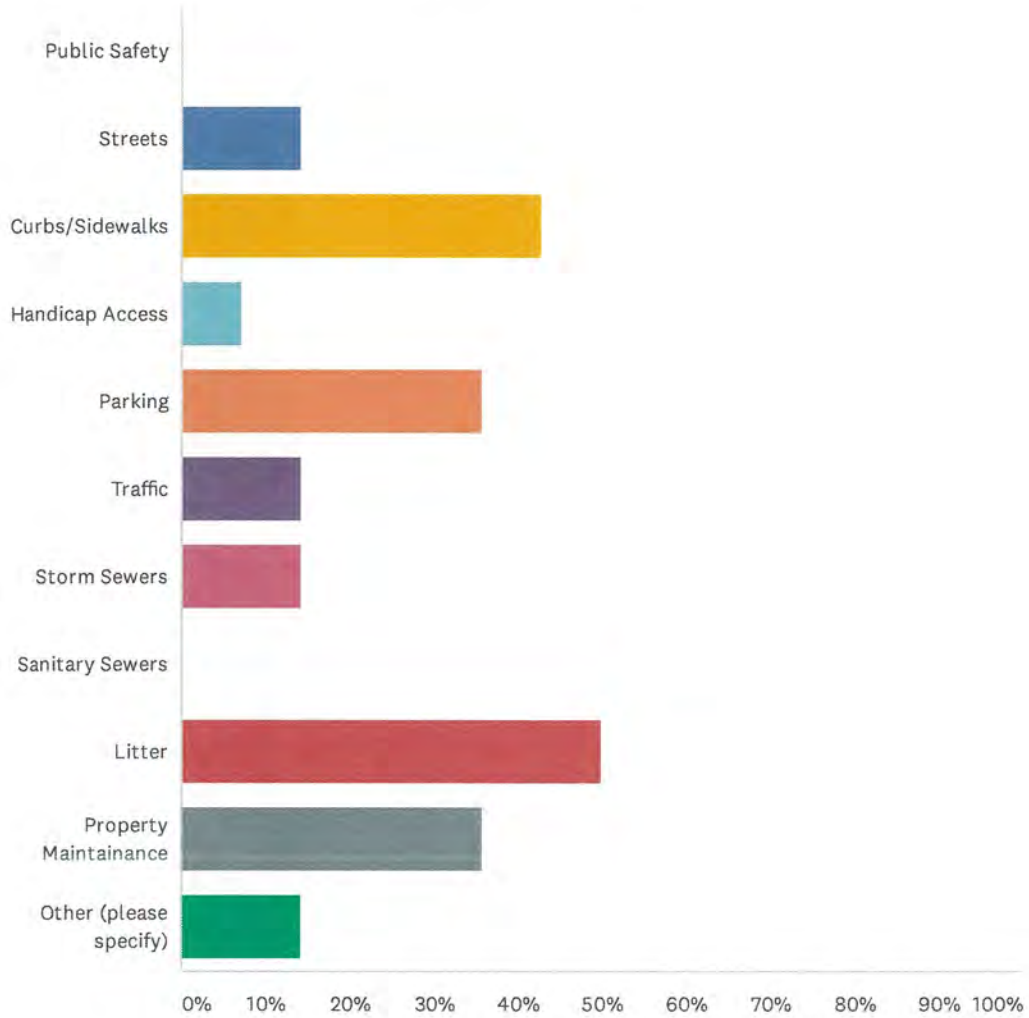
City of Altoona, PA - Resident Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Playground Equipment	63.64%	7
Benches & Picnic Tables	45.45%	5
Basketball Courts	27.27%	3
Tennis Courts	9.09%	1
Open Grass Fields	36.36%	4
Baseball Fields	18.18%	2
ADA Surfacing	27.27%	3
ADA Equipment	27.27%	3
Splash Pads	27.27%	3
Pools	36.36%	4
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 11		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
	There are no responses.	

Q18 Are there any problems in your neighborhood with the following? (Choose all that apply):

Answered: 14 Skipped: 6



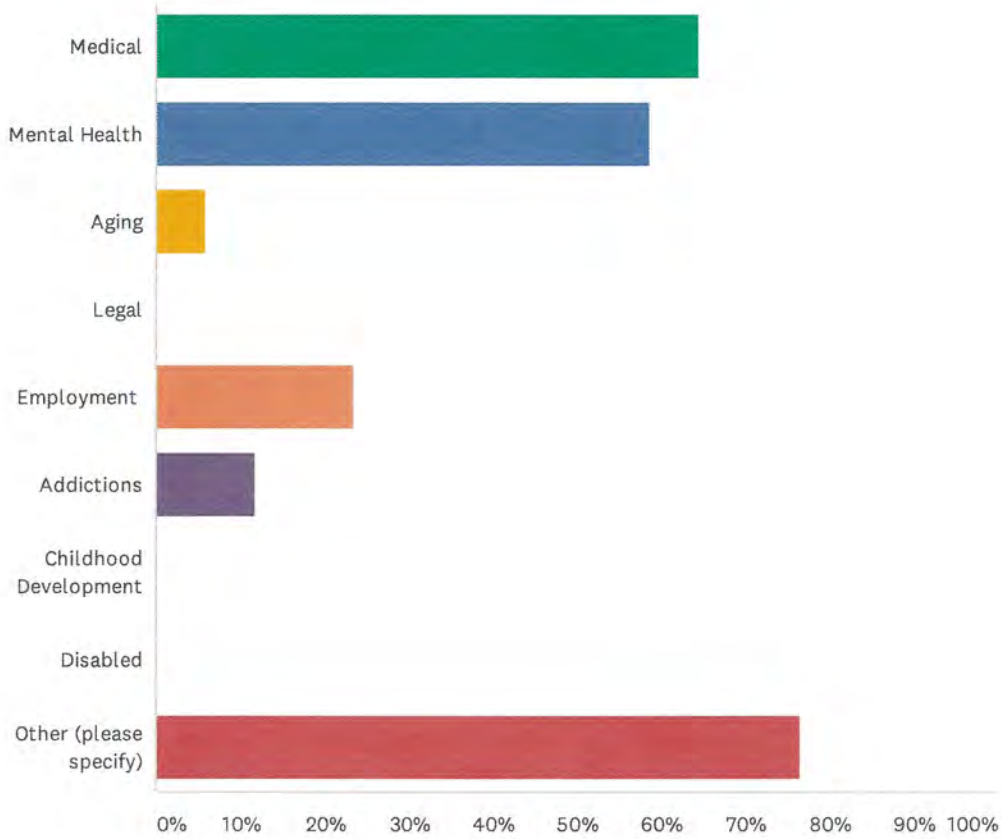
City of Altoona, PA - Resident Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Public Safety	0.00%	0
Streets	14.29%	2
Curbs/Sidewalks	42.86%	6
Handicap Access	7.14%	1
Parking	35.71%	5
Traffic	14.29%	2
Storm Sewers	14.29%	2
Sanitary Sewers	0.00%	0
Litter	50.00%	7
Property Maintenance	35.71%	5
Other (please specify)	14.29%	2
Total Respondents: 14		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Street lights that turn off when they shouldn't	1/21/2020 9:20 AM
2	Rats	1/21/2020 9:11 AM

Q19 Do you use any of the social service programs available in the City? (Choose all that apply):

Answered: 17 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Medical	64.71%	11
Mental Health	58.82%	10
Aging	5.88%	1
Legal	0.00%	0
Employment	23.53%	4
Addictions	11.76%	2
Childhood Development	0.00%	0
Disabled	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	76.47%	13

Total Respondents: 17

City of Altoona, PA - Resident Survey

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Homeless	1/21/2020 9:30 AM
2	Homeless	1/21/2020 9:28 AM
3	Homeless	1/21/2020 9:25 AM
4	Homeless	1/21/2020 9:22 AM
5	Homeless	1/21/2020 9:20 AM
6	Homeless	1/21/2020 9:13 AM
7	Homeless	1/21/2020 9:09 AM
8	Homeless	1/21/2020 9:08 AM
9	Homeless	1/21/2020 9:06 AM
10	Homeless	1/21/2020 9:04 AM
11	Homeless	1/21/2020 9:02 AM
12	Homeless	1/21/2020 9:00 AM
13	Homeless	1/21/2020 8:57 AM

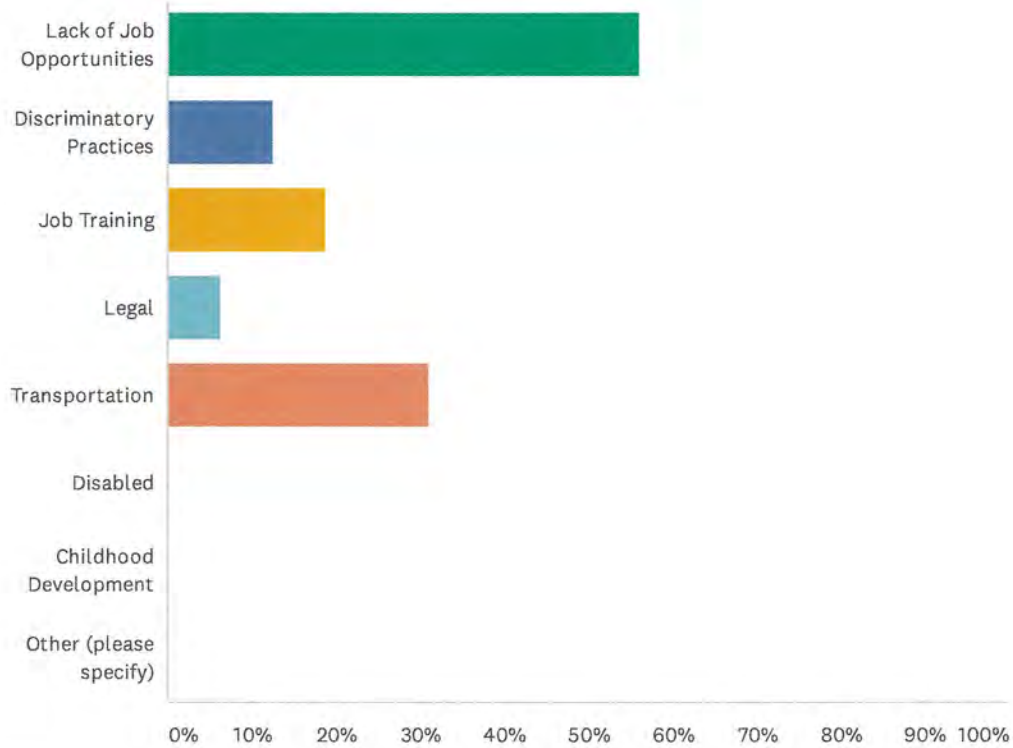
Q20 Are there any programs or services that are missing or under-funded in the City? Please list:

Answered: 3 Skipped: 17

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Homeless Shelter	1/21/2020 9:30 AM
2	Mental Health Services Affordable Housing	1/21/2020 9:06 AM
3	WIC Agency	1/21/2020 9:02 AM

