

HOME ARP Countywide Q&A HOLD-20240403_110339-Meeting Recording

April 3, 2024, 3:03PM

45m 58s



BJ **Berghaus, Jake** 0:49

Alright, alright, alright.

Y'all, we're going to go ahead and get started.

Hello everyone and thank you for joining us for today's HOME-ARP program Q&A.

My name is LaChe' Roach.

I serve as a program manager here in the Hamilton County Community Development Division.

Also joined by Maria Collins, who serves as our Community development administrator.

She is also on the call

And I'm a Jake Berghaus and I am also a program manager with community development.

BJ **Berghaus, Jake** 1:36

So for today, we would like to provide the Community with an overview of the HOME-ARP program, a summary of our substantial amendment, outline the qualifying populations that are served through the HOME-ARP funds, an overview or summary of our allocation plan for our funding, an opportunity to outline our current and upcoming NOFAs as well as RFP's, and then an opportunity for community members to ask questions regarding the HOME-ARP program.

Just to let you all know what this funding it is a one-time funding opportunity just to outline here and that this Q&A session will also focus on the nonprofit operating NOFA that has recently been released.

And then we'll get into more details as we move through the presentation.

So an overview of the HOME-ARP program, the American Rescue Plan Act, also known as ARPA, included \$5 million nationwide to be allocated by HUD through the Home Investment partnerships program.

Hamilton County received \$5.4 million.

This was a one-time funding opportunity that is separate from the county's annual HOME program allocation and the funding must primarily benefit what we call qualifying populations.

Throughout the presentation, you will hear us refer to those as QPs.

This funding must be spent by September of 2030 and funding must support Hamilton County residents residing in the 43 participating jurisdictions, also known as PJ's, and those 43 participating jurisdictions are outside of the City of Cincinnati. Being that the City of Cincinnati received their own allocation for funding.

So Congress's intent is for all four QP's to benefit from HOME-ARP activities to address housing instability and homelessness.

Participating jurisdictions must design their program to provide all four QPs with access to HOME-ARP projects and activities for general purposes.

Participating jurisdictions in this slide refers to Hamilton County.

However, throughout the rest of the presentation, PJ's will be used to refer to the 43 communities Hamilton County approved funds for.

The following HOME-ARP eligible activities that would be supportive services, affordable rental housing, nonprofit operating administration and were recently non congregate shelter, a new program manager position in community development was also approved to oversee the implementation and monitoring of the county's HOME-ARP program.

Alright, so as LaChe' mentioned, we did recently undertake the substantial amendment process with our allocation plan.

As we were kind of talking to organizations, stakeholders within the community there was a growing need for shelter space raised in these conversations. Non-congregate shelter was initially identified in our needs and gaps assessment while doing the allocation plan but was omitted to prioritize rental housing at the time.

Further data was also brought forth, demonstrating a particular need for shelter for those fleeing domestic violence and sexual assault within the community.

The needs and gaps assessment also showed a need to give preference for rental housing to those with the greatest levels of housing instability within our community.

In response, Community development amended Hamilton County's HOME-ARP allocation plan to include the non-congregate shelter activity, which includes acquisition, rehabilitation and new construction.

BJ

Berghaus, Jake 6:23

We are also allowing for a limitation that would be project specific for shelter project serving those fleeing domestic violence and human trafficking.

And there's a full definition of that QP three that will be given him momentarily.

And finally, we also allowed rental house housing projects to implement a preference for persons and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and these are qualifying populations one and two.

So going through those Qualifying Populations very quickly.

The first qualifying population, QP 1, are folks who are literally homeless, as defined in 24 CFR 91.5 also known as the McKinney Vento Act definition of homeless, currently homeless.

QP 2 are those who are at risk of homelessness as defined under McKinney Vento as well.

