

HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

City of Iowa City Neighborhood &
Development Services



CITY OF IOWA CITY
UNESCO CITY OF LITERATURE



EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY

This plan is subject to change pending HUD approval.

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Introduction

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARP”) appropriated \$5 billion to communities across the U.S. to provide housing, services, and shelter to individuals experiencing homelessness and other vulnerable populations. These funds were allocated by formula to jurisdictions that qualified for funding through the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME Program) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Eligible activities that may be funded with HOME-ARP include:

- Development and support of affordable housing
- Tenant-based rental assistance
- Provision of supportive services
- Acquisition and development of non-congregate shelter units

Funds must primarily benefit individuals and households in the following Qualifying Populations:

- Experiencing homelessness
- At risk of homelessness
- Fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking or human trafficking
- Other populations with high risk of housing instability

The City of Iowa City received a total of \$1,789,981 in HOME-ARP funding and expects to make \$1,521,981 in HOME-ARP funds available for allocation in one competitive funding round.

Consultation

In order to inform the HOME-ARP allocation plan, the City of Iowa City consulted with agencies who serve the qualifying populations. This consultation was conducted via survey, virtual stakeholder meetings, in-person meetings, and conference calls. Specific consultations were held with the Iowa Balance of State CoC Lead Agency, Institute for Community Alliances; the Iowa City Housing Authority; and at the regular meeting of the Johnson County Local Homeless Coordinating Board (LHCB). Additional individual consultation meetings were held with individual service providers upon request.

CONSULTATIONS HELD

- Local Homeless Coordinating Board Consultation
 - December 8, 2021
- Iowa Legal Aid Consultation
 - January 11, 2022
- Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP) Consultation
 - January 17, 2022
- The Housing Fellowship (THF) Consultation
 - February 18, 2022
- Institute for Community Alliances Consultation
 - April 7, 2022

ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED:

Agency/Org Consulted	Type of Agency/Org	Method of Consultation	Feedback
Johnson County Local Homeless Coordinating Board (LHCB)	Homeless Services	Virtual Stakeholder Meeting	Feedback summarized by agency below.
Shelter House	Homeless Services	Virtual Stakeholder Meeting	Rental rehab; pest control; Case management critical; prioritize below 30% AMI
Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP)	Domestic Violence Services	Virtual Stakeholder Meeting; Survey	<p>Highest priorities: Rental Assistance</p> <p>Med/High Priorities: Development of Affordable Housing; Supportive Services</p> <p>Other: Overall decrease in DV shelters across the state; Lack of available units for families needing 3+ BR both in shelter and affordable rentals; Larger than recommended caseloads.</p>
Iowa Legal Aid	Legal, Eviction Prevention, Fair Housing, Civil Rights	Virtual Stakeholder Meeting	Need for Supportive Services, homelessness prevention
Iowa City Housing Authority	Public Housing Agency	Virtual Stakeholder Meeting; In person meeting	<p>Highest Priority: Supportive Services, TBRA</p> <p>Need for rent assistance, application fees, housing for larger families, agencies understaffed.</p>
Johnson County Affordable Housing Coalition	Affordable/Fair Housing Advocacy	Virtual Stakeholder Meeting	Highest priority: PSH
Hawkeye Area Community Action Program (HACAP)	CHDO, Homeless Services	Virtual Stakeholder Meeting	General lack of affordable housing
Inside Out Reentry	Services for People in the Criminal Justice System	Virtual Stakeholder Meeting; Survey	<p>Highest Priority: Development of Affordable Housing</p> <p>Med/High Priority: Rental Assistance; Supportive Services</p> <p>Other: Lack of 1br & Efficiency units; challenges with finding housing for individuals with criminal backgrounds; more funding for case management</p>
Johnson County Social Services	County Government	Virtual Stakeholder Meeting	Renters are cost burdened. Shortage of affordable housing, specifically one bedrooms and units for larger families. Supportive services also needed.