Q21 Are there any employment issues in the City of Altoona? (Choose all that apply)

Answered: 16 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES

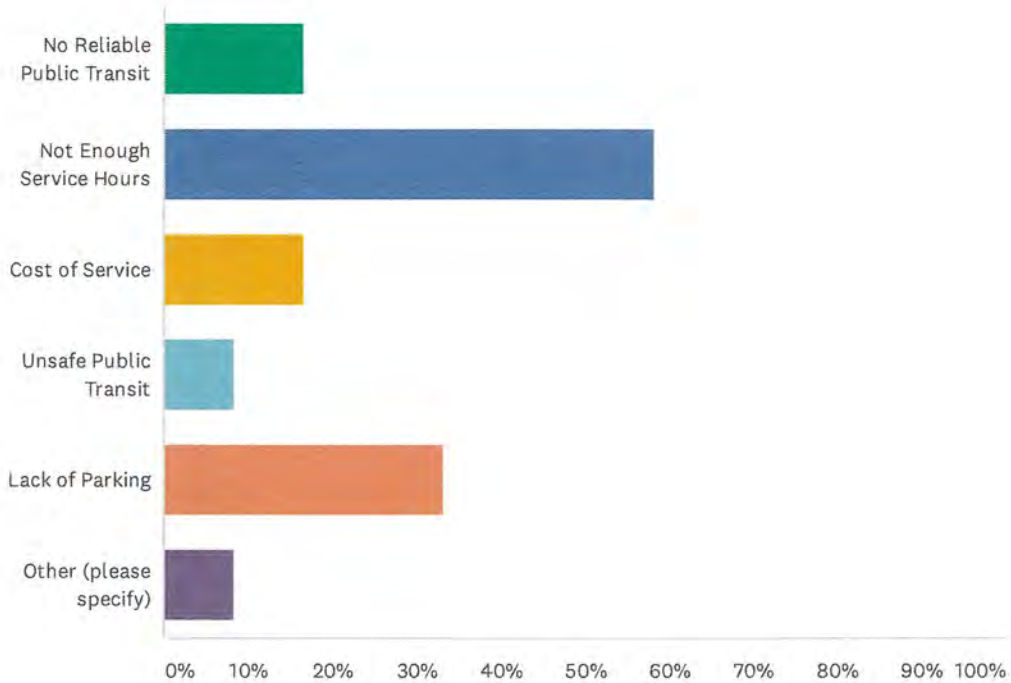
RESPONSES

Lack of Job Opportunities	56.25%	9
Discriminatory Practices	12.50%	2
Job Training	18.75%	3
Legal	6.25%	1
Transportation	31.25%	5
Disabled	0.00%	0
Childhood Development	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 16		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
	There are no responses.	

Q22 Are there any transportation issues in the City of Altoona?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

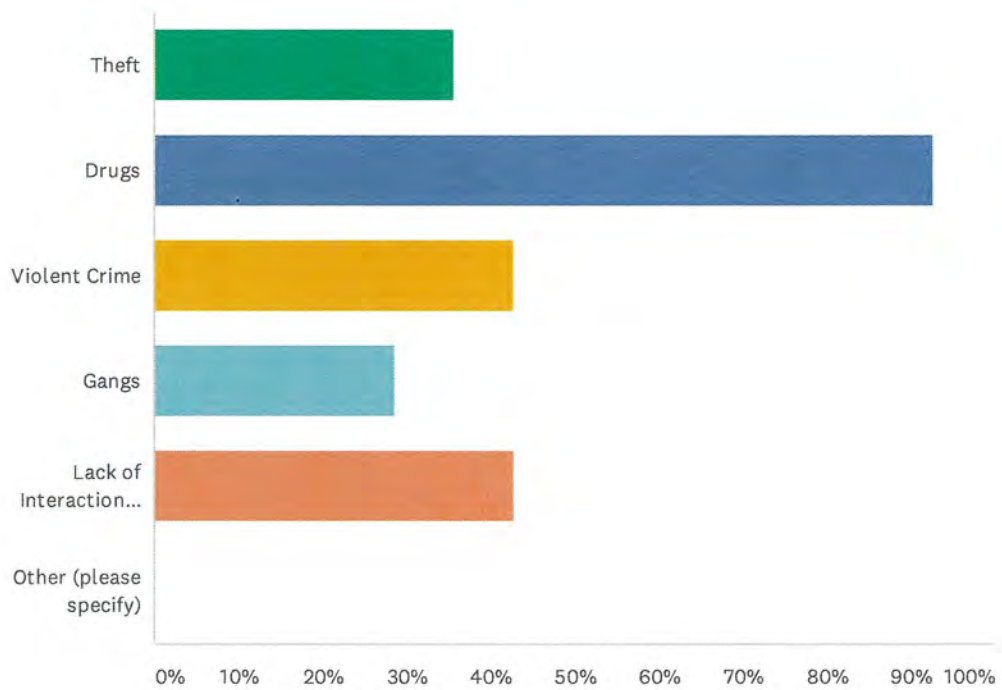
No Reliable Public Transit	16.67%	2
Not Enough Service Hours	58.33%	7
Cost of Service	16.67%	2
Unsafe Public Transit	8.33%	1
Lack of Parking	33.33%	4
Other (please specify)	8.33%	1

Total Respondents: 12

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Nothing available on Sundays	1/21/2020 9:27 AM

Q23 Are there any crime issues in the City of Altoona?

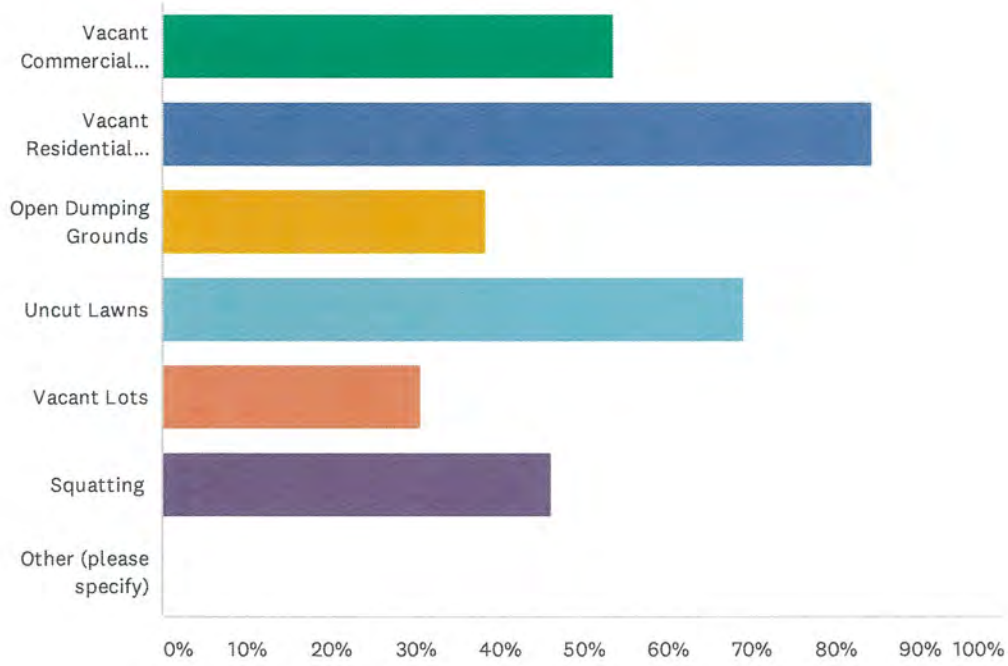
Answered: 14 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Theft	35.71%	5
Drugs	92.86%	13
Violent Crime	42.86%	6
Gangs	28.57%	4
Lack of Interaction Between Police and Residents	42.86%	6
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 14		
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
	There are no responses.	

Q24 Are there any blight (clearance/demolitions) issues in the City? (Choose all that apply):

Answered: 13 Skipped: 7

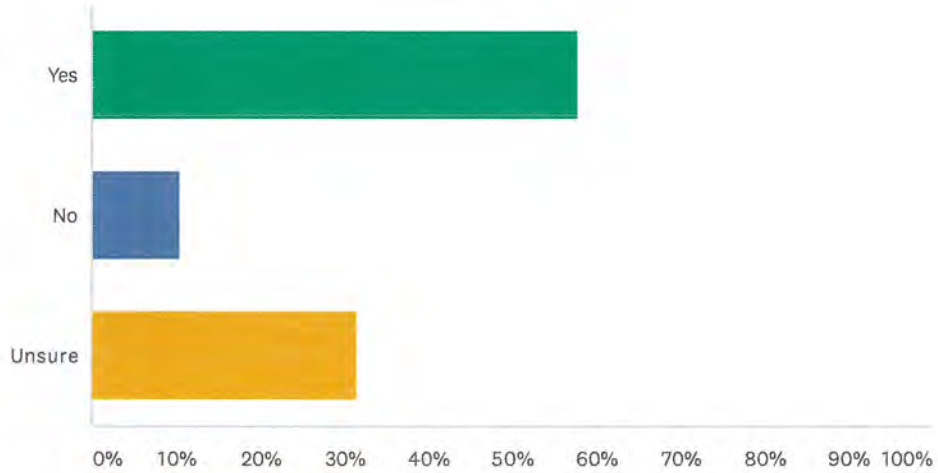


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Vacant Commercial Structures	53.85%	7
Vacant Residential Structures	84.62%	11
Open Dumping Grounds	38.46%	5
Uncut Lawns	69.23%	9
Vacant Lots	30.77%	4
Squatting	46.15%	6
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 13		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
	There are no responses.	

