



Crawford County

2026 Three-Year Plan
Community Development
Block Grant Program



Crawford County
PLANNING

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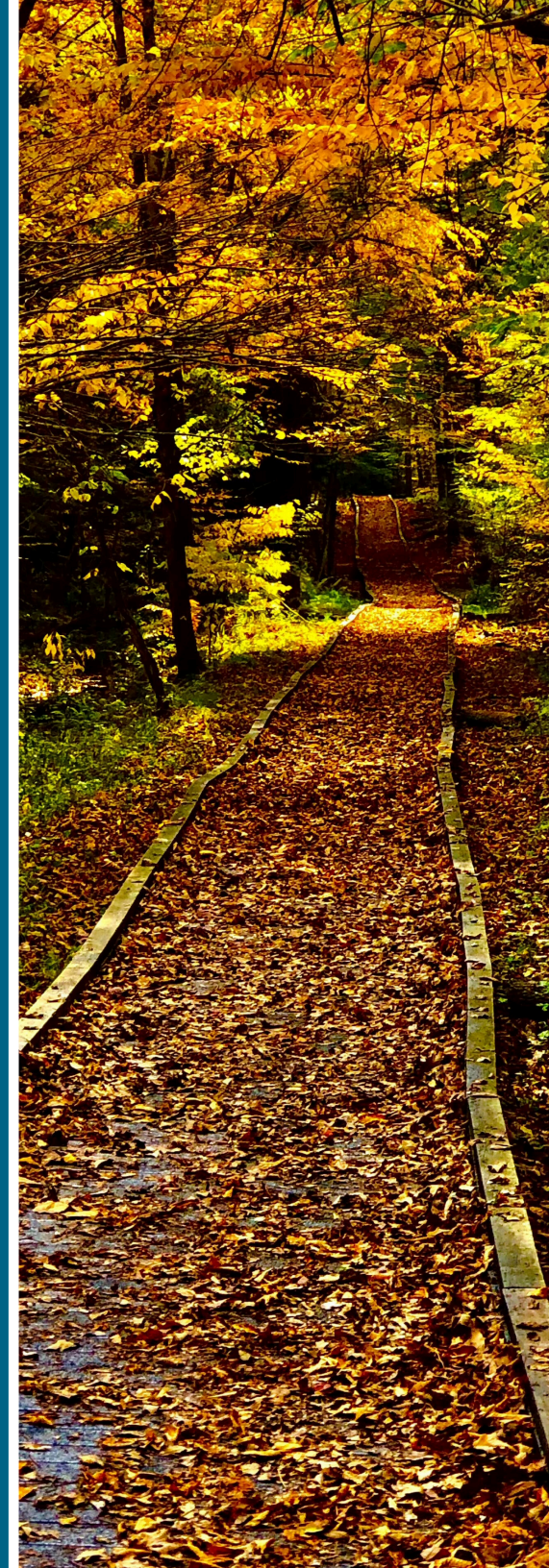
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Introduction

Statutory Authority and Funding

Crawford County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program is governed by Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended by Congress.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has issued regulations (24 C.F.R. Part 570) applying to all activities funded under the CDBG Program.

Copies of both the Act and HUD regulations are available at the Crawford County Planning Office and online at www.crawfordcountypa.net/planning.

Purpose of Three-Year Plan

The Housing and Community Development Act states, by HUD, its primary objective as "the development of viable urban communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities principally for persons of low income."

In order to provide a rational and effective basis for identifying community development needs based on consideration of available data and coordination with community leaders, the Three-Year Community Development Block Grant Plan sets short- and longterm objectives as well as designs activities to meet program requirements.



Low-to-Moderate Income Populations

Crawford County is a rural community that has a population of 83,938 residents according to the 2020 U.S. Census. Due to the decline and aging of the total population, illustrated by the loss of 5.8% of its population between 2010 and 2020, and projected growth only among the elderly (65+), the low-to-moderate income population in Crawford County is anticipated to increase.

In order to accurately determine eligibility for federal HUD funding, the Crawford County Planning Office examines both the local governmental units and census block groups to determine low-to-moderate income beneficiaries.

