

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: December 30, 2022

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

Subject: A report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), requesting approval to allocate \$4,499,862 in HOME Investment Partnerships – America Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) Funds

File Type: Action Report

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**REQUEST**

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is requesting approval to allocate \$4,499,862 in HOME Investment Partnerships – America Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) Funds within Housing Services.

**BACKGROUND**

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 appropriated \$5 billion to provide housing, services, and shelter to individuals experiencing homeless and other vulnerable populations, to be allocated by formula to jurisdictions that qualified for HOME Investment Partnerships Program allocations in Fiscal Year 2021.

HOME-ARP funds must be used to primarily benefit individuals or families from the following qualifying populations:

- Homeless, as defined in section 103(a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- At-risk of homelessness, as defined in section 401(1) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- Fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking
- In other populations where providing supportive services or assistance under section 212(a) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12742(a)) would prevent the family's homelessness or would serve those with the greatest risk of housing instability
- Veterans and families that include a veteran family member that meet one of the preceding criteria

HOME-ARP funds can be used for four eligible activities:

- Production or Preservation of Affordable Housing
- Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)
- Supportive Services, including services defined at 24 CFR 578.53(e), Homeless Prevention Services, and Housing Counseling
- Purchase and Development of Non-Congregate Shelter. These structures can remain in use as non-congregate shelter or can be converted to: 1) emergency shelter under the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program; 2) permanent housing under the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program; or 3) affordable housing under the HOME Program.

### **Administrative and Operating Funding**

HOME-ARP provides up to 15 percent of the allocation for administrative and planning costs of the Participating Jurisdiction (PJ) and subrecipients administering all or a portion of the grant. In addition, HOME-ARP can provide up to 5 percent of its allocation for operating costs of Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs), other non-profit organizations, and homeless providers. Additional HOME-ARP funding is available to these organizations for capacity building activities.

The total funding of \$4,499,862 is divided into the following two spending categories by Housing and Urban Development (HUD):

Administrative and Planning Funds:	\$674,979
Balance of Formula Funds:	<u>\$3,824,883</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$4,499,862</b>

Administrative funds can be used for activities related to the overall administration of the grant. This can include current and future staff who work directly on the grant to ensure HUD programmatic requirements are met. The balance of funds can be used on activities that are directly related to the provision of homeless services such as outreach, case management, rental subsidies, and the development of housing programs.

The recommended breakdown of the allocation for the balance of formula funds totaling \$3,824,883 is as follows:

#### Creation of Four Community Intervention Specialist Positions: \$1,963,000

In the January 2023 County Board cycle, File 23-152 includes a request to create four Community Intervention Specialist positions to support this program. These positions will focus on housing navigation with the primary focus being on the unsheltered population. Current homeless outreach staff do not have the capacity to conduct in-depth street outreach as well as take clients through the entire process of finding permanent housing units. The creation of these positions will dramatically decrease the amount of time individuals and families are homeless when they are either unsheltered or in the homeless

shelter system. These positions will be fully funded by the HOME ARP grant.

Rental Assistance and Homeless Prevention: \$1,000,000

Milwaukee County staff will provide short term rental assistance payments as well as homelessness prevention assistance to individuals and families. Referrals will come from Continuum of Care homeless outreach teams and IMPACT 211. Milwaukee County Housing Services – DHHS will administer these funds.

Facility Rehabilitation: \$861,883

HOME ARP funds allow for the rehabilitation of housing to serve eligible populations. These funds would be set aside for future use when a project is identified.

**ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

This action item aligns with strategic plan objective 3A (Invest “upstream to address root causes of health disparities”) and objective 3C (Dismantle Barriers to diverse and inclusive communities). Housing is seen as one of the main social determinates of health and these funds will be used to improve housing access to vulnerable populations.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, or her designee, to allocate \$4,499,862 in HOME Investment Partnerships – America Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) Funds as identified in the accompanying resolution.

**FISCAL EFFECT**

There is no fiscal effect as HOME ARP funding is dedicated for this purpose by HUD to Milwaukee County.

**TERMS**

HOME ARP funds must be expended by September 30, 2030.

**VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

James Mathy, Housing Administrator  
Eric Collins-Dyke, Deputy Administrator

**PREPARED BY:**

James Mathy, Housing Administrator, Department of Health and Human Services

**APPROVED BY:**

*Shakita LaGrant-McClain*

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Resolution and fiscal note are attached.

Cc: County Executive David Crowley  
Sup. Liz Sumner, Chair, Finance Committee  
Sup. Shawn Rolland, Chair, Health Equity, Human Needs, and Strategic Planning  
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office  
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County  
Steve Cady, Research Director, Comptroller's Office  
Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, Sr Budget & Management Analyst, Strategy, Budget & Performance