Q25 In your opinion, are residents of the City of Altoona aware of how to report fair housing violations or concerns?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

Yes	57.89%	11
No	10.53%	2
Unsure	31.58%	6

Total Respondents: 19

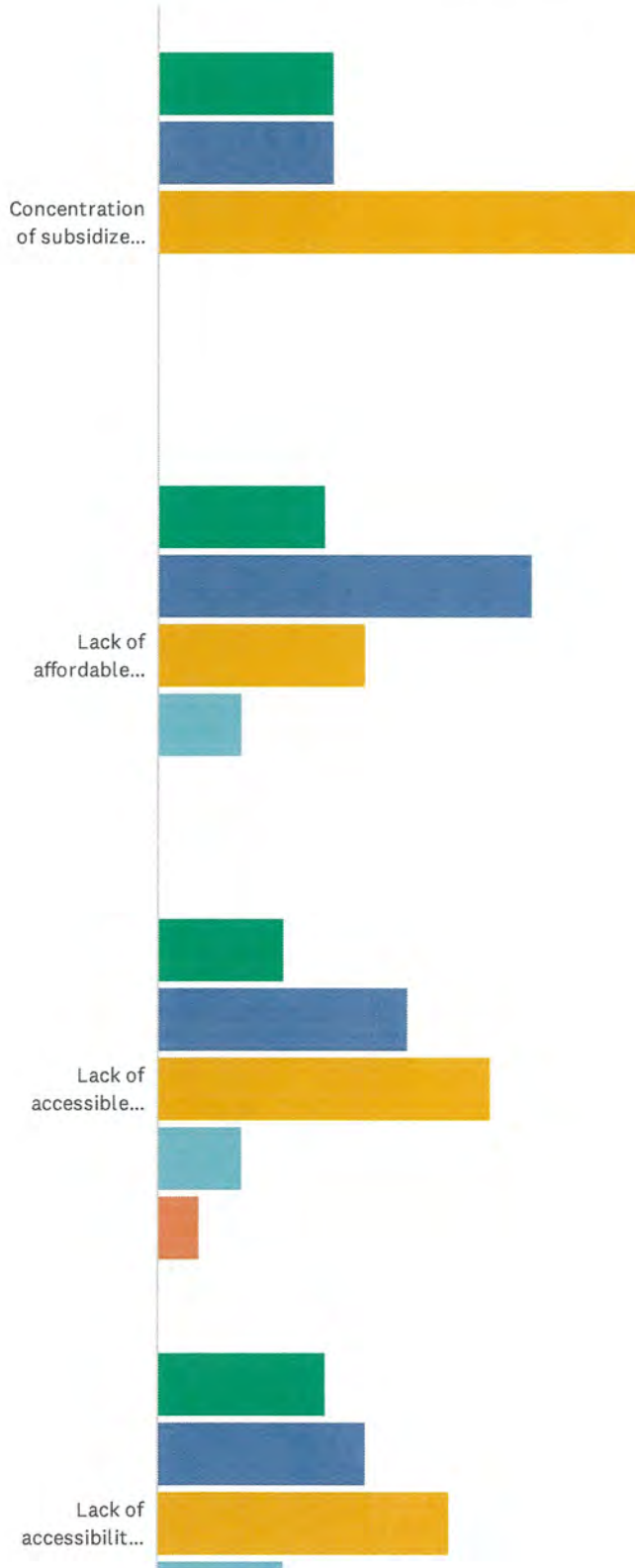
Q26 What do you think are the primary reasons why fair housing complaints are not reported?

Answered: 9 Skipped: 11

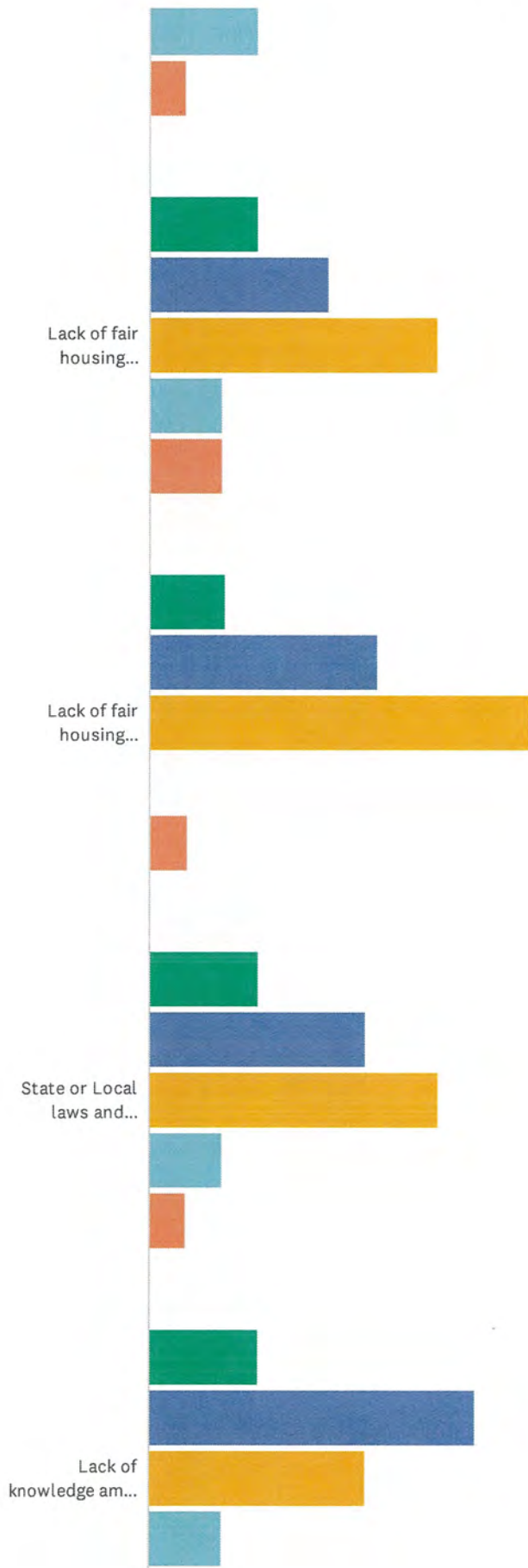
#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I don't know	1/21/2020 9:23 AM
2	People are afraid to speak up	1/21/2020 9:18 AM
3	Lack of knowledge of how to report/lack of knowledge of discrimination	1/21/2020 9:16 AM
4	I don't know	1/21/2020 9:10 AM
5	Homeless	1/21/2020 9:08 AM
6	People do not know the steps to take	1/21/2020 9:07 AM
7	I think that many people don't want to start any conflict	1/21/2020 9:03 AM
8	I don't know	1/21/2020 8:59 AM
9	I think that most people probably do not realize that they can complain or know how to file a complaint.	8/1/2019 10:37 AM

Q27 Please evaluate whether the following situations result in further discrimination and/or barriers to fair housing in the City of Altoona

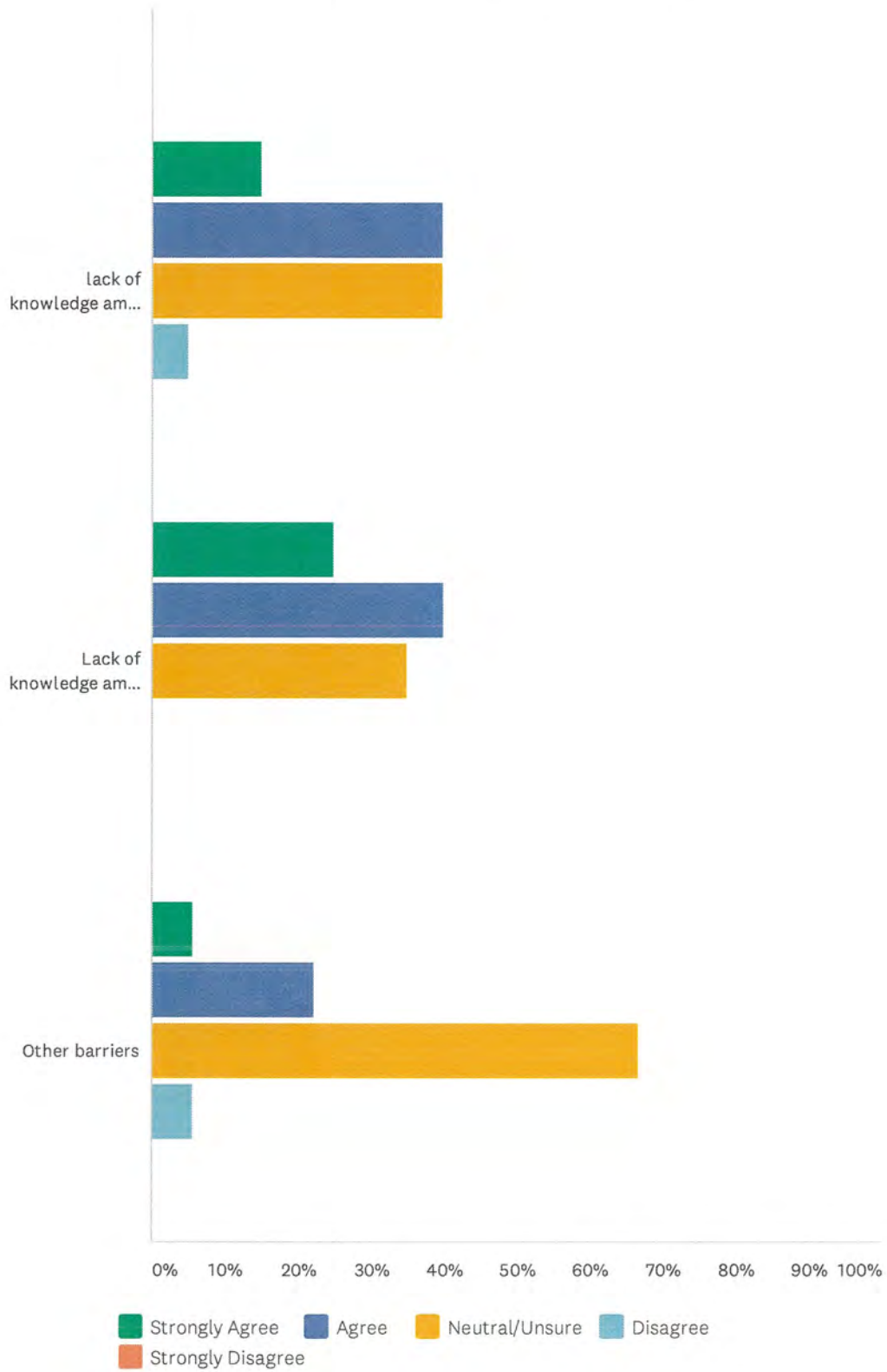
Answered: 20 Skipped: 0



City of Altoona, PA - Resident Survey



City of Altoona, PA - Resident Survey



City of Altoona, PA - Resident Survey

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL/UNSURE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL
Concentration of subsidized housing in certain neighborhoods	21.05% 4	21.05% 4	57.89% 11	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	19
Lack of affordable housing in certain areas	20.00% 4	45.00% 9	25.00% 5	10.00% 2	0.00% 0	20
Lack of accessible housing for persons with disabilities	15.00% 3	30.00% 6	40.00% 8	10.00% 2	5.00% 1	20
Lack of accessibility in neighborhoods (i.e. curb cuts)	20.00% 4	25.00% 5	35.00% 7	15.00% 3	5.00% 1	20
Lack of fair housing education	15.00% 3	25.00% 5	40.00% 8	10.00% 2	10.00% 2	20
Lack of fair housing organizations in the City	10.53% 2	31.58% 6	52.63% 10	0.00% 0	5.26% 1	19
State or Local laws and policies that limit housing choice	15.00% 3	30.00% 6	40.00% 8	10.00% 2	5.00% 1	20
Lack of knowledge among residents regarding fair housing	15.00% 3	45.00% 9	30.00% 6	10.00% 2	0.00% 0	20
lack of knowledge among landlords and property managers regarding fair housing	15.00% 3	40.00% 8	40.00% 8	5.00% 1	0.00% 0	20
Lack of knowledge among bankers/lenders regarding fair housing	25.00% 5	40.00% 8	35.00% 7	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	20
Other barriers	5.56% 1	22.22% 4	66.67% 12	5.56% 1	0.00% 0	18

Q28 Are there any additional comments or concerns that you wish to share?