Housing Trust Fund of Johnson County	Housing Services	Virtual Stakeholder Meeting; Survey	Highest Priority: Rental Assistance, Development of Affordable Housing; Supportive Services Medium Priority: NCS Other: Financial challenges in getting into housing (deposit, first month rent, etc.); shortage of affordable housing and operational financial support for service providers
Waypoint	Domestic Violence & Mental Health	Virtual Stakeholder Meeting	Suggestion for housing programs for victims of homicide and/or homeownership programs. (Not HOME-ARP eligible)
The Housing Fellowship	CHDO, Housing Provider	Virtual Stakeholder Meeting	Renters are significantly cost burdened. Highest priority is development of affordable housing followed by eviction prevention/rental assistance. Concerns about construction timing & costs due to supply chain challenges.
Institute for Community Alliances	CoC	Virtual Stakeholder Meeting	Supportive services and operating expenses are a high priority. Pandemic impacted workforce significantly and caseloads are high. Always need more affordable housing as well.
Anonymous	Organization addressing fair housing & civil rights	Survey	Highest priorities: Rental Assistance, Development of Affordable Housing Med/High priorities: Supportive Services, NCS Other: Low to middle income underserved, paying high rents.
Veteran's Affairs	Veteran's Services	Virtual Stakeholder Meeting	No specific comments provided.
Abbe Health	Mental Health Services	Virtual Stakeholder Meeting	No specific comments provided.
United Action for Youth (UAY)	Youth Services, Mental, Homeless Services	Virtual Stakeholder Meeting	No specific comments provided.
Amerigroup	Healthcare Services	Virtual Stakeholder Meeting	No specific comments provided.
National Association for Mental Illness (NAMI)	Mental Health Services	Virtual Stakeholder Meeting	No specific comments provided.
CommUnity Crisis Services and Food Bank	Food Services, Mental health, Housing Services	Virtual Stakeholder Meeting	No specific comments provided.
Iowa City Community School District (ICCS)	School District/Youth & Family Services	Virtual Stakeholder Meeting	No specific comments provided.
Iowa City Free Lunch Program	Food Services	Virtual Stakeholder Meeting	No specific comments provided.

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK

The most frequent response that we received was that the City of Iowa City’s affordable housing inventory is not meeting the demand. Specifically, the availability of affordable one bedroom and efficiency units is below demand as well as the availability of affordable housing for households requiring more than 3 bedrooms. In addition, service providers reported an increased need for funding for supportive services to assist persons at risk of or experiencing homelessness. While this need is certainly documented, there was additional concern regarding sustainability of funding for supportive services outside of one-time funds. Other populations identified include those who are “rent burdened”, paying more than 30% of their monthly income in rent, in low to middle income brackets. Additional feedback received indicated that housing and services for special populations (specifically: victims of domestic violence, youth experiencing homelessness, & individuals with criminal backgrounds) and general rental assistance would also be beneficial in the community.

Public Participation

In accordance with Section V.B of the Notice (page 13), the City of Iowa City is providing for and encouraging citizen participation in the development of the HOME-ARP allocation plan. Residents will receive notice of the 27-day comment period via press release as required by the citizen participation plan. This includes notice posted on the City Clerk’s Bulletin Board on the First Floor of City Hall, publishing of notices in one or more newspapers of general circulation, and announcement on City websites including access to relevant documents for review. Documents are also available to the public at City Hall. Residents will receive at least 15-days notice of the Substantial Amendment hearings.

