

## **8. Housing Element**

The City of Valdosta, as a CDBG Entitlement Community, is required to develop a Housing Element and has elected to utilize the City of Valdosta, Georgia, Consolidated Plan as its Housing Element.

The major sections of the Consolidated Plan include: a listing of Lead and Responsible Agencies; a Citizen Participation Plan; a Housing Needs Assessment and Public Housing Assessment; a Homeless Needs Assessment; a list of Non-Housing Community Development Needs; a Housing Market Analysis; a Homeless Facilities Needs and Assessment list; a Special Needs Facilities and Services survey; a Barriers to Affordable Housing Assessment; a Business Market Analysis; a Hazard Mitigation Plan, a Strategic Action Plan; Goals and Strategies; Expected Income; Annual Goals and Objectives; Proposed Projects, Resolution and Appendix.

This Consolidated Plan contains a range of goals, objectives, and outcomes formulated to address needs identified for homelessness, other special needs, affordable housing, non-housing community development, barriers to affordable housing, lead-based paint hazards, institutional structure, and coordination. These objectives include:

- Continue to Plan, Monitor, and Administer Entitlement Grant Program and ensure compliance with Federal Regulations.
- Conduct fair housing education and outreach.
- Improve the condition of housing for low-income homeowners.
- Remove slum and blight conditions.
- Promote Economic Development, Job Training, Development and Retention by Small and Emerging Businesses in CDBG-eligible census tracts.

These objectives are supported by a collection of associated strategies and performance goals. These strategies seek to work toward meeting the objectives stated, addressing the need for more affordable housing, housing rehabilitation, fair housing education, and economic development. Specifics can be found in the Strategic Plan and Annual Action Plan.

### **Summary of Housing Needs**

The Needs Assessment looks at a variety of issues including housing, homelessness, community development and special needs through an examination of census and Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data, created by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Census Bureau. These data quantify housing problems, such as overcrowding and cost burden, and measure the magnitude of the special needs population, such as the elderly, frail elderly, and persons with HIV/AIDS.

HUD has determined four housing conditions that are problematic for Low-to-Moderate-Income (LMI) and special needs populations which are: 1) the home lacks complete or adequate kitchen facilities, 2) the home lacks complete or adequate plumbing facilities, 3) the home is overcrowded – defined as more than one person per room, 4) the household is cost burdened by paying more than 30% of their income towards housing costs.