Answered: 1 Skipped: 19

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	They need more people out on the streets regarding poor houses and condemned property there are way too many.	1/21/2020 9:21 AM

CITY OF ALTOONA – CDBG AND HOME PROGRAMS AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS NEEDS SURVEY

Name of Agency/Organization:

Address:

Contact:

Title:

Phone:

Fax:

E-Mail:

Brief description of programs your agency provides:

Does your organization provide any services or programs for the following?

Social/Human Services:

Housing:

Planning:

Community Development:

Economic Development:

Business Loans:

Job Training:

Other:

Please respond to the following questions if they apply to your agency or organization.

What clientele does your program(s) serve? i.e. low income, elderly, disabled, etc.

What are the unmet community and economic development needs in the City?

What are the unmet housing needs in the City?

What are the unmet social service needs in the City?

What, if any, are the Fair Housing issues in the City?

Comments/Suggestions (if any):

CITY OF ALTOONA – CDBG AND HOME PROGRAMS AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS NEEDS SURVEY

Name of Agency/Organization: *BLAIR COUNTY NAACP*

Address: *2100 6th AVE., ALTOONA, PA 16602*

Contact: *DONALD WITHERSPOON* Title: *PRESIDENT*

Phone: *814-944-5390* Fax: *814-946-5451* E-Mail: *dew2312@yahoo.com*

Brief description of programs your agency provides:

- ① *PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN DISCRIMINATION CASES, (HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT ETC.)*
- ② *ASSIST PEOPLE WITH JOB PLACEMENT.*
- ③ *PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WHO ARE GOING TO COLLEGE OR TRADE SCHOOL.*
- ④ *PRISON REFORM*

Does your organization provide any services or programs for the following?

Social/Human Services: *YES*

Housing: *YES*

Planning:

Community Development:

Economic Development: *YES*

Business Loans: *NO*

Job Training: *NO*

Other:

Please respond to the following questions if they apply to your agency or organization.

What clientele does your program(s) serve? i.e. low income, elderly, disabled, etc.

ALL PEOPLE

What are the unmet community and economic development needs in the City?

JOBS

What are the unmet housing needs in the City?

FAIR HOUSING.

What are the unmet social service needs in the City?

RECREATION

What, if any, are the Fair Housing issues in the City?

- ① Section 8 Housing - ~~TOO MANY~~ stipulations.
TOO MANY RULES and REGULATIONS.
- ② RACIAL DISCRIMINATION.

Comments/Suggestions (if any):

NEED TO WORK TOGETHER TO ADDRESS ALL NEEDS AND CONCERNS OF RESIDENTS.

CITY OF ALTOONA – CDBG AND HOME PROGRAMS AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS NEEDS SURVEY

Name of Agency/Organization: Center for Independent Living of South Central PA

Address: 3013 Beale Ave, Suite B, Altoona 16601

Contact: Marty Dombrowski **Title:** Assistant Direct.

Phone: 814 949 1905 **Fax:** 814 949 1909 **E-Mail:** mdombrowski@cilscca.org

Brief description of programs your agency provides:

Provide Core Services which include:

- Advocacy
- Independent Living Skills
- Peer Counseling
- Information + Referral
- Transition

We develop programs that touch the entire person.

Does your organization provide any services or programs for the following?

- Social/Human Services:**
- Housing:**
- Planning:**
- Community Development:**
- Economic Development:**
- Business Loans:**
- Job Training:**
- Other:**

Please respond to the following questions if they apply to your agency or organization.

What, if any, are the Fair Housing issues in the City?

Comments/Suggestions (if any):

CILSCPA would love to partner with the City to address blighted properties in the city and the shortage of accessible housing.

CITY OF ALTOONA – CDBG AND HOME PROGRAMS AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS NEEDS SURVEY

Name of Agency/Organization: Improved Dwellings for Altoona, Inc.

Address: P.O. Box 592, 1600 8th Ave., Altoona, PA 16603

Contact: Michelle Peterson

Title: Executive Director

Phone: 814-944-9466 **Fax:** 814-941-3708 **E-Mail:** mpeterson@improved-dwellings.org

Brief description of programs your agency provides:

We provide safe, decent and affordable housing and services for households of low to moderate income who cannot secure housing through rental or purchase in the private market and to address the needs of our tenants with dignity, respect and integrity.

Does your organization provide any services or programs for the following?

Social/Human Services: yes, in a limited capacity

Housing: - yes

Planning: - no

Community Development: - we have a CHDO

Economic Development: - no

Business Loans: - no

Job Training: - no

Other: - no

Please respond to the following questions if they apply to your agency or organization.

What, if any, are the Fair Housing issues in the City?

i'm not aware of any Fair Housing issues in the City.

Comments/Suggestions (if any):

CITY OF ALTOONA – CDBG AND HOME PROGRAMS AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS NEEDS SURVEY

Name of Agency/Organization: *UPMC Altoona*

Address: *620 Howard Ave*

Contact: *Michael Corso*

Title: *VP - Operations*

Phone: *814-889-2690* Fax:

E-Mail: *corso@m@upmc.edu*

Brief description of programs your agency provides:

Acute care hospital.

Does your organization provide any services or programs for the following?

Social/Human Services: *Healthcare*

Housing:

Planning:

Community Development: *NO*

Economic Development:

Business Loans:

Job Training:

Other:

Please respond to the following questions if they apply to your agency or organization.

What clientele does your program(s) serve? i.e. low income, elderly, disabled, etc.

All

What are the unmet community and economic development needs in the City?

Meaningful employment. Access to care

What are the unmet housing needs in the City?

Unknown

What are the unmet social service needs in the City?

Mental Health

What, if any, are the Fair Housing issues in the City?

I am unaware

Comments/Suggestions (if any):

CITY OF ALTOONA – CDBG AND HOME PROGRAMS AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS NEEDS SURVEY

Name of Agency/Organization: UPMC Behavioral Health of the Alleghenies
Address: 500 East Chestnut Street, Altoona Pa 16601
Contact: Diana Packerch **Title:** Director
Phone: 814-943-5414 **Fax:** 814-943-6998 **E-Mail:** packerch.d@upmc.edu

Brief description of programs your agency provides:

UPMC BHA provides permanent and transitional supportive housing for individuals with mental illness. We provide on site + on call housing staff and coordinate with behavioral health services as well as mainstream resources. We also provide housing case management to assist in locating and maintaining housing for individuals.

Does your organization provide any services or programs for the following?

Social/Human Services: MH treatment + supportive services. Inpatient treatment.
Housing: Permanent + Transitional units and case management.
Planning: No
Community Development: No
Economic Development: No
Business Loans: No
Job Training: UPMC BHA operates a licensed Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program which provides assistance in acquiring housing, training, support and assistance in the workplace.
Other:

Please respond to the following questions if they apply to your agency or organization.

and assistance in the workplace

What, if any, are the Fair Housing issues in the City?

In the past few years we have not experienced an issues
In regard to fair housing issues for the individuals that
we serve.

Comments/Suggestions (if any):

CITY OF ALTOONA- CDBG & HOME PROGRAMS
AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS NEEDS SURVEY

Name of Agency/Organization: Family Services Incorporated

Address: 2022 Broad Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601

Contact: Lisa Hann

Title: Executive Director

Phone: 814.944.3583

Fax: 814.944.8701

Email: lhann@familyservicesinc.net

Brief description of programs your agency provides:

Family Services Incorporated has a long history of providing services for Blair County residents, dating back to the late 1800's. The present agency resulted from the merger of two human service agencies that had special interest and skill in dealing with children and their families. Currently, Family Services offers 6 main programs; Children's Advocacy Center, Counseling, Family Shelter, Intellectual Disabilities Program, Runaway and Homeless Youth Program and the Victim Services Program. In addition to core services, several components are offered within each program that provides service provision to over 4000 individuals and families each year.

Children's Advocacy Center, The Center for Child Justice, performs forensic interviews for child victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse and witness to violent crimes.

Counseling provides MSW therapy for victims of crime and operates the Batterers Intervention Program

Family Shelter provides 16 emergency shelter beds for men, women and children

Intellectual Disabilities provides group homes, day programming, and home & community habilitation for adults with intellectual disabilities.

Runaway and Homeless Youth Program, The RK Agarwal MD & Family Teen Center and Shelter provides 9 emergency shelter beds and drop in services for youth ages 12-17.

Victim Services Program provides Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Advocacy Services; Medical Accompaniment; Supportive Counseling; Criminal and Civil Accompaniment; Transportation; Follow-up Contact, & Civil Protection Order Filings and 24 hour hotline to children/adults who have been victims of crime, especially domestic violence and sexual assault.

Does your organization provide any services or programs for the following?

Social/Human Services: Children's Advocacy Center, Counseling, Family Shelter, Intellectual Disabilities Program, Runaway and Homeless Youth Program and the Victim Services Program.

Housing: Apartments above teen center & soon 6 double occupancy affordable housing units

Planning:

Community Development:

Economic Development:

Business Loans:

Job Training:

Other:

Please respond to the following questions if they apply to your agency or organization.

What clientele does your program(s) serve? i.e. low income, elderly, disabled, etc...

Low income, intellectually disabled, victims of crime, homeless or near homeless, children, adults and seniors.

The homeless population of the Family Shelter includes the following:

* Veterans

- * Persons with mental illness
- * Persons suffering from addiction disorders
- * Recently unemployed/ displaced workers
- * Widows/ divorcees and/or those grieving the loss of a significant other
- * Former inmates who were incarcerated in local county facilities (non-felons)
- * Victims of domestic violence
- * Persons over the age of 60

Since August of 2015, the Family Shelter has provided services to over 713 adults. Within those demographics, 71 were Veterans, 303 suffered mental health diagnosis, 112 adults had drug and alcohol issues, 120 were victims of Domestic Violence and 13 adults served were over the age of 60.

The Intellectual Disabilities Program serves adults with intellectual disabilities.

Program	Total Served	Over 60
Residential	28	9
H&CH/Residential	1	1
Day Program	8	0
Lifesharing	1	0
H&CH	12	

$$\begin{array}{r} 28 \\ + 1 \\ + 8 \\ + 1 \\ \hline 38 \end{array}$$
 57 total

The Children’s Advocacy Center provides forensic interviews to children who have been sexually abused, physically abused, or have been a witness to violence. Services are provided to non-offending care givers. Since opening in September of 2018, the center has provided 289 forensic interviews to Blair County victims.

The Victim Services Program serves children/adults who have been victims of crime, especially domestic violence and sexual assault. The Program operates the Civil Protection Order office, the Civil Legal Representation office, provides mobile advocacy and operates a 24 hour hotline. The Program serves approximately 328 victims with open case loads.