Public hearings were held during the July 21st, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Housing and Community Development Commission , and at the August 16th, 2022 Regular Meeting of the City Council. Public hearings were again held during the July 20th, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Housing and Community Development Commission, and at the August 15th, 2023 Regular Meeting of the City Council. Public hearings for the Substantial Amendment will be held during the January 11th, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Housing and Community Development Commission, and at the February 6th, 2024 Regular Meeting of the City Council.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Date(s) of Outreach	Mode of Outreach	Summary of Response/Attendance	Summary of Comments Received	Summary of Comments not Accepted and Reason
7/21/2022	Public Notice	Newspaper ad to solicit public input on HOME-ARP Allocation Plan	N/A	N/A
7/21/2022 through 8/16/2022	Public Comment Period	No response	See Appendix A	See Appendix A
7/21/2022	Public Hearing	No response	See Appendix A	See Appendix A
8/16/2022	Public Hearing	Noah Peterson commented	See Appendix A	See Appendix A

7/29/2023	Public Notice	Newspaper ad to solicit public input on HOME-ARP Allocation Plan	N/A	N/A
7/29/2023-8/15/2023	Public Comment Period	No Response	See Appendix A	See Appendix A
7/20/2023	Public Hearing	No response	See Appendix A	See Appendix A
1/11/2024	Public Notice	Newspaper ad to solicit public input on HOME-ARP Allocation Plan		
1/11/2024-2/6/2024	Public Comment Period			
1/11/2024	Public Hearing			
2/6/2024	Public Hearing			

Needs Assessment and Gaps Analysis

To assess the needs of HOME-ARP qualifying populations, the City of Iowa City reviewed the current shelter and housing inventory, the size of the populations, and the system of supportive services in the community. To conduct the needs assessment and gaps analysis, the City of Iowa City utilized current data, including the 2022 Point In Time Count (PIT), the 2022 Iowa Balance of State Continuum of Care Housing Inventory Count (HIC), the most recent Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data, and consultation with the Institute for Community Alliances, who is the lead agency for the Iowa Balance of State Continuum of Care (IA BoS CoC) as well as the IA BoS CoC Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) administrator.

Homeless																
	Current Inventory						Homeless Population				Gap Analysis					
	Family		Adults Only	Youth	Victims of DV		Family HH (at least 1 child)	Adult HH (w/o child)	Youth	Victims of DV	Family		Adults Only		Youth	Victims of DV
	Beds	Units	Beds	Beds	Beds	Units					Beds	Units	Beds	Units	Beds	Beds
Emergency Shelter	0	0	70	0	29	15										
Transitional Housing	0	0	10	15	8	5										
Permanent Supportive Housing	12	3	184	0	0	0										
Rapid Rehousing	77	21	72	0	15	5										
Sheltered Homeless							11	135	161**	29						
Unsheltered Homeless							0	12*		2						
Current Gap											0	0	0	0	140	4

*After consultation with the CoC Lead Agency, it was unable to be determined how many of the unsheltered count was located within Iowa City.

***Unable to determine the shelter status of youth presenting due to varying definitions of “sheltered”. See Explanation in “Size and Demographic Composition of Qualifying Populations; QP1: Homeless”.*

Non-Homeless			
	Current Inventory	Level of Need	Gap Analysis
	# of Units	# of Households	# of Households
Total Rental Units	15,980		
Rental Units Affordable to HH at 30% AMI (At-Risk of Homelessness)	1,495		
Rental Units Affordable to HH at 50% AMI (Other Populations)	980		
0%-30% AMI Renter HH w/ 1 or more severe housing problems (At-Risk of Homelessness)		6,180	
30%-50% AMI Renter HH w/ 1 or more severe housing problems (Other Populations)		2,465	
Current Gaps			6,170

Data Sources: Point in Time Count; Housing Inventory Count; Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy; Consultation with Youth providers

SIZE AND DEMOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION OF QUALIFYING POPULATIONS

QP1: Homeless

Based on the January 2022 Point-In-Time (PIT) Count for Johnson County, there were 146 sheltered and 12 unsheltered homeless individuals identified. After consultation with the Institute for Community Alliances, the Collaborative Applicant and Continuum of Care Lead Agency and HMIS lead, it was unable to be determined how many of those identified in the PIT time count were located within Iowa City. Given that all of the sheltered population and shelter services in Johnson County are located within Iowa City, it was determined that all those identified would be most likely to receive services within the City and therefore the full count was included.

