



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-7000

PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

May 18, 2024

The Honorable Garnett Johnson  
Mayor of Augusta-Richmond County  
535 Telfair Street  
Suite 200  
Augusta, GA 30901

Dear Mayor Johnson:

Congratulations! I am pleased to give you formal notice of your jurisdiction's Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) allocations for the Office of Community Planning and Development's (CPD) formula programs. Your jurisdiction's FY24 available amounts are as follows:

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	\$1,745,444.00
Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)	\$156,412.00
HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME)	\$960,968.29
Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA)	\$1,028,226.00

These grant funds provide the financial tools to support low-to-moderate income individuals, families, and communities to address homelessness, affordable housing challenges, aging infrastructure, and economic hardships. CPD is committed to being your partner throughout the process of using these funds. Our local office will assist in finalizing grant agreements, offer technical assistance, training when needed, monitor and implement grant funds for eligible projects in a timely manner. The Department of Housing and Urban Development will work with your team to ensure proper reporting in the Integrated Disbursement and Information System to improve performance data on how these programs are benefitting and touching people's lives, build trust with stakeholder groups, Congress, and amplify the success stories that you and your jurisdiction are able to accomplish with these vital resources.

In addition, you also have \$8,727,220 in available Section 108 borrowing authority based on your CDBG allocation and outstanding Section 108 balances as of May 14, 2024. Since Section 108 loans are federally guaranteed, this allows your jurisdiction to borrow up to five times of your current CDBG allocation to access loan capital for larger projects at a low interest rate. HUD encourages you to consider using this CDBG multiplier for high priority housing projects, such as housing rehabilitation and conversion of nonresidential properties to residential uses and mixed-use development. This could help fill gaps left by Congress' cut to the HOME program for FY24.

As you begin to plan for the use of FY24 grant funding, please also consider having strategic conversations with your local team to ensure that existing grants are being maximized to meet your local priorities and community needs. A few questions that you might consider asking:

- What were our goals in our most recent Consolidated Plan? How did our commitments in FY23 and previous Action Plans support those goals?
- Do we have any expiring funds? Are there plans to use our funding from past years before the end of the period of performance?
- What, if any, findings have HUD / the Office of Inspector General made against our jurisdiction in the last five years? What have we done to address those findings?

The combination of higher mortgage interest rates, limited for-sale housing inventory, and high home prices has created a challenging environment for homebuyers – particularly low-income families seeking to purchase their first home. In preparing the annual action plan for your jurisdiction's CPD formula funds, we urge you to consider how your HOME Program and other funds may be used to increase the supply of modestly priced housing or provide direct purchase assistance to low-income families seeking to buy a home.

The timely expenditure of your previous year funds is critical to mitigate risks of recapture. If your community's priorities have changed, you have an opportunity to repurpose funding. Our team can work with you to ensure that funds are fully utilized and reach the populations intended by these programs. Please contact our Field Office to learn more.

The Department greatly appreciates your leadership in using these funds to address your most pressing local needs by increasing access to affordable housing, supporting renters and homeowners, providing life-saving assistance to people experiencing homelessness, creating jobs and opportunities for people with modest means, improving public facilities, community resilience, and public services. If you or any member of your staff have questions or would like to request technical assistance, please contact your local CPD Field Director.

Sincerely,



Marion Mollegen McFadden  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Community Planning and Development