Adults

DV Vics: 1044
 SA Vics: 362
 Total: 1406

Kids

DV = 120
 SA ages 0-12 =69
 SA Ages 13-17= 65 SA total kids134

Sig. Others

DV = 158
 SA= 153
 Total: 311

Services provided include: Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Advocacy Services; Medical Accompaniment; Supportive Counseling; Criminal and Civil Accompaniment; Transportation; Follow-up Contact, & Civil Protection Order Filings.

The Teen Center & Shelter provides youth ages 12-17 with residential and drop in services. The center sees approximately 130 teens per week, has provided residential services to 107 youth since opening in January 2017, and 2,838 non duplicated drop in services.

What are the unmet community & economic development needs in the City?

Lack of affordable, decent housing.

Lack of emergency shelter beds- The Family Shelter turned away 788 individuals last year due to lack of capacity.

Lack of taxi services.

Lack of additional transportation that isn't available by the bus company, or after hours of bus transport.

What are the unmet housing needs in the City?

Lack of affordable housing, especially 1-2 bedroom rentals.

Not enough section 8 vouchers.

What are the unmet social service needs in the City? *Life Skills Classes*
transportation program

What, if any, are the Fair Housing issues in the City?

Landlords denying people because they "know the family name".

Comments/suggestions (if any):

CITY OF ALTOONA – CDBG AND HOME PROGRAMS AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS NEEDS SURVEY

Name of Agency/Organization: *THE NEHEMIAH PROJECT INC*
Address: *1809 11th St ALTOONA PA 16601*
Contact: *CRYSTAL BULLOS* Title: *ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER*
Phone: *8142012096* Fax: E-Mail: *CRYSTAL@TNPPA.ORG*
Brief description of programs your agency provides:

Inter city redevelopment project

Does your organization provide any services or programs for the following?

Social/Human Services: *yes*
Housing: *NO*
Planning: *NO*
Community Development: *YES*
Economic Development: *~~YES~~ NO*
Business Loans: *NO*
Job Training: *NO*
Other: *Children & youth programs*

Please respond to the following questions if they apply to your agency or organization.

What, if any, are the Fair Housing issues in the City?

Comments/Suggestions (if any):

CITY OF ALTOONA – CDBG AND HOME PROGRAMS AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS NEEDS SURVEY

Name of Agency/Organization: Catholic Charities, Inc.

Address: 1300 Twelfth Avenue; P.O. Box 1349; Altoona, PA 16603-1349

Contact: Jean Johnstone

Title: Executive Director

Phone: (814) 944-9388

Fax: (814) 941-2677

E-Mail: jjohnstone@dioceseaj.org

Brief description of programs your agency provides:

Catholic Charities Altoona Office provides emergency financial assistance to individuals and families living in Blair, Bedford & Huntingdon Counties. Assistance is given for basic human needs: water/sewage, electricity, gas, fuel assistance for winter heating, emergency medications, emergency shelter, emergency transportation, emergency food, etc. We also provide individual, couples and family counseling. Anyone is able to walk-in and ask for assistance, there are no eligibility guidelines except to prove financial need and an emergency.

Does your organization provide any services or programs for the following?

Social/Human Services: YES
Housing: NO
Planning: NO
Community Development: NO
Economic Development: NO
Business Loans: NO
Job Training: NO
Other: NO

Please respond to the following questions if they apply to your agency or organization.

What clientele does your program(s) serve? i.e. low income, elderly, disabled, etc.

Catholic Charities mainly serves individuals and families with household gross incomes of below 150% of the FPL. All ages and abilities are eligible. We will serve people over 200% of the FPL if there is a special need or circumstance.

What are the unmet community and economic development needs in the City?

There continues to be a high poverty level within the city limits. Focus needs to be put on creating life-sustaining wage jobs. Like all cities, the low income people use public transportation (or walk) and have trouble doing things like grocery shopping. They use local Dollar General and convenience (like Sheetz and FeFis) stores to purchase food. This leads to unhealthy living and they pay higher prices for food items.

There should be a continued focus on the improving/growing the downtown area and revitalizing the low-income areas of town.

What are the unmet housing needs in the City?

A major shortage of affordable, safe, and decent housing for low-income individuals and families. Persons unable to get into public housing, face a difficult challenge on the open housing market. They often pay in excess of 30% and even 50% of their net income for housing which places them at a high risk for homelessness.

There is also a shortage of housing for people with violent criminal and sexual crimes backgrounds. There is virtually no place for them to live, forcing them into the street.

Finally, there are a lot of "slum lords" and absentee landlords in the city. The reports of the living conditions in these apartments and/or houses is alarming.

What are the unmet social service needs in the City?

The city continues have issues with homelessness and lack of resources to respond to their unique needs. What is to be a "coordinated entry system" for homeless and at-risk of homelessness at Blair County Community Action Agency is not working. There are delays in seeing clients and there is not enough money or affordable housing to meet their needs. With a homeless shelter average length of stay of 77 days, it means those truly in need have to resort to living in their cars, doubling up with others and potentially violating lease agreements, or simply living on the street.

What, if any, are the Fair Housing issues in the City?

We regularly refer any potential fair housing issues to Mid-Penn Legal Services and/or give them the number for the western PA fair housing law center. Most of the cases we see are potential illegal eviction processes.

Comments/Suggestions (if any):

CITY OF ALTOONA – CDBG AND HOME PROGRAMS AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS NEEDS SURVEY

Name of Agency/Organization: Blair Senior Services, Inc.

Address: 1320 12th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601

Contact: Dennis Wisor

Title: Transportation Program Manager

Phone: 814-695-3500

Fax: 814-696-6314

E-Mail: Dwisor@blairsenior.org

Brief description of programs your agency provides:

Blair Senior Services, Inc. coordinates and provides support and assistance through home and community based programs and services to older individuals, their families and others in need. In addition to coordinating in-home services, our Agency provides congregate meals, activities, and fitness classes at our Senior Centers, home delivered meals, transportation, protective services, pre-admission assessment, placement services, Ombudsman services, Choices Program, APPRISE health insurance counseling, and various volunteer opportunities

Does your organization provide any services or programs for the following?

Social/Human Services:	Yes
Housing:	No
Planning:	No
Community Development:	No
Economic Development:	No
Business Loans:	No
Job Training:	No
Other:	No

Please respond to the following questions if they apply to your agency or organization.

What clientele does your program(s) serve? i.e. low income, elderly, disabled, etc.

Older adults, low income, and disabled depending on program rules and regulations

What are the unmet community and economic development needs in the City?

What are the unmet housing needs in the City?

What are the unmet social service needs in the City?

Housing - affordable, available
Medication Management
Mental Health
Pest Eradication
Better coordinated homeless assistance

C. Appendix C – Citizen Participation

Attached is the following supporting documentation:

- First Public Hearing Notice
- First Public Hearing Sign-In Sheets
- First Public Hearing Agenda
- First Public Hearing Minutes
- Second Public Hearing Notice
- Second Public Hearing Sign-In Sheets
- Second Public Hearing Agenda
- Second Public Hearing Minutes



FIRST PUBLIC HEARING

Heat hampers travel in Europe

The Associated Press

LONDON — The temperature's dropping but Europe's troubles aren't over: A record-busting heat wave gave way Friday to thunderstorms and hailstorms, bringing the Tour de France to a dramatic halt and causing trouble at British airports and beyond on one of the most hectic travel days of the year.

In addition, travelers at London's Heathrow and Gatwick airports faced delays because air traffic controllers grounded flights over a technical problem.

It marked the second day of travel disruptions in European capitals after one of the hottest days in memory, when many places in Western Europe saw temperatures soar above 104 degrees Fahrenheit. Compounding that, the weekend is a big travel moment across Europe as families head off for their summer holidays now that schools have broken up for the academic year.

After several hours of flight restrictions over U.K. airspace Friday, the national air traffic controller



The Associated Press

A woman cools off in a public fountain in front of the Sforza Castle in Milan, Italy, on Friday.

NATS said it had fixed the technical issue and would be able to safely increase traffic flow.

"Weather is continuing to cause significant unrelated disruption across the country and more widely across Europe, which has further complicated today's operation," NATS said in a statement.

In France, suffocating heat turned into slippery storms Friday — including a hailstorm on the Tour de France route in the Alps that was so

sudden and violent that organizers ordered a stop to the world's premier cycling event.

As riders careened down hairpin turns after mounting a 9,000-foot peak, a storm lashed the valley below. A snowplow worked desperately to clear the route of slush, but organizers deemed it too dangerous to continue.

Weather almost never stops the three-week race, and the decision came on a day of high-drama in which race leader Julian Alaphilippe lost

his top spot and accompanying yellow jersey just ahead of Sunday's finale.

British rail commuters were also facing delays after the heat wave prompted Network Rail to impose speed restrictions in case the tracks buckled. Engineers from the company have been working to get the network back to normal after the track temperatures soared to up to 68 degrees F more than the air temperature.

"With the railway being made of metal and moving parts, the sustained high temperatures took their toll in places," said Phil James of Network Rail. "Everything was done to keep trains moving where possible, and last night hundreds of staff were out fixing the damage and repairing the railway ready for today."

Passengers using Eurostar services to and from Paris were also facing "severe disruption" due to overhead power line problems in the French capital, which on Thursday recorded its hottest day ever with the temperature rising to 108.7 F.

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IRAN: Won't accept program limits

(Continued from Page A8)

Iran has openly exceeded the uranium enrichment levels set in the accord to try to pressure Europe into offsetting the economic pain of U.S. sanctions.

Trump insists that Iran must agree to limits on its ballistic missile program, but Iran thus far has refused.

Nations still party to the nuclear deal plan to meet in Vienna on Sunday to see to what extent the agreement can be saved.

The European Union said the meeting of officials from China, Russia, Britain, France and Germany will be chaired by the EU.

Behnam Ben Taleblu, an expert on Iranian defense at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, said the

"As Iran continues to escalate in response to the maximum-pressure campaign, Washington should expect more missile launches."

Behnam Ben Taleblu,
Foundation for Defense of Democracies

Shahab-3 is a liquid-fueled, medium-range ballistic missile capable of carrying a nuclear weapon.

"The Shahab-3 is the backbone of Iran's class of medium-range ballistic missiles," he said, adding that Iranian news outlets have previously called it one of the country's "Israel-hitting" missiles.

It is derived from a North Korean missile called the Nodong-A and can fly up to

1,242 miles, depending on the variant.

"Iran's continued flight-testing has both political and military applications, functioning as a show of resolve against foreign adversaries and to improve the overall reliability of its missile force, which is the largest in the Middle East," he said. "As Iran continues to escalate in response to the maximum-pressure campaign, Washington should expect more missile launches."

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Beacon of Light
on Lung Cancer

BENEFIT WALK

To raise money to help local Lung Cancer patients with their medical expenses, to educate our community adults, children, and businesses on the dangers of lung cancer and resources available to help them and their loved ones.