Additionally, based on consultation with local providers, it was determined that one of the populations that is not entirely captured by the Point in Time Count is the population of Youth experiencing Homelessness as defined by the Runaway Youth and Homelessness Act (RHYA). To obtain an accurate depiction of the population, the City of Iowa City consulted with United Action for Youth (UAY) to obtain a snapshot of the referrals that they have received. From October 2021 to September 2022, 161 youth experiencing homelessness were referred for services, and 21 youth and 2 additional dependents were able to be served by the youth transitional living program. The RYHA defines homeless youth as “an individual who cannot live safely with a parent, legal guardian, or relative, and who has no other safe alternative living arrangement”. Due to the varying living situations of youth that qualify under this definition, it is unable to determine the sheltered status of the population according to McKinney-Vento definitions.

QP2: At risk of Homelessness

According to CHAS data for 2014-2018, 27.2% of all households have income less than 30% AMI. This represents 8,180 households of the total population. Based on the data, this significantly increases for renters. Of the total population, 51.3% of households, or a total of 15,465 reside in rental units. Of those renters, 47.1%, or 7,235 renters, have income less than 30% AMI.

Of those households with income less than 30% AMI, a total of 5,690, or 69.6% have a housing cost burden greater than 50% of their household income. This increases to 71.9% when accounting for only the renting households.

QP3: Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking

According to the Institute for Community Alliances, approximately 13.6% of households in Johnson County who experienced homelessness as indicated on Point in Time Counts from 2019-2021 had histories of domestic violence or were actively fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking. During the three-year period, this represented 507 households.

QP4: Other Populations: (1) Other Families Requiring Services or Housing Assistance to Prevent Homelessness & (2) At Greatest Risk of Housing Instability

Of the approximately 15,365 households identified by CHAS data who rent their home in Iowa City, 18.2% have income less than 50% AMI, but greater than 30% AMI. For those renters who have been identified as having income \leq 50% AMI, 29.9% are identified as having a cost burden paying over 50% of their monthly income. This means that an additional 835 households who are not identified as being at risk of homelessness are at great risk of housing instability. The circumstances that qualify such a household under the HOME-ARP statutes have been significantly exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and it is likely that the data has not yet been captured to truly represent the number of households that would qualify in this category today.

While Rapid Rehousing assistance is a significant need and facilitates the immediate housing stabilization of households experiencing homelessness, the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted all residents, to include households served by Rapid Rehousing Programs prior to the pandemic. This means there is a high likelihood that without additional services, households who previously received assistance are at significant risk of returning to homelessness without additional supportive services.

CURRENT RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO ASSIST QUALIFYING POPULATIONS & UNMET NEEDS

QP1: Homeless

There are currently 70 Emergency Shelter Beds available year-round for single adults within the City of Iowa City. During the winter months, there are an additional 40 units of temporary shelter for single adults. There are 101 Permanent Supportive Housing units available for single adults experiencing homelessness, as well as 72 “units” of Rapid Rehousing assistance for the same population. In addition, there are 16 “units” of Rapid Rehousing assistance for families with children. While the availability of housing units and shelter beds seem to be adequate for the community need, consultation with service providers indicated that there is a notable decrease in the availability of supportive services once these individuals are housed due to decreased funding and increased caseload. This represents a significant need in the community.

There are 10 Transitional Housing beds available through the GPD program specifically for Veterans experiencing homelessness, however as of the 2022 PIT Count, only two of these units were being utilized. Due to the low utilization and the low identification of veterans experiencing homelessness (only 18 unsheltered Veterans were identified in the State of Iowa), Veteran-specific programs were not determined to be a critical need at this time.

There are currently no Emergency Shelter opportunities for families with children unless the household has experienced domestic violence. However, there were no unsheltered families with children identified on the Point in Time Count. As a result, this gap was not identified as a priority during our consultation and needs assessment as the need is not determined to be critical at this time.