QP 3 are those persons and households fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking or human trafficking, as defined by HUD in the HOME-ARP notice. And the final and most nebulous QP is qualifying population 4 which HUD terms as other populations requiring services or assistance to prevent homelessness or those at greatest risk of housing instability. And just to quickly state what those two categories really mean, the first "other families requiring services..." are persons who were previously defined as homeless under 24 CFR 91.5 and are currently housed through some means of temporary assistance and are at risk of losing or imminently about to lose that housing.

The "those at greatest risk of housing instability" are those persons or households making less than 30% of the area median income and with a severe housing cost burden that is over 50% of their monthly income and/or those households making less than 50% of the area median income and meeting one of the conditions for "at risk of homelessness" as defined in 20 CFR 91.5.

OK, so I'd like to take a moment to outline how we are utilizing HOME-ARP funding throughout Hamilton County.

And another brief note, we are speaking of the American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA.

The county also has general ARPA funds that are administered out of another office.

This fund in particular would be through the Community Development Division.

So I just wanted to note that there are two separate funding sources, and so for the HOME-ARP eligible activities as allocated by the county would be \$1,000,000 towards supportive services, currently \$400,000 toward the acquisition and development of non-congregate shelters, development of affordable rental housing in the amount of \$3.3 million and had previously been 3.7 million.

However, we were able to identify, as explained in these substantial amendment conversation, that \$400,000 would go for non-congregate shelter at this time and that amount was taken from the development of affordable rental housing.

And then we have \$273,000 toward nonprofit operating.

And finally, \$491,367 toward administration and planning and giving us a total of a little over \$5.4 million.

So just real quick, we're going to go over a couple of the current activities that are out there in the ether.

First is non-congregate shelter. Non-congregate shelter is defined as one or more buildings that provide units or rooms that which are private for temporary shelter to serve individuals and families that meet one or more of the definitions of qualifying population and do not require occupants to sign a lease or occupancy agreement.

These eligible costs cover new construction or rehabilitation or it could cover acquisition only as long as that facility is able to be up and running with no rehabilitation required relatively soon, within a few months.

Please just visit the CD website for a little bit more about the non-congregate shelter funding opportunities and how to get in contact with us to start that the application process.

Next, we have our nonprofit operating funding. A NOFA for these funds was released on March 5th of this year.

Applications are being reviewed for eligibility on a rolling basis and will be reviewed for award by the Community Development Advisory Committee at the end of the 30 day obligatory open period.

As I stated, the NOFA must run for a minimum of 30 days.

The organizations that apply must serve one or more of the qualifying populations. Funding cannot be used for shelter operations as general Shelter operations are not allowed under HOME-ARP.

And the application for the funding cannot be program specific. That is, this is for general operating costs. You know, kind of the keeping the lights on, paying the administrative staff kind of costs.

The final requirement is that recipients of awards of this funding must be reasonably believed to be awarded from other home art eligible categories within the next 24 months. So projects say like a non-congregate shelter project, a supportive service or affordable rental housing and as a requisite within the application we do require that applicants outline a plan for a program or project which they will apply for in the future for this funding.

And just to let you all know that application is currently open and due to close tomorrow.

So you can find that application on the Hamilton County Community Development website and it'll be listed under HOME-ARP.

BJ

Berghaus, Jake 14:37

And of course, if you have questions, you're welcome to reach out to myself or Jake to guide you through that process before the NOFA closes.

In addition to that, NOFA, so just to give a another general background or some information, a NOFA would be a notice of funding availability.

So we also have traditionally have RFPs, the request for proposals, and having more of a competitive process. Because the funding is so limited for nonprofit operating, we decided that it was best to accept applications on the rolling basis and then once our community Development Advisory Committee has made decisions on those applications, we would make the announcement for awards.

In addition to that, we are also planning to release two requests for proposals over the next two years for supportive Services, one being spring of this year.

So 2024 and spring of 2025, the goal of those RFP's for supportive services would be that we could leverage the funding opportunities with our Community development block grant nonprofit RFP, which is also released in the spring and that would push more funding out of the door or out of our division to support nonprofit organizations, especially those that are supporting our most vulnerable community members.