Official Kick-off
for the 15th Annual

HEALTH RAMA

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Sponsored by:

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SPECIALTY HOSPITAL
A Critical Health Partnership Hospital

Friday, August 16, 2019

Registration 7:30 AM - 8:00 AM, Walk 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

LOGAN VALLEY MALL Applebee's
Entrance

OUR EFFORTS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR HELP

Registration forms available at:

- Altoona Mirror
301 Cayuga Ave., Altoona, PA
- Lung Disease Center of Central PA
800 Chestnut Ave., Altoona, PA
- Select Specialty Hospital
"Admissions"
320 Main Street, Johnstown, PA
- Lung Disease Foundation
of Central PA's Website
www.lungdiseasefoundation.org
- Request a form by email:
sherris@altoonalungspecialists.com



For more information call Sherri Stayer at 814-946-2845.
www.thelungspecialists.com

Proceeds benefit the Lung Disease Foundation of Central PA, 501C3 Nonprofit

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE CITY OF ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA FY 2020 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

Notice is hereby given that the City of Altoona, Blair County, PA will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at 5:00 PM, prevailing time, in the City of Altoona Training Facilities and Council Chambers, 1320 Washington Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601. The City of Altoona Training Facilities and Council Chambers are accessible to persons with physical disabilities. If special arrangements need to be made to accommodate citizens in order for them to participate in the public hearing, please call Mr. Lee C. Slusser, Director, Department of Planning & Community Development, City of Altoona, at (814) 949-2470 to make those arrangements, or for the hearing impaired call the TTY relay system at 7-1-1.

The purpose of this public hearing is to gather information for the City's Five Year Consolidated Plan for FY 2020-2024, the Annual Action Plan for FY 2020, and the City's Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (A.I.), which the City must prepare and submit to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnership Programs. Additionally, the hearing will be used to solicit the views and comments of individuals and organizations concerning any impediments to fair housing choice in the City and what steps should be undertaken to affirmatively further fair housing.

The City of Altoona anticipates based on last fiscal year's allocation that it may receive an estimated CDBG entitlement grant in the amount of approximately \$1,590,000 for FY 2020; and \$275,000 in HOME funds for FY 2020. These funding levels are contingent upon the final approval of the Federal Budget for FY 2020. In order to receive those funds, the City of Altoona must prepare a Five Year Consolidated Plan and a One Year Annual Action Plan for the use of the CDBG and HOME funds. At least 70% of the CDBG funds must benefit low- and moderate-income persons living in the City of Altoona. In preparing its CDBG and HOME application the City intends to afford citizens, local agencies, and interested parties the opportunity to become involved in the planning process.

The following types of activities may be eligible for funding under the CDBG program:

Acquisition of property; disposition costs; improvements to public facilities, including the removal of architectural barriers; demolition and environmental clean-up; public services that are new or a quantifiable increase in the level of service; interim assistance; relocation payments for persons displaced as a result of a CDBG activity; rehabilitation of houses; code enforcement; special economic development activities; special activities undertaken by a community based development organization; home ownership assistance for purchase; planning; environmental reviews; program administration; audit; and other miscellaneous activities.

If the City would undertake an activity that would result in the displacement of families or individuals, then the City would utilize its policy for minimizing such displacement. Furthermore, the City is responsible for replacing all low- and moderate-income housing units that may be demolished or converted as a result of CDBG funds.

The Analysis of Impediments will focus on the status and interaction of six (6) fundamental conditions within the community:

- The sale or rental of dwellings (public or private);
- The provision of housing brokerage services;
- The provision of financial assistance for dwellings;
- Public policies and actions affecting the approval of sites and other building requirements used in the approval process for the construction of publicly assisted housing;
- The administrative policies concerning community development and housing activities, which affect opportunities of minority households to select housing inside or outside areas of minority concentration; and
- Where there is a determination of unlawful segregation or other housing discrimination by a court or a finding of noncompliance by HUD regarding assisted housing in a recipient's jurisdiction, an analysis of the actions which could be taken by the recipient to remedy the discriminatory condition, including actions involving the expenditure of funds made available under 24 CFR Part 570.

All interested citizens are encouraged to attend this public hearing and they will be given the opportunity to present oral or written testimony concerning the needs of the City of Altoona and the use of CDBG and HOME funds to address those needs over the next five (5) years. Written comments may be addressed to Mr. Lee C. Slusser, Director, Department of Planning and Community Development, City of Altoona, 1301 12th Street, Suite 400, Altoona, PA 16601.

Matt Pacifico, Mayor
City of Altoona

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
CITY OF ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA FY 2020
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND
HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

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The following types of activities may be eligible for funding under the CDBG program: Acquisition of property; disposition costs; improvements to public facilities, including the removal of architectural barriers; demolition and environmental clean-up; public services that are new or a quantifiable increase in the level of service; interim assistance; relocation payments for persons displaced as a result of a CDBG activity; rehabilitation of houses; code enforcement; special economic development activities; special activities undertaken by a community based development organization; home ownership assistance for purchase; planning; environmental reviews; program administration; audit; and other miscellaneous activities.

If the City would undertake an activity that would result in the displacement of families or individuals, then the City would utilize its policy for minimizing such displacement. Furthermore, the City is responsible for replacing all low- and moderate-income housing units that may be demolished or converted as a result of CDBG funds.

The Analysis of Impediments will focus on the status and interaction of six (6) fundamental conditions within the community:

- The sale or rental of dwellings (public or private);
- The provision of housing brokerage services;
- The provision of financial assistance for dwellings;
- Public policies and actions affecting the approval of sites and other building requirements used in the approval process for the construction of publicly assisted housing;
- The administrative policies concerning community development and housing activities, which affect opportunities of minority households to select housing inside or outside areas of minority concentration; and
- Where there is a determination of unlawful segregation or other housing discrimination by a court or a finding of noncompliance by HUD regarding assisted housing in a recipient's jurisdiction, an analysis of the actions which could be taken by the recipient to remedy the discriminatory condition, including actions involving the expenditure of funds made available under 24 CFR Part 570.

All interested citizens are encouraged to attend this public hearing and they will be given the opportunity to present oral or written testimony concerning the needs of the City of Altoona and the use of CDBG and HOME funds to address those needs over the next five (5) years. Written comments may be addressed to Mr. Lee C. Slusser, Director, Department of Planning and Community Development, City of Altoona, 1301 12th Street, Suite 400, Altoona, PA 16601.

Matt Pacifico, Mayor
City of Altoona



ELIGIBLE CDBG ACTIVITIES

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS	
Eligible Public Facility and Improvement Projects	CDBG Conditions
Sewer and Water Facilities	<p>These projects may be undertaken on an interim basis in areas exhibiting objectively determinable signs of physical deterioration where it was determined that immediate action is necessary to arrest the deterioration and that permanent improvements will be carried out as practicable to repair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Streets; ➤ Sidewalks; ➤ Park; ➤ Playgrounds, ➤ Publicly owned utilities; and ➤ The execution of special garbage, trash, and debris removal, including neighborhood cleanup campaigns, but not the regular curbside collection of garbage or trash in an area.
Streets and Sidewalks	
Curb and Gutters	
Parks and Playgrounds	
Senior Citizens' Center	
Parking Lots or Garages	
Utility Lines	
Recreation Center	
Police or Fire Station in which services to the public are actually provided (as opposed to administrative offices).	<p>Fire protection equipment including fire trucks, fire fighters' protective clothing, "jaws of life," and other life-saving equipment are eligible for CDBG funding under Public Facilities and Improvements as this equipment is integral to the fire protection facility.</p>
Aesthetic amenities on public land such as landscaping (trees, sculptures, pools of water and fountains and other works of art).	<p>These include all improvements and facilities that are either publicly owned or that are traditionally provided by government, or owned by a non-profit, and operated so as to be open to the general public.</p>
Jails or Prisons	<p>Jails are considered to benefit the entire community served by the facility and thus would qualify under the low-moderate income (LMI) benefit national objective only if the percentage of LMI persons in the entire jurisdiction is sufficiently high to meet the "area benefit" test.</p>
Library	<p>Public facilities that serve the entire jurisdiction of the grantee, a main library for example, may qualify under the LMI benefit national objective only if the percentage of LMI persons in the entire jurisdiction is sufficiently high to meet the "area benefit" test.</p>
Special Assessments	<p>Special Assessments are used to recover the capital costs of a public improvement through a fee levied or a lien filed against a parcel of real estate either as, 1) a direct result of a benefit derived from the installation of a public improvement or 2) a one-time charge made as a condition of access to an improvement. Sewer tap-in fees are an example of a special assessment.</p>
Privately Owned Utilities-570.201 (I)	<p>CDBG funds may be used to acquire, construct, reconstruct, rehabilitate, or install the distribution lines and facilities for privately owned utilities.</p> <p>A privately-owned utility refers to service that is publicly regulated and is provided through the use of physical distribution lines to private properties.</p> <p>Examples of eligible utilities are electricity, telephone, water, sewer, natural gas and cable television.</p>
Other	<p>The City is willing to consider other public facility projects not listed above. It is highly recommended that applicants contact the City to discuss new projects ideas prior to submitting a grant application.</p>

REAL PROPERTY AND HOUSING PROJECTS

Eligible Real Property & Housing Projects	CDBG Conditions
Acquisitions of land or buildings -570.201 (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDBG funds may be used for acquisition of real property, either in whole or in part, by purchase, long-term lease, donation, or otherwise for any public purpose. • Examples include land, air rights, easement, water rights, rights-of-way and buildings. • Examples of ineligible activities include costs of moveable equipment and acquisition of newly-constructed housing or an interest in construction of new housing.
Disposition – 570.201 (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDBG funds may be used to dispose of property acquired with CDBG funds through sale, lease, donation or other means. • Property must have a reuse plan that meets a National Objective. • The property may be disposed at less than fair market value. • Costs may include preparation of legal documents, surveys, marketing, financial services, transfer of taxes or ownership.
Clearance Activities- 570.201 (d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demolish buildings and improvements. • Remove rubble and debris after demolition. • Remove environmental contaminants or treat them to make them harmless. • Move structures to other sites.
Code Enforcement – 570.202 (c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code enforcement activities are eligible provided that the enforcement takes place in a deteriorated or deteriorating area and the enforcement effort is accompanied by public or private improvements or service and can be expected to arrest the decline of the area. • Eligible costs include costs incurred for inspections for code violations (including salaries and overhead) and the enforcement of code requirements (including legal proceedings). • Both residential and commercial structures may be included in code enforcement activities.
Historic preservation - 570.202 (d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDBG funds may be used for the rehabilitation, preservation or restoration of historic properties, whether publicly or privately owned. • Historic properties are those sites or structures that are either listed in or eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, listed in the Pennsylvania or local inventory of historic places or designated as a Pennsylvania or local landmark or historic district by appropriate law or ordinance. • Examples of eligible activities include historic preservation plans, rehabilitation of the property, relocating residents while preservation work is performed. • Historic preservation is not authorized for buildings used for the general conduct of government.
Renovation of closed buildings – 570.202 (e)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDBG funds may be used to renovate closed buildings, such as closed school buildings, for use as an eligible public facility or to rehabilitate or convert closed buildings for residential and commercial uses. • Examples of ineligible activities include creation of secondary housing units attached to a primary unit and costs of equipment, furnishings or other personal property that are not integral structural fixtures, such as window air conditioners or clothes washers.
Lead – based paint (LBP) hazard, evaluation and reduction, and clearance – 570.202 (f)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost associated with the evaluation and reduction of LBP. • Examples of eligible activities include inspecting buildings for LBP hazards, testing surfaces abatement of lead hazards and payment of temporary relocation costs for residents on which their home is receiving abatement services.
Handicap Accessibility - 570.201	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of materials and architectural barriers that restrict the accessibility or mobility of elderly or handicapped persons. • Activities must take place on existing structures.