There are an additional 13 transitional housing units for individual youth, as well as one 2-bed unit available for youth with children. According to local demand for services, there are nearly 12 times as many youths experiencing homelessness as there are available housing and services for this population.

QP2: At risk of Homelessness

The number of assistance programs for individuals who are at-risk of homelessness were supported largely by emergency funds previously allocated because of the COVID-19 pandemic and are limited, one-time emergency assistance, or temporary in nature and do not serve to stabilize the household long-term. There are ongoing efforts by various nonprofit agencies to provide one-time rental assistance as well as legal assistance and eviction prevention efforts to avoid a household entering homelessness. Supportive services for individuals at risk of homelessness were identified as a largely unfunded need and gap in services.

QP3: Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking

As of the 2022 Point in Time Count, there are 29 beds of emergency shelter, 8 transitional housing beds, and 9 units of Rapid Rehousing available to households fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking in the City of Iowa City. In 2021, local provider DVIP reports that they had to divert around 350 households to short term hotel stays due to the shelter being full. Furthermore, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have significantly exacerbated the concern regarding populations that qualify for services under this category. In September of 2021, a representative from Iowa Attorney General's Crime Victim Assistance Division stated "the number of fatalities in the first nine months of 2021 is equal to all of those recorded in 2020, and with three more months to go, it is a sign of a tragic trajectory". In May of 2020, DVIP hotline calls increased by 28% and have not decreased since. Due to the increase in need and safe housing solutions, last year DVIP started renting 6 apartments for families to live in with 24/7 trauma-informed care similar to the services offered at the emergency shelter. The needs assessment clearly demonstrates a significant gap in services for this HOME-ARP qualifying population.

QP4: Other Populations: (1) Other Families Requiring Services or Housing Assistance to Prevent Homelessness & (2) At Greatest Risk of Housing Instability

The services available in the community for this qualifying population are largely similar to those provided for households at-risk of homelessness. While some programs are specific to those who fit the McKinney-Vento definition of at-risk of homelessness, others provide rental assistance, legal assistance, and eviction prevention to low-income populations as well who are experiencing housing instability. However, funding for these programs is limited. As a result of the needs assessment, it became clear that housing stability supportive services is a significant need within the City of Iowa City.

HOME-ARP Activities

THE METHOD FOR SOLICITING APPLICATIONS

The City of Iowa City is soliciting applications for HOME-ARP funds. Applications will be reviewed by the Housing and Community Development Commission (HCDC) who will make the final funding recommendations to City Council. The HCDC will not allocate funds to a subrecipient or contractor to administer the entirety of the HOME-ARP grant nor will funds be awarded prior to HUD's acceptance of the HOME-ARP allocation plan.

Prospective applicants were notified of the solicitation of applications via press release. An applicant guide was provided, and virtual Q&A sessions were held to assist applicants in learning more about the application process.

The City of Iowa City will oversee the administration of HOME-ARP funds and will not administer HOME-ARP activities directly.

USE OF HOME-ARP FUNDING

	Funding Amount	Percent of the Grant	Statutory Limit
Supportive Services	\$838,594		
Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelters	\$650,000		
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	\$ 0		
Development of Affordable Rental Housing	\$0		
Non-Profit Operating	\$ 33,387	1.87%	5%
Non-Profit Capacity Building	\$ 0	0%	5%
Administration and Planning	\$ 268,000	15 %	15%
Total HOME ARP Allocation	\$ 1,789,981		

USE JUSTIFICATION

In accordance with the requirements in HOME-ARP Implementation Notice CPD 21-10, The City of Iowa City has utilized the consultation process and the needs assessment and gap analysis to determine the priority needs for qualifying populations in the community, which are funds to support supportive services programs serving qualified populations. As a result of this analysis, the funds have been allocated primarily to these activities.