Crawford County contains 51 municipalities, of which 48 are non-entitlement municipalities (34 townships and 14 boroughs) and three are entitlement municipalities. According to the 2016-2020 American Community Survey (ACS) five-year estimates, six of the non-entitlement municipalities contain 51% or more low/moderate income (LMI) persons, as seen in Exhibit 1.1. However, a total of 17 census block groups have 51% or more of the population qualifying as LMI persons (Exhibit 1.2).

Although HUD identifies only the block groups referred to in Exhibit 1.2 as LMI, it has been the County Planning Office's experience, demonstrated by income survey results, that there are many more predominately LMI areas in the County.

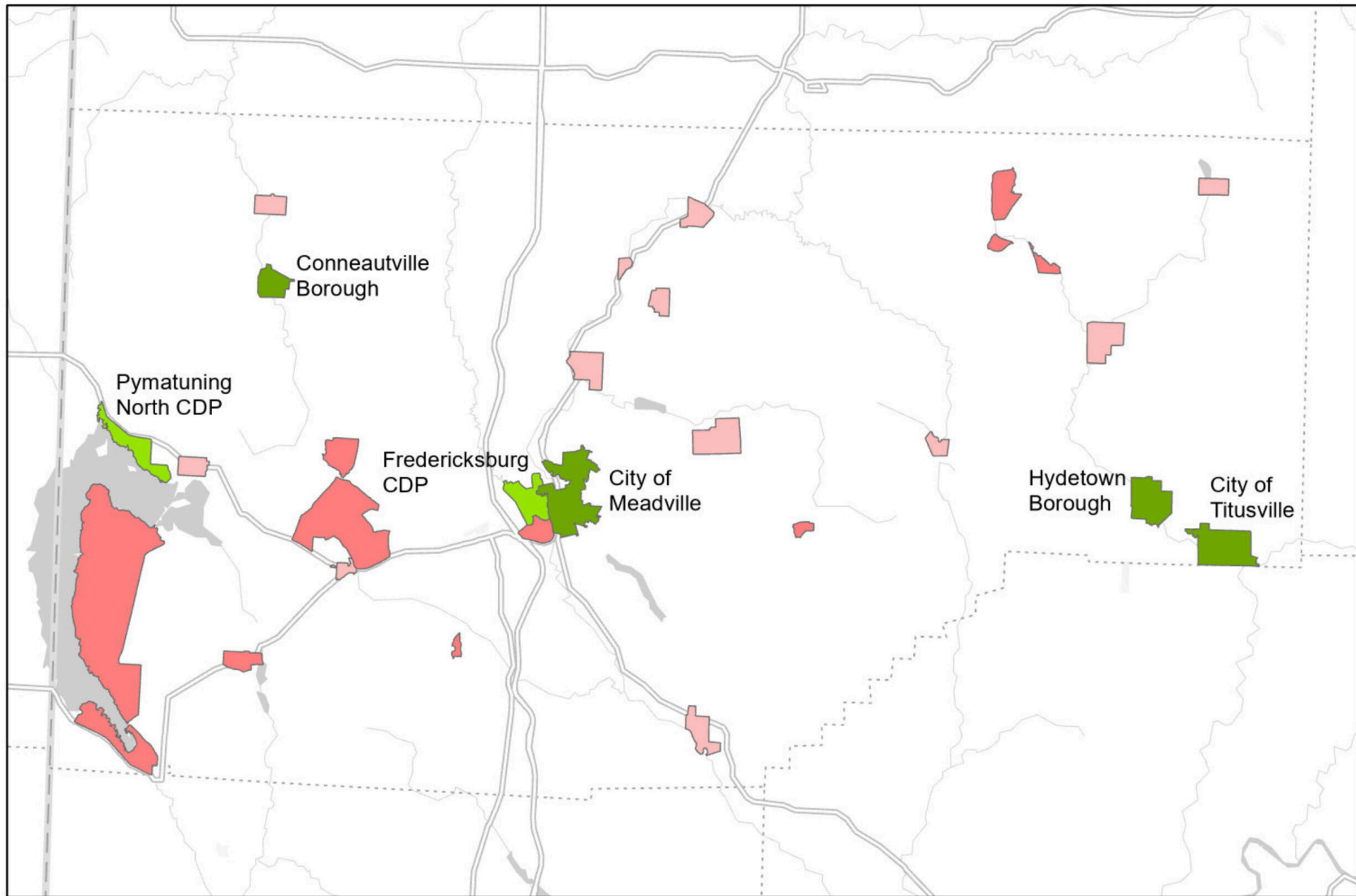
Minority Populations

In Crawford County the three largest racial minority categories are Black or African American alone, Asian alone, and American Indian and Alaska Native alone.