Energy Efficiency – 570.201	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of eligible activities include weatherization of home or apartment building, installation of solar or wind equipment, finance energy – efficient rehab, provision of free insulation or home energy audits, and preparation of comprehensive community energy use strategies.
Rehabilitation of buildings and improvements eligible for rehabilitation assistance – 570.202 (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDBG may be used to finance the rehabilitation of privately –owned homes, publicly –owned residential housing, nonresidential buildings owned by nonprofits, and manufactured housing when it is part of the permanent housing supply.

PUBLIC SERVICES, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND “OTHER” ACTIVITIES	
Activities	CDBG Conditions
Relocation – 570.201 (i)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocation of payments and other assistance for permanently and temporarily relocated individuals, families, businesses, non-profit organizations and farm operations.
Loss of Rental Income- 570.201 (j)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation to property owners for the loss in rental income incurred while temporarily holding housing units to be used for the relocation of individuals and families displaced by CDBG-assisted activities.
Public Services – 570.201 (e)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDBG funds may be used for a wide range of public service activities including, but not limited to, job training, crime prevention, public safety, child care, health services, substance abuse services, fair housing counseling, education programs, energy conservation, senior citizen services, homeless person services, subsistence payment service and recreational services • In order for a first-time public service application to be considered the applicant must prove that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the service is a new initiative for the agency (new service); OR 2) the service existed but was not provided by or on behalf of a government agency with funding from that government agency; OR 3) there was a quantifiable increase in the level of an existing service within the 2013 calendar year.
Micro – Enterprise Assistance – 570.201 (o)	<p>The provisions of assistance to facilitate economic development by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing credit, including, but not limited to, grants, loans, loan guarantees, and other forms of financial support, for the establishment, stabilization, and expansion of micro-enterprises; • Providing technical assistance, advice, and business support services to owners of micro-enterprises and persons developing micro-enterprises; and • Providing general support to owners of microenterprises and persons developing microenterprises including child care, transportation, counseling and peer support groups. • A microenterprise is defined as a commercial enterprise that has five or fewer employees, one or more of whom owns the microenterprise business.

The table below provides eligible Planning & Administration expenses.

Eligible Planning & Administration Projects 570.205 & 570.206
➤ Preparation of general plans such as the Consolidated Plan
➤ Functional plans such as housing plans
➤ Neighborhood plans and general historic preservation plans
➤ Policy planning, management, and capacity building activities
➤ Monitoring



INELIGIBLE CDBG FUNDED ACTIVITIES

§570.207 Ineligible Activities:

(a)	General Rule – Any activity that is not authorized as an “eligible activity.”
(b)	Government Buildings – Funds cannot be used for improvements to a public building used for the general conduct of government.
(c)	General Government Expenses – Funds cannot be used for expenses that are considered the regular responsibilities of the local government.
(d)	Political Activities – Funds cannot be used to finance the use of facilities or equipment for political purposes or to engage in other partisan political activities.
(e)	Purchase of Equipment – The purchase of equipment is generally ineligible, which includes construction equipment, motor vehicles, furnishings, or personal property. The only exception is fire equipment assigned to a low- and moderate-income area.
(f)	Operating and Maintenance Expenses – The general rule is that any expense associated with repairing, operating, or maintaining public facilities, improvements, and services is ineligible.
(g)	New Housing Construction – Funds cannot be used for the construction of new permanent residential structures or for any program to subsidize or consist such new construction except by a CBDO. However, the cost of site assemblage, clearance, and site improvements are eligible activities.
(h)	Income Payments – Funds cannot be used for subsistence – type grant payments for food, clothing, housing, or utilities.



MEETING A NATIONAL OBJECTIVE

National Objective Subcategory	Conditions for Eligibility	Example
Low-Moderate Income (LMI) Area Benefit	<p>A facility or improvement will be used for a purpose that benefits all residents in a defined area primarily residential in which at least 51% are LMI households.</p> <p>Paying all or part of a special assessment on behalf of LMI Households qualifies under this objective.</p>	<p>The Installation of paved streets, sidewalks, curbs and gutters in a predominantly LMI household neighborhood.</p> <p>CDBG funds pay the assessment made to Low-Mod Income household homeowners when a new water/sewer system is installed in their neighborhood.</p>
Low-Moderate Income Limited Clientele	<p>The majority of public service activities qualify under this national objective.</p> <p>Services provided to a specific group of people who are comprised of at least 51% LMI households.</p>	<p>Home ownership counseling provided to a group of LMI individuals.</p> <p>Renovation or expansion of a food pantry.</p>
Low-Moderate Income Housing	<p>The facility or improvement exclusively benefits housing to be occupied by LMI households.</p>	<p>A parking lot and landscaping are improved on the site of a rental property with 51% LMI households paying affordable rents.</p>
Low-Moderate Income Jobs	<p>Public improvement is for an economic development project that creates or retains permanent jobs.</p> <p>In order for a CDBG funded economic development activity to qualify as an activity that benefits low and moderate income persons, at least 51% of the jobs created or retained (full time equivalent basis) will be held by or made available to low and moderate income persons.</p>	<p>A new water tower will enable factory expansion and owners to commit to hiring at least 51% of new permanent jobs to LMI persons.</p>
Area Blight	<p>Public improvements and facilities are in a designated blighted area and activity addresses conditions that contributed to blight.</p>	<p>An outdated fire hall is rehabilitated and equipment is updated to prevent further loss of life and property due to fires.</p>
Spot Blight	<p>Public improvements or facility is outside designated blighted area and activity is limited to eliminate specific conditions of blight or decay.</p>	<p>Historic library building located outside a designated area is rehabilitated.</p>
Urgent Need	<p>Acquisition, construction, or reconstruction of a public facility or improvement that is designated to alleviate recent serious and imminent threat to public health and safety and no other funds are available.</p>	<p>A storm sewer system is reconstructed after a severe flood damaged it. All other funding sources are unavailable or exhausted.</p>



HOME Investment Partnership Program

☐ Eligible HOME Activities and Costs

- **Hard Costs**
 - New construction of affordable housing
 - Rehabilitation of affordable housing
 - Reconstruction of affordable housing
 - Conversion to affordable housing
 - Site Improvements related to the development of affordable housing
- **Refinancing of existing debt secured by a housing project that is being rehabilitated w/ HOME Funds**
 - Refinancing of debt on a single-family (one to four family) owner occupied housing that is being rehabilitated with HOME funds and the refinancing will reduce the overall monthly housing cost to make it affordable
- **Acquisition Costs**
 - Improved or unimproved
 - Purchase of property by home buyers
- **Soft Costs necessary for the financing, development, rehabilitation or acquisition of housing using HOME Funds**
 - Architectural, engineering, and related professional services
 - Costs to process and settle the financing for a project such as lender origination fees, appraisal fees, etc.
 - Project audit costs and certification of costs by a CPA
 - Costs to provide information services such as affirmative marketing and fair housing information
 - Costs of funding an initial operation deficit reserve during the period of initial project rent-up but not to exceed 18 months
 - Staff and overhead costs directly related to carrying out the project such as work specifications, loan processing inspections, housing consultation, etc.
 - Cost for the payment of impact fees that the local jurisdiction charges for all housing projects
 - Cost of environmental review and release of funds

- **CHDO Costs**
 - Cost of project-specific technical assistance and site control loans
 - Project feasibility costs, consulting fees, legal fees, architectural and engineering fees, property options, site control, and title clearance
 - Project specific seed money loans for preconstruction costs that are customary and reasonable such as costs of obtaining firm financing, construction loan commitments, architectural plans and specifications, zoning approvals, legal fees, etc.
- **Relocation costs for displaced households**
 - Relocation payments and other relocation assistance for persons displaced by the housing project
 - Replacement housing payments, moving expenses and payment for reasonable out-of-pocket costs incurred in the temporary relocation of persons
 - Other relocation assistance such as staff and overhead costs directly related to providing advisory and other relocation services to displaced persons
- **Administrative and planning costs**
 - General management, oversight and coordination
 - Staff and overhead costs
 - Public information costs in the planning and implementation of projects
- **Other Costs**
 - Fair housing activities to affirmatively further fair housing
 - Indirect costs as part of a cost allocation plan
 - Preparation of the consolidated plan
 - Compliance and reporting in reference to Federal requirements
 - Tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA)
 - Rental assistance and security deposit payments
 - Utility deposit assistance only if rental or security deposit payments are made
 - Cost of inspecting the housing and determining income eligibility of the household
 - Troubled HOME-assisted rental housing projects
 - Applies to only an existing HOME assisted rental project
 - Project is no longer financially viable during the HOME 20 year affordability period for rental projects

- Operating costs significantly exceed the operating revenue
- HUD must approve this cost to preserve an affordable rental project
- Additional HOME Funds and original HOME Funds may not exceed the maximum amount of per-unit subsidy [Section 221 (d)(3)(ii)]

❑ Ineligible HOME Activities

• HOME funds may not be used to:

- Provide project reserve accounts, except for new construction or rehabilitation of an initial operating deficit reserve during the period of project read-up (not to exceed 18 months)
- Provide tenant-based rental assistance for the special purpose of the existing Section 8 Program
- Provide non-Federal matching contribution required under another Federal Programs
- Provide assistance for uses authorized by Public Housing Capital and Operating Funds
- Prepayment of Low Income Housing Mortgages
- Provide assistance to a homebuyer to acquire housing previously assisted with HOME funds during the period of affordability
- Provide funds for the acquisition of property owned by the participating jurisdiction (P.J.) except for property acquired by the P.J. with HOME funds, or property acquired in anticipation of carrying out a HOME project
- Pay for delinquent taxes, fees or charges on properties to be assisted with HOME funds
- Pay for any cost that is not listed as eligible under the HOME Regulations



**PUBLIC HEARING ON NEEDS REGARDING CDBG FUNDS FOR
FY 2020-2024 FIVE-YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN,
FY 2020 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN,
ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE
HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

Wednesday August 7th, 2019 at 5:00pm
City Hall Conference Room 1301
12th Street, Fourth Floor, City Hall
Altoona, PA 16601

Opening Remarks – Mr. Lee C. Slusser

Department of Planning and Community Development

Overview – UDV Staff

- What is a Five-Year Consolidated Plan, an Annual Action Plan, and an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice?

