

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Beth Rosen, Grants Compliance and Policy Manager

SUBJECT

Public Hearing and Resolution 2024-053 Approving the Programs that will Receive a Total of \$400,000 in HOME Investment Partnership Act American Rescue Plan Act Funding (HOME-ARP) for Supportive Services Funding.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to approve the programs recommended for funding with the \$400,000 in HOME Investment Partnership Act American Rescue Plan Act funding (HOME-ARP) designated for Supportive Services.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) into law, enabling over \$1.9 trillion in relief to address the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy, public health, State and local governments, individuals and businesses.

The American Rescue Plan Act appropriated \$5.0 billion to help communities provide housing, shelter and services for people experiencing homelessness and other qualifying populations. These funds are administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the HOME Investment Partnership Program – American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) to be used by HOME participating jurisdictions to address housing instability and homelessness.

As a HOME program participating jurisdiction, the City of Fort Collins received a HOME-ARP Award of \$2,628,410 to benefit qualifying populations in our community, including:

- Homeless and those at-risk of homelessness;
- fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking or human trafficking; and
- other populations where provision of assistance would prevent homelessness or would serve those with the greatest risk of housing instability.

On November 15, 2022, Council passed Ordinance No. 126, 2022, which appropriated the funds to the City budget and allowed staff to begin the work needed to successfully deploy and administer the funding accordance with HOME-ARP Allocation Plan approved by HUD. This allocation plan outlined the distribution of funds as follows:

Development of Rental Housing	\$2,000,000 – allocated to Heartside Hill Apartments
Supportive Services	\$ 400,000
Administration & Planning	\$ 228,410
TOTAL	\$2,628,410

Social Sustainability staff spent 2023 establishing program guidelines and deploying the \$2.0 million allocation for the Development of Rental Housing. Those funds have all been contracted to the Heartside Hill development. The 72 rental units supported with that funding are currently under construction.

On December 1, 2023, the Social Sustainability Department published the online application for HOME-ARP Supportive Services and notified our community partners of the funding opportunity.

The application criteria for these funds were as follows: funding will be awarded to eligible organizations whose primary mission and services focus on homeless prevention and long-term housing stabilization.

HUD Targeted Populations:

- Homeless
- At-risk of homelessness (McKinney-Vento definition).
- Fleeing/attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, trafficking.
- Other populations for whom supportive services would prevent homelessness to serve those at greatest risk of housing instability.
- Veterans and families with a veteran member that meets one of the above criteria.

Eligible Supportive Services:

- McKinney Vento Supportive Services
 - Costs of assisting eligible participants to obtain and retain housing
 - Financial assistance costs (including rental applications and deposits)
 - Other eligible costs (childcare, legal, meal assistance, etc.)
- Homeless Prevention Services
 - Financial assistance costs to prevent homelessness
- Housing Counseling Services
 - Staff salaries and overhead for HUD-Certified Housing Counseling agencies
 - Development of Housing Action Plans

Recognizing the requests could exceed the available funding, applications were further prioritized in the following order:

1. Applications from organizations that work collaboratively across the Fort Collins community to provide supportive services to *all HUD-targeted qualifying populations*.

2. Applications from organizations with supportive services that limit funding to specific targeted populations and/or households enrolled in programs with limited capacity.

Applications were due by January 5, 2024, and provided to the Human Services and Housing Funding (HSHF) Board for scoring, review and recommendations. The Human Services and Housing Funding Board made recommendations at the regular public meeting on February 14, 2024. Those applications are recommendations are as follows:

Priority 1: Supportive Services for ALL HUD-Target populations	<i>Amount Requested</i>	Funding Recommendation
Homeward Alliance: Housing Navigation	\$200,000	\$200,000
Neighbor to Neighbor: Housing Navigation	\$200,000	\$200,000
Priority 2: Limited Services Applications		
Catholic Charities: Shelter Case Management	\$103,233.35	\$0
Crossroads Safehouse: Road to Home	\$115,000	\$0
Total	\$618,233.35	\$400,000

This proposed funding award is estimated to provide case-management and direct assistance to support 60 individual households in obtaining housing stability.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The HOME-ARP funding represents one-time funding of \$2.6 million from HUD to the City of Fort Collins which can be used to address some of our most critical housing needs, thereby reducing the demand on the City’s General Fund budget to address such needs.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Human Services and Housing Funding Board unanimously voted to recommend this request for funding on February 14, 2024.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Human Services and Housing Funding Board reviewed the proposal and deliberated the request at its regular meeting held on February 14, 2024. The meeting was open to the public and added to the City calendar.

The City of Fort Collins Citizen Participation Plan for HUD funds requires a 30-day public comment period on the proposed allocation of all HUD funds prior to Council’s final decision. Staff placed an ad in the Coloradoan newspaper on March 1, 2024, detailing the proposed funding and that the public comment period would start on March 1, 2024, and end on April 2, 2024. The Council meeting on April 2, 2024, will serve as a Public Hearing and comments will be recorded and reported to HUD.

The public notice of funding recommendation was placed on the Social Sustainability Department’s website.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution for Consideration
2. Staff Summary of All Applications Received
3. HSHF Board Minutes, February 14, 2024