



CITY OF  
**FORESTPARK**

## City Council Agenda Item

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**Title of Agenda Item:** Council Discussion and Approval of the Rollout of the City of Forest Park's Housing Rehabilitation Program (HOME) for Senior Residents (aka, "Legacy Residents") of Owner-Occupied Housing in the City

**Submitted By:** Pauline Warrior

**Date Submitted:** November 30, 2023

**Work Session Date:** December 4, 2023

**Council Meeting Date:** December 4, 2023

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**Background/History:** The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 appropriated funds that local municipalities could use to aid Disproportionately Impacted Households and Communities. Such improvements will increase the lifespan of the City of Forest Park's housing stock, work to address housing inequities, and stabilize home values for the neighborhood and the resident, who were significantly impacted during the Great Recession and COVID 19 pandemic.

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**Action Requested from Council:** Approval of the application to be released on the City's website on December 8, 2023 for an application period that ends on February 9, 2024.

Awards, not less than \$1500 and no more than \$10,000, will be provided for residents, aged 62 years and older, who are verifiable homeowners residing within City of Forest Park limits AND who meet certain income eligibility requirements. Funding is intended to repair, improve or remove health and safety hazards and will address such needs as window replacements, leaky toilets, HVAC issues, weatherization items, etc. A complete list of qualifying repairs and restrictions is available on the application.

Assistance will not be provided to applicants that exceed the household income and award amounts that will be verified in the Program qualification process.

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**Cost:** \$ 0.00

**Budgeted for:** \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

**Financial Impact:** Fund 253, American Rescue Plan Act - \$1,300,000

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Additional Information:

### **Executive Summary**

The Homeowner Maintenance Enhancements Program (HOME) aims to utilize American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to provide much-needed home repair and renovation assistance to senior residents (aka, “legacy residents”) within our municipality. This initiative is designed to address the growing need for safe, accessible, and energy-efficient housing for our aging population.

The program will offer financial assistance to eligible senior homeowners to carry out essential home repairs and modifications, such as improving accessibility, fixing structural issues, upgrading heating and cooling systems, and addressing other health and safety concerns. By doing so, we aim to enhance the quality of life for our senior residents, allowing them to age in place comfortably and safely.

The program will be administered by our local municipality, ensuring that the funds are distributed efficiently and equitably. We developed a comprehensive application and review process to ensure that the funds are allocated to those most in need. We will also establish robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to measure the program's effectiveness and impact.

We anticipate that this program will not only improve living conditions for our senior residents but also stimulate local economic activity by creating demand for local contractors and construction businesses. Furthermore, by improving housing conditions, we expect to see a reduction in health and safety risks, potentially reducing healthcare costs and emergency service calls.

the Home Rehabilitation Program represents a significant investment in our community's well-being and resilience. By leveraging ARPA funds, we have a unique opportunity to make a lasting, positive impact on the lives of our senior residents and the broader community. We look forward to discussing this proposal further and working together to bring this important initiative to fruition.