Eligible CDBG Activities – UDV Staff

CDBG funds may be used for activities which include, but are not limited to:

- acquisition of real property;
- relocation and demolition;
- rehabilitation of residential and non-residential structures;
- construction of public facilities and improvements, such as water and sewer facilities, streets, neighborhood centers, and the conversion of school buildings for eligible purposes;
- public services, within certain limits;
- activities relating to energy conservation and renewable energy resources; and
- provision of assistance to profit-motivated businesses to carry out economic development and job creation/retention activities.

Ineligible CDBG Activities – UDV Staff

Generally, the following types of activities are ineligible:

- acquisition, construction, or reconstruction of buildings for the general conduct of government;
- political activities;

- certain income payments; and
- construction of new housing by units of general local government.

Eligible HOME Activities – UDV Staff

HOME funds may be used for activities which include, but are not limited to:

- new construction of affordable housing, rehabilitation of affordable housing, reconstruction of affordable housing, conversion to affordable housing;
- site improvements related to the development of affordable housing;
- refinancing of debt on a single-family (one to four family) owner occupied housing that is being rehabilitated with HOME funds and the refinancing will reduce the overall monthly housing cost to make it affordable;
- acquisition costs (improved or unimproved); purchase of property by home buyers;
- soft costs such as architectural, engineering, and related professional services;
- costs to provide information services such as affirmative marketing and fair housing information;
- CHDO costs such as cost of project-specific technical assistance and site control loans;
- relocation costs for displaced households;
- administrative and planning costs.

Estimated FY 2020 Allocations – UDV Staff

The City of Altoona anticipates that it will receive an allocation of CDBG funds in the approximate amount of \$1,590,000 and allocation of HOME funds in the approximate amount of \$275,000. This amount is preliminary and subject to change based on the approval of the Federal Budget for FY 2020.

Entitlement Funds	Estimated Amount
FY 2020 CDBG Funds	\$1,590,000*
FY 2020 HOME Funds	\$275,000*
Total:	\$1,865,000

*Note: *Amount subject to change based on HUD’s allocation of funds.*

Review of Past Performance – City Staff

Public Comments – UDV Staff

Adjournment – Mr. Lee C. Slusser

Department of Planning and Community Development



**CDBG & HOME NEEDS PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
FY 2020 – 2024 CONSOLIDATED PLAN,
ANNUAL ACTION PLAN,
& ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE**

August 7, 2019 at 5:00 P.M.

**City of Altoona
Training Facilities and Council Chambers
1320 Washington Avenue
Altoona, PA 16601.**

In attendance:

<i>Bill Kibler</i>	<i>Altoona Mirror</i>
<i>Lee Slusser</i>	<i>City of Altoona</i>
<i>Carl Fischer</i>	<i>City of Altoona</i>
<i>Mary Johnson</i>	<i>City of Altoona</i>
<i>Walter Haglund</i>	<i>Urban Design Ventures</i>
<i>David Jordan</i>	<i>Urban Design Ventures</i>

Summary of Hearing:

Mr. Haglund, Urban Design Ventures, opened the Public Hearing at 5:05 PM.

Public Comments:

There were no attendees at the Public Hearing other than the local newspaper and City staff. Mr. Haglund briefly explained the CDBG & HOME Programs and the purpose of the hearing. Mr. Haglund reviewed the City's past performance and asked for needs in the City, hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM.



SECOND PUBLIC HEARING

**NOTICE OF DISPLAY OF PLANS AND PUBLIC HEARING
FOR FY 2020-2024 FIVE YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN,
FY 2020 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN, AND ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS
TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE FOR THE CITY OF ALTOONA, PA**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Altoona, Blair County, PA has prepared a Five Year Consolidated Plan for FY 2020-2024, an Annual Action Plan for FY 2020, and an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice. In accordance with the regulations and requirements of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), these plans will be on public display for a period of 30 days, beginning Monday, April 13, 2020 on <http://www.altoonapa.gov>.

Written or oral comments will be accepted until May 12, 2020. Comments may be directed to Mr. Lee C. Slusser, AICP, Director of Planning and Community Development, 1301 12th Street, Suite 400, Altoona, PA 16601. Phone# (814) 949-2470, or 711 for the hearing impaired.

Since a Declaration of an Emergency has been ordered by the President of the United States and the Governor of Pennsylvania, the City of Altoona will follow the following process concerning public hearings and public display of these draft plans.

- The City is unable to hold open public hearings in person, so the City instead will be holding a virtual public hearing through a conference call, which the public will be able to provide oral comments during the virtual public hearing.
- The City is not able to publicly place the plans on public display at the locations referenced in the Citizen Participation Plan, so the City is placing the draft plans on the City's website at (<http://www.altoonapa.gov>). Upon request, the City can email an electronic copy of the draft plans to any person who will request such a copy of the plans via email or by calling (814) 949-2470, or 711 for the hearing impaired.

The City will hold a virtual public hearing will be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at 4:00PM on these draft Plans. The purpose of the virtual public hearing is to present the FY 2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan for the City's housing and community development needs, the FY 2020 Annual Action Plan for the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in the amount of \$1,643,245, \$124,000 in CDBG program income, and for the use of HOME funds in the amount of \$353,129, and the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice as the City's commitment to affirmatively further fair housing. The virtual public hearing will take place via a conference call held at **4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 6, 2020**. The virtual public hearing call in number is **(814) 949-2468**. If special arrangements need to be made to accommodate residents in order for them to participate in the public hearing, please call Mr. Lee C. Slusser, AICP, Director of Planning and Community Development, at (814) 949-2470 or planning@altoonapa.gov, to make those arrangements. The City intends to submit these documents to HUD on May 15, 2020.

The Proposed Five Year Consolidated Plan and FY 2020 Annual Action Plan were prepared after conducting a public hearing on housing and community development needs, meetings with stakeholders, meetings with housing provider agencies, meetings with the City's staff and officials, and the result of a community wide survey questionnaire.

The following CDBG activities are proposed for funding under the FY 2020 Annual Action Plan:

1. Community Development Administration	\$327,270
2. Fair Housing	\$ 25,000
3. Single Family Homeowner Rehabilitation	\$487,540
4. Catholic Charities Emergency Financial Assistance Program	\$ 10,000
5. Altoona Housing Authority's Fairview Hills Playgrounds Revitalization	\$ 65,500
6. 6th Avenue Playground Installation Phase II	\$101,543
7. 2020 CDBG Street Reconstruction Project	\$200,500
8. Washington Avenue Storm Drainage Installation	\$385,581
9. Blighted Property Program	<u>\$164,311</u>

Total FY 2020 CDBG Funds for Project Activities = \$1,767,245

The following HOME activities are proposed for funding under the FY 2020 Annual Action Plan:

1. HOME Program Administration	\$ 35,312.90
2. HOME Rental Rehabilitation	\$156,816.10
3. IDA-CDC Union Avenue Apartments	<u>\$161,000.00</u>

Total FY 2020 HOME Funds for Project Activities = \$353,129

If the City would undertake an activity that would result in the displacement of families or individuals, then the City would utilize its policy for minimizing such displacement. Furthermore, the City is responsible for replacing all low- and moderate-income housing units that may be demolished or converted as a result of CDBG Funds.

All interested persons, groups, and organizations are encouraged to participate in this virtual public hearing and will be given the opportunity to present comments concerning the proposed plans and use of Federal funds under the FY 2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan, FY 2020 Annual Action Plan, and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice.

Written comments or oral comments may be addressed to Mr. Lee C. Slusser, AICP, Director of Planning and Community Development, Finance Department, 1301 12th Street, Suite 400, Altoona, PA 16601. Phone #: (814) 949-2470 or Email: lslusser@altoonapa.gov. Persons with hearing and/or speech impediments may contact the City via 711.

Matt Pacifico, Mayor of the City of Altoona



**CDBG AND HOME
VIRTUAL SECOND PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
FY 2020 – 2024 CONSOLIDATED PLAN,
ANNUAL ACTION PLAN,
& ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE**

May 6, 2020 at 4:00 P.M.

**City of Altoona
Virtual Public Hearing
Via Teleconference Call**

In attendance:

<i>Lee Slusser</i>	<i>City of Altoona</i>
<i>Linda Rickens</i>	<i>City of Altoona</i>
<i>Mary Johnson</i>	<i>City of Altoona</i>
<i>David Jordan</i>	<i>Urban Design Ventures</i>

Summary of Hearing:

Mr. Slusser, Director/Planning Administrator, Department of Community Development, opened the teleconference at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Slusser reviewed the schedule the City followed in preparing the FY 2020-2024 Five-Year Consolidated Plan, the FY 2020 Annual Action Plan, and the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice.

Mr. Slusser stated the City developed the Five-Year Consolidated Plan strategies for the following: Housing; the Homeless; Other Special Needs; Community Development; Economic Development; and Administration, Planning, and Management.

He went on to state the City will receive the following funds during the FY 2020 program year:

Entitlement Funds	Amount
FY 2020 CDBG Funds	\$ 1,767,245.00
CDBG Program Income	\$ 0.00
FY 2020 HOME Funds	\$ 353,129.00
Totals:	\$ 2,120,374.00

The City proposes to fund the following CDBG projects through the FY 2020 Annual Action Plan:

#	Project	Proposed Budget
1.	Administration	\$ 327,270.00
2.	Fair Housing	\$ 25,000.00
3.	Single Family Homeowner Rehabilitation	\$ 487,540.00
4.	Catholic Charities Emergency Financial Assistance Program	\$ 10,000.00
5.	Altoona Housing Authority's Fairview Hills Playgrounds Revitalization	\$ 65,500.00
6.	6th Avenue Playground Installation Phase II	\$ 101,543.00
7.	2020 CDBG Street Reconstruction Project	\$ 200,500.00
8.	Washington Avenue Storm Drainage Installation	\$ 385,581.00
9.	Blighted Property Program	\$ 164,311.00
Total FY 2020 CDBG Funds:		\$ 1,767,245.00

The City proposes to fund the following HOME projects through the HOME Consortium:

#	Project	Proposed Budget
1.	HOME Administration	\$ 35,312.90
2.	HOME Rental Rehabilitation	\$ 156,816.10
3.	IDA-CDC Union Avenue Apartments	\$ 161,000.00
Total FY 2020 HOME Funds:		\$ 353,129.00

Mr. Slusser also reviewed Impediments to Fair Housing Choice as identified during the preparation of the FY 2020 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice.

Mr. Slusser asked for comments. Upon receiving none, the public hearing would be adjourned and stated for the record no comments in writing or via email, fax, or by telephone were received. The teleconference was adjourned at 4:20 PM.