Per the 2016-2020 American Community Survey, Crawford County has a total of 1,275 Black or African American alone persons (1.5% of the total population), 441 Asian alone (or 0.5% of the total population), and 34 American Indian and Alaska Natives alone.

However, when counting for persons who identify as two or more races and Hispanic/Latino, there is more racial and ethnic diversity represented within Crawford County communities. There are twenty-eight non-entitlement communities that have racial or ethnic minority representation greater than one percent of the total population (Exhibit 1.3- Minority Population over 1% by Community).

Exhibit 1.1: Low-to-Moderate Population by Municipality and Census-Designated Places



Low-to-Moderate Population
FY 2026 CDBG Application
Data Source: 2020 ACS Data 5-Year Estimates

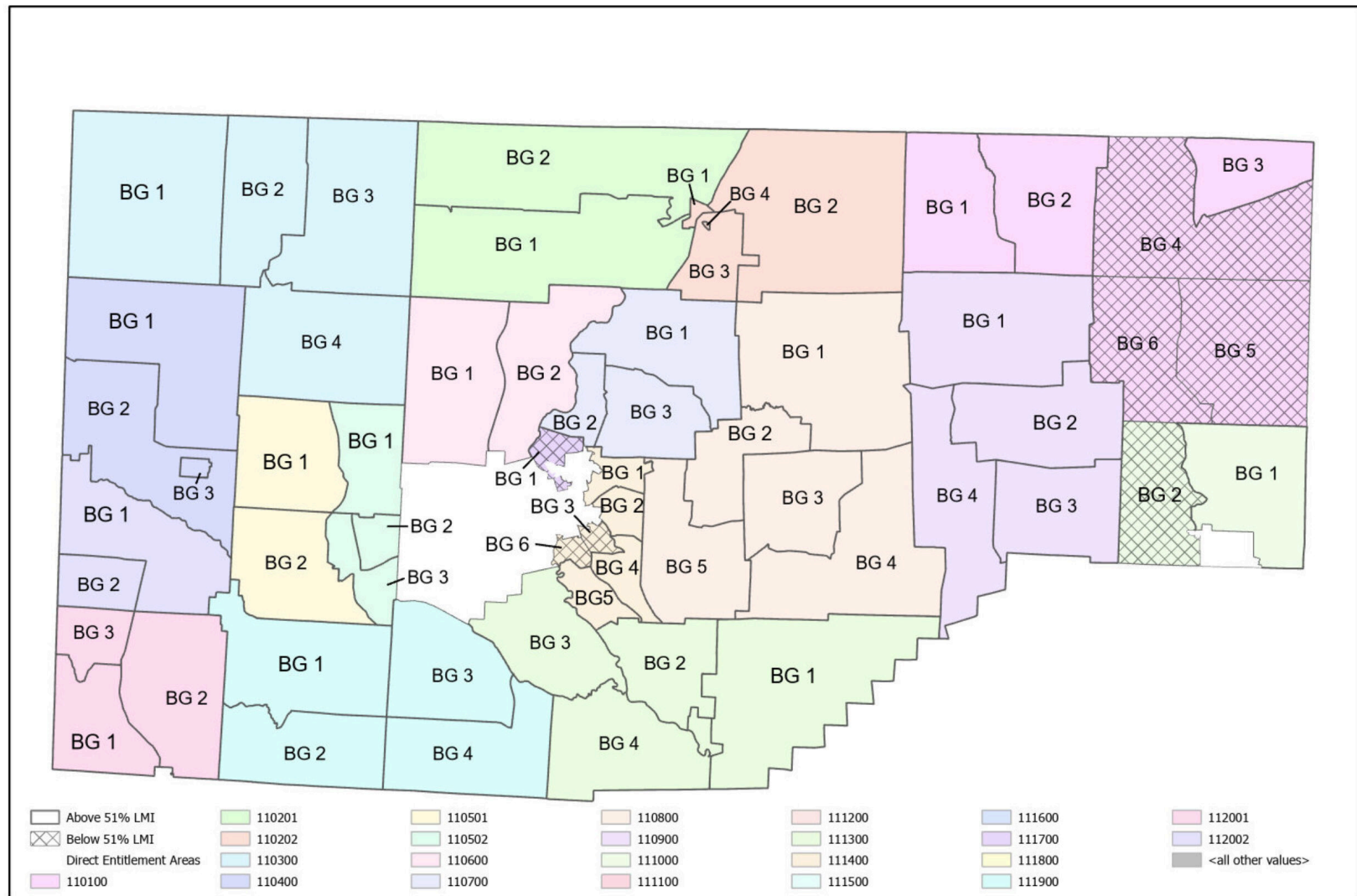
Municipalities

- Less than 51% LMI
- Greater than 51% LMI

Census-Designated Places

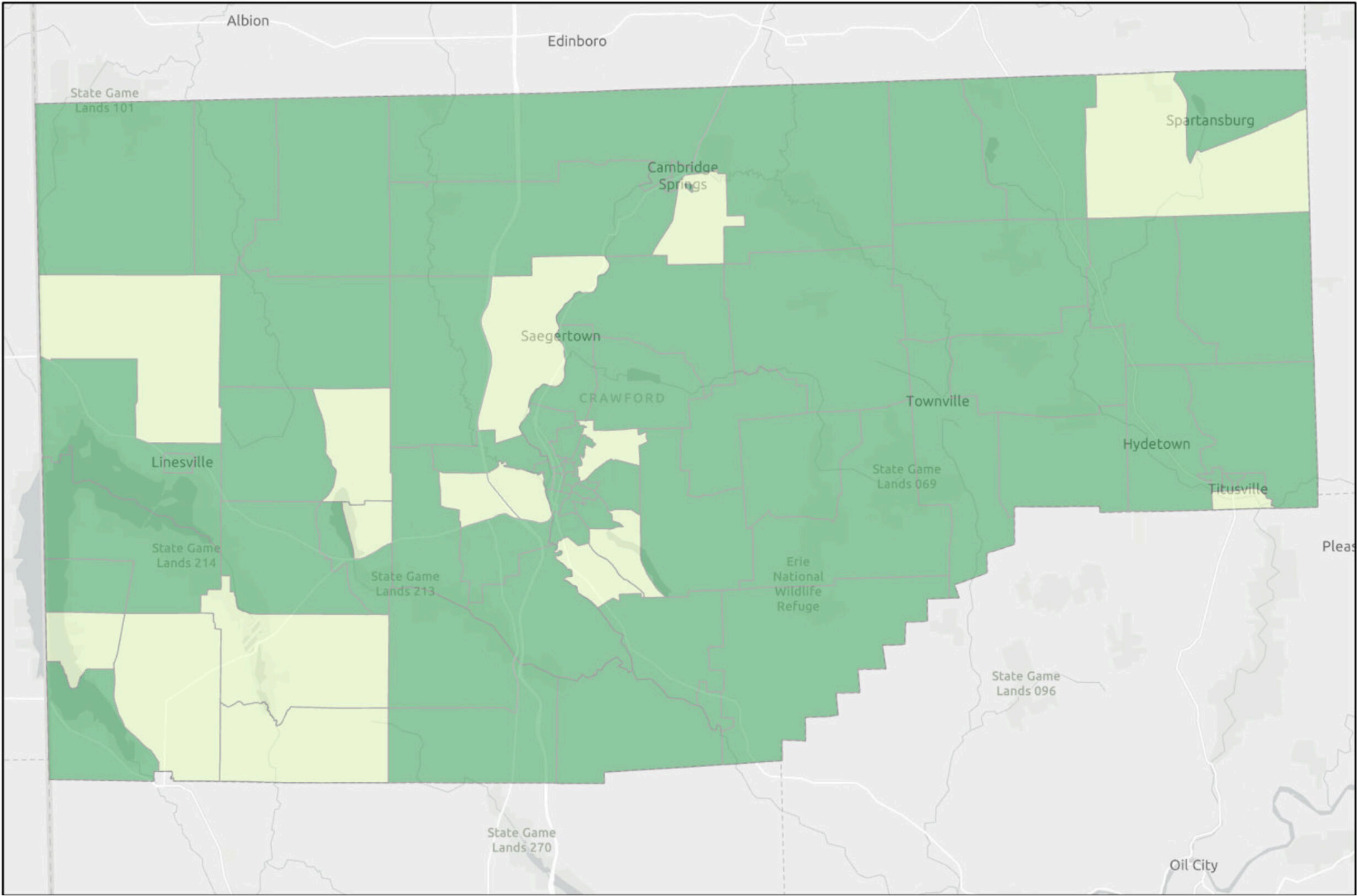
- Less than 51% LMI
- Greater than 51% LMI