Based on the most recent Point In Time Count (PIT) and Housing Inventory Count (HIC), the number of general shelter beds appears to be meeting the needs of the community, therefore development of non-congregate shelter is not a priority at this time for the general population. However, based on consultations, victims of domestic violence have unique shelter needs and greatly benefit from a non-congregate setting. Additionally, while rental assistance was identified as a needed service in the community, it was determined that rather than TBRA, additional supportive services to assist in stabilization of the household overall would be the most effective use of resources.

HOME-ARP Production Housing Goals

The City of Iowa City anticipates that HOME-ARP funding will be utilized to produce seven (7) units of non-congregate shelter for individuals and families fleeing domestic violence. In addition to the new units proposed, HOME-ARP funds will be utilized to provide supportive services to over 1200 individuals in more than 500 households.

Preferences

A preference provides a priority for the selection of applicants who fall into a specific QP or category (e.g., elderly or persons with disabilities) within a QP (i.e., subpopulation) to receive assistance. A preference permits an eligible applicant that qualifies for a PJ-adopted preference to be selected for HOME-ARP assistance before another eligible applicant that does not qualify for a preference. A method of prioritization is the process by which a PJ determines how two or more eligible applicants qualifying for the same or different preferences are selected for HOME-ARP assistance. For example, in a project with a preference for chronically homeless, all eligible QP applicants are selected in chronological order for a HOME-ARP rental project except that eligible QP applicants that qualify for the preference of chronically homeless are selected for occupancy based on length of time they have been homeless before eligible QP applicants who do not qualify for the preference of chronically homeless.

In accordance with Section V.C.4 of the Notice (page 15), the HOME-ARP allocation plan must identify whether the PJ intends to give a preference to one or more qualifying populations or a subpopulation within one or more qualifying populations for any eligible activity or project.

- *Preferences cannot violate any applicable fair housing, civil rights, and nondiscrimination requirements, including but not limited to those requirements listed in 24 CFR 5.105(a).*
- *The PJ must comply with all applicable nondiscrimination and equal opportunity laws and requirements listed in 24 CFR 5.105(a) and any other applicable fair housing and civil rights laws and requirements when establishing preferences or methods of prioritization.*

USE OF PREFERENCES

Based on the needs assessment and gaps analysis and consultation with local providers, the City of Iowa City will implement a preference for one or more qualifying populations in selecting which projects to award HOME-ARP funds through a competitive application process. Specifically:

- Qualifying Population 2: At Risk of Homelessness
 - Needs Assessment indicated that while housing and shelter beds are available for homeless households, the availability of adequate supportive services for these households decreases once they are housed.
- Qualifying Population 3: Fleeing, or attempting to flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking
 - Needs Assessment indicated that the already high demand has increased greatly due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While individual projects will utilize the preferences mentioned, the City of Iowa City will ensure that funding decisions are made which will ensure that such projects are funded which do not have preferences and will serve all the qualifying populations without prioritization. This will ensure that all qualifying populations are eligible to be served by HOME-ARP funds, while also honoring the specific community needs as identified in the needs assessment. Additionally, the City of Iowa City has consulted with the HUD Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity to ensure the identified preferences do not constitute a violation of the Fair Housing Act, See Appendix B for more details.

HOME-ARP funds utilized for the development of non-congregate shelter will have a preference for qualifying participants in Category 3 – Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking. This qualifying population was identified as lacking sufficient non-congregate shelter in the needs and gap analysis.

One Supportive Services project will also implement a preference for Qualifying Population 2: At Risk of Homelessness.

The City of Iowa City will also fund additional Supportive Services projects which do not implement preferences and will serve all HOME-ARP qualifying populations. As a result, the City does not anticipate this preference will have a negative impact on other qualifying populations accessing HOME-ARP funds.

REFERRAL METHODS

Applicants for HOME-ARP funding from the City of Iowa City will utilize different referral methods for their programs as appropriate:

- Programs with a preference for Category 2 Qualified Populations will use several referral methods which include community and self-referrals. Services are provided on a chronological basis.

- Programs with a preference for Category 3 Qualified Populations will use several referral methods which include referrals from the coordinated services region, community referrals, and self-referrals. Services are provided on a chronological basis.
- Programs operating without a preference will utilize an internal waiting list and will serve all qualified populations in chronological order.

LIMITATIONS IN A HOME-ARP RENTAL HOUSING OR NCS PROJECT

HOME-ARP funds utilized for the development of non-congregate shelter will have a limitation for qualifying participants in Category 3 – Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking. Participants that have experienced these traumatic events require specialized care and consideration and are more likely to take part in and benefit from supports which are specific to their needs.

According to numerous sources, including the World Health Organization, it has been seen around the world that domestic violence is increasing due to the pandemic. Victim-survivors have been forced to isolate in their homes with their abusers due to the pandemic which has in turn increased the lethality of domestic violence for many individuals served by these service providers. Non-congregate shelter offers not only the privacy and safety needed for these families to process their traumatic experiences with the support of service providers who have specialized training, but protection from concerns that result from the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, as participants are fleeing dangerous situations, their privacy is of the utmost importance. Due to the nature of the services provided, this limitation is necessary to ensure a safe, confidential, and secure shelter which is limited to participants in similar situations.

UNMET NEEDS OF OTHER QUALIFYING POPULATIONS

The City of Iowa City does not anticipate that the limitation of populations served with the anticipated non-congregate shelter project will negatively impact other qualifying populations. According to the needs assessment and consultation, the community need for non-congregate shelter for the general population is not a priority currently. The current availability of shelter beds is generally proportionate to the population identified in the Point in Time count. The identified need for non-congregate shelter was specifically limited to Category 3 – Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking.

The City of Iowa City does not anticipate the preference of populations served by one Supportive Services Project will negatively impact other qualifying populations as an additional Supportive Services Project will serve all qualifying populations.

HOME-ARP Refinancing Guidelines

The City of Iowa City does not intend to use HOME-ARP funds to refinance existing debt secured by multi-family rental housing.

APPENDIX A

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

The 27-day public comment period for the Substantial Amendment to the FY21 Annual Action Plan/HOME-ARP Allocation Plan began on July 21, 2022 and ended on August 16, 2022. The City Council held a public meeting on August 16, 2022.

COMMENTS RECEIVED PRIOR TO THE PUBLIC MEETING:

None.

STAFF RESPONSE:

N/A

COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING THE PUBLIC MEETING:

1. Noah Peterson: Expressed concerns about the winter/temporary shelter opening later than expected. Requests that the City ensure the shelter opens sooner this coming winter.

This represents a summary of the public comment(s) received. The full, recorded meeting is available online through a variety of platforms including Facebook, YouTube, and the City Channel 4 website. Links to Council documents and recorded meetings are available at icgov.org/councildocs.

STAFF RESPONSE:

1. The proposed activity allocates HOME-ARP funds for the provision of supportive services for individuals experiencing homelessness. The winter shelter is not an identified beneficiary of the proposed activity, however, staffing shortages significantly contributed to the challenges that nonprofits experienced when opening the winter shelter in recent years. Further, the requested activity is not an eligible use of HOME-ARP funds, however additional funding for nonprofits serving those experiencing homelessness should provide additional financial stability to support timely operations.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

The 18-day public comment period for the Substantial Amendment to the FY21 Annual Action Plan/HOME-ARP Allocation Plan began on July 29, 2023 and ended on August 15, 2023. The City Council held a public meeting on August 15, 2023.

COMMENTS RECEIVED PRIOR TO THE PUBLIC MEETING:

None.

STAFF RESPONSE:

N/A

COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING THE PUBLIC MEETING:

None

STAFF RESPONSE:

N/A

APPENDIX B