Exhibit 1.2: Low-to-Moderate Population Census Tract and Block Group



Low-to-Moderate Population
 FY 2026 CDBG Application
 Data Source: 2020 ACS Data 5-Year Estimates

Exhibit 1.3: Minority Population by Municipality



Crawford County Minority Map
FY 2026 CDBG Application
Data Source: 2020 ACS Data 5-Year Estimates

Minority Population

- Less than 1%
- Greater than 1%

Assessment of
Community
Development Needs



Assessing Need

Crawford County conducted an assessment of community needs based on approved plans and planning efforts across the region. These needs were cross-referenced with the congressional findings and objectives (42 U.S.C. § 5307 (c)) to align with the federal CDBG Program.

To simplify the community needs assessment, the County has separated the needs into four program categories: public services, public community facilities and improvements, housing, and economic development. The illustrations provided on the following pages demonstrate a breakdown of the alignment of program goals under the federal statute with the County's planning efforts.

Four Programs for Needs Assessment

Public
Services

Public
Community
Facilities &
Improvements

Housing

Economic
Development

Assessment Matrix

Public Services

CDBG GOALS

The expansion and improvement of the quantity and quality of community services, principally for persons of low and moderate income, which are essential for sound community development and for the development of viable urban communities.

OBJECTIVE 1

Support mobility opportunities for low-to-moderate income families throughout Crawford County.

OBJECTIVE 2

Support the identification and access of missing food resources for low-to-moderate income families within Crawford County's nonentitlement communities.

Short and Long-Term Goals

Public Services

SHORT-TERM ACTIVITIES

Aid with transportation services for low-to-moderate income households that do not qualify for alternative assistance programs.

LONG-TERM ACTIVITIES

Promote an efficient, safe, and economical transportation system to move people and goods.

Adopt or support policies that reduce dependence on motorized vehicles and support alternative transportation means.

SHORT-TERM ACTIVITIES

Connect food program providers with communities and groups that currently lack access and offer financial resources to expand their programmatic aid.

LONG-TERM ACTIVITIES

Facilitate sustainable food programs to the County's rural areas.

Support policies that revitalize small rural population centers for the creation of reasonably sized retail hubs that ensure adequate access to food options.

Assessment Matrix

Public Community Facilities & Improvements

CDBG GOALS

The elimination of slums and blight and the prevention of blighting influences and the deterioration of property and neighborhood and community facilities of importance to the welfare of the community, principally persons of low and moderate income.

The expansion and improvement of the quantity and quality of community services, principally for persons of low and moderate income, which are essential for sound community development and for the development of viable urban communities.

A more rational utilization of land and other natural resources and the better arrangement of residential, commercial, industrial, recreational, and other needed activity centers.

OBJECTIVES

Invest in projects that enhance the streetscapes of borough main streets.

Allocate resources to projects that supply active, outdoor recreational amenities and activities.

Foster growth and development in appropriate areas of the County through strategic investments in municipal and countywide infrastructure systems.

Short and Long-Term Goals

Public Community Facilities & Improvements

SHORT-TERM ACTIVITIES

Invest in projects that improve structural conditions and facades of main street buildings.

Invest in projects that acquire access or use-rights that link low- and moderate-income neighborhoods with recreational amenities.

Support targeted infrastructure investments to population centers and designated growth areas which will have a high return on investment for the County.

LONG-TERM ACTIVITIES

Invest in street, sidewalk, and tree planting revitalization projects located along deteriorating main streets. Replace failing stormwater infrastructure with best practice management.

Invest in projects that create dual recreational uses and thereby support multiple public needs for existing public lands and facilities.

Support local water, sewage, and stormwater management projects that service low-to-moderate income households.

Discourage infrastructure expansion in rural areas that do not support the agricultural industry or consider community character.

Assessment Matrix

Housing

CDBG GOALS

The elimination of slums and blight and the prevention of blighting influence and the deterioration of property and neighborhood and community facilities of importance to the welfare of the community, principally persons of low and moderate income.

The elimination of conditions which are detrimental to health, safety, and public welfare, through code enforcement, demolition, interim rehabilitation assistance, and related activities.

The conservation and expansion of the Nation's housing stock in order to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for all persons, but principally those of low and moderate income.

The reduction of income group isolation in communities and areas and the promotion of an increase and vitality of neighborhoods through the spatial deconcentration of housing opportunities for persons of lower income and the revitalization of deteriorating neighborhoods.

OBJECTIVE 1

Support real estate developments or redevelopments that supply catalytic infill within boroughs.

OBJECTIVE 2

Allocate resources to projects that renovate residential homes within boroughs and mixed-use areas or commercial buildings on borough main streets.

Short and Long-Term Goals

Housing

SHORT-TERM ACTIVITIES

Evaluate the condition of local housing to eliminate abandoned and blighted structures by working with local communities to initiate a first-time home buyer program.

LONG-TERM ACTIVITIES

Develop a long-term policy and/or program to address vacancy and blighted structures.

SHORT-TERM ACTIVITIES

Invest in a home rehabilitation program.

LONG-TERM ACTIVITIES

Develop a long-term policy and/or program to address failing septic systems.

Assessment Matrix

Economic Development

CDBG GOALS

The alleviation of physical and economic distress through the stimulation of private investment and community revitalization in areas with population outmigration or a stagnating or declining base.

OBJECTIVE 1

Enhance the quality of life and tourism opportunities in boroughs and cities by revitalizing existing resources and amenities.

OBJECTIVE 2

Support the creation of a skilled workforce necessary to service existing and future employers.

OBJECTIVE 3

Prepare communities for future development through targeted investment in public services and environmental remediation.

Short and Long-Term Goals

Economic Development

SHORT-TERM ACTIVITIES

Support initiatives that invest in the beautification of main streets and commercial corridors. Craft regulations and policies to support the protection of existing historic and culturally significant resources.

Promote existing workforce development policies and programs.

Prepare a countywide policy that establishes the framework for identifying and evaluating brownfield sites desirable for remediation in boroughs and cities.

Support the enhancement of water, sewage, stormwater, and broadband infrastructure throughout the County.

LONG-TERM ACTIVITIES

Enhance main street and commercial corridors through streetscape enhancement projects. Establish a conservation program to protect existing culturally and historically significant resources.

Expand workforce development programs to target local industry demands.

Expand workforce development programs to target local industry demands.

Encourage development and expansion of businesses through target infrastructure investments in designated growth areas.

Consideration of
Plans for Community
Development



Plans Considered

The following resources were considered during the formation of Crawford County's 2026 Three-Year Community Development Block Grant Plan:

2024 Crawford County Comprehensive Plan, Crawford Inspired

2019 Crawford County Housing Plan

42 U.S.C. 5301 (c)

To view the *Crawford Inspired* 2024 comprehensive plan, visit www.crawfordinspired.com.

About Crawford County

Crawford County Planning is a countywide entity made up of the Planning Office and Planning Commission. The Planning Office consists of County staff who coordinate long-term investments and community development with the Crawford County Planning Commission and local municipalities. Since 1963, the Planning Commission has consisted of local volunteers from across the County who make recommendations, offer guidance, and advocate for local planning and community development efforts. Together, the Office and Commission work to lead and empower thriving communities across Crawford County.