We also plan a notice of funding availability to be released for the development of affordable rental housing to happen in the fall, and that would also be released into

tandem or very closely to the HOME RFP. So that we're also leveraging the opportunity for more dollars to be pushed into rental housing alongside our traditional funding sources.

And that NOFA is anticipated to go out in the fall or winter of 2024.

And Please note that there will be separate Q&A sessions that will be held for both supportive services and rental housing.

Going into the next slide, we do open up time today for you all to ask questions to myself and Jake regarding the HOME-ARP program, specifically for non-congregate shelter and nonprofit operating.

We welcome some questions about supportive services.

However, we have not developed the RFP for that funding source yet, so there may be some inconsistency and we want to be sure that we're giving you the most accurate response.

So we will stop sharing and open the floor for questions.

J **Jamie Green - Found House** 18:02

I have a quick question on the non-congregate shelter.

It talks about private sheltering.

What about if they had private bedrooms, but shared a kitchen?

Is that still considered non-congregate?

BJ **Berghaus, Jake** 18:16

The kitchen facility can be shared, bathroom facilities cannot.

They have to have private in-room, bathroom facilities or sanitary facilities.

J **Jamie Green - Found House** 18:29

Right.

So private bedrooms and private bathrooms but shared common areas.

BJ **Berghaus, Jake** 18:34

Yes.

J **Jamie Green - Found House** 18:36

Wonderful.

Also on the residency for supportive services, if you have a family who lives outside the city of Cincinnati, but within the course of the program, they move, how does how is it with defining a program?

Can the program have both in city and out of city residents, or does the program have to be completely outside the city?

BJ **Berghaus, Jake** 19:07

So it doesn't have to be completely outside of the city.

So we understand that because of the qualifying populations, there will be some movement. The preference would be though is that this is a resident that has come out of Hamilton County.

So within the 43 participating jurisdictions, excuse me, and/or going to Hamilton County throughout the 43 participating jurisdictions.

So and again you would we understand that you would be serving or anyone would be serving city and county residents.

But what we're monitoring would be the influx of someone from the county coming for services or going to one of the 43 participating jurisdictions to be permanently housed or something of that nature.

J **Jamie Green - Found House** 19:47

Yeah.

BJ **Berghaus, Jake** 19:59

So essentially, if they're initially it, when you initially qualify them as a member of a qualifying population, and like you know, getting all the eligibility on that initial qualification, that's generally what we are looking for is them to be residents or going to be going to be residents of the participating jurisdictions.

So say you had someone who was a resident of a participating jurisdiction came into shelter or whatever, lost their housing, and you were administering services to them and you were able to house them and their housing placement was in the city. We would not want you to stop those services to that household.

Purely because they got a housing placement and that happened to be in the city.

So it's more on that kind of that initial qualification.

Or with the housing.

If the housing if they're going to be placed in a housing development that's

announced, you know, participating jurisdiction and there will be some with the rental housing, that'll be a little more kind of hashed out in the fall when we when we release that RFP and kind of what the specifics are, our preference is the development of those units will be within our 43 participating jurisdictions. But we do also know that generally, and do this with our regular HOME program, fund projects within the city. They just they have to meet a basically funding commitment from the city and certain other metrics which would be generally it's permanent supportive housing as what we will fund in the city.

J **Jamie Green - Found House** 21:54

Right.

Well, as those opportunities come up, I probably would want to talk offline to make sure that we can follow the metrics correctly.

BJ **Berghaus, Jake** 22:02

Yep.

Umm.

J **Jamie Green - Found House** 22:04

OK, awesome.

SM **Shonda McMillian** 22:12

Will the presentation be posted?

BJ **Berghaus, Jake** 22:16

Yes.

So we will. I'm going to be getting the presentation posted.

BJ **Berghaus, Jake** 22:20

It is being recorded and we will also outline all questions in the form of an FAQ, so there will be a document that would house all of the questions asked today.

SM **Shonda McMillian** 22:34

OK.

And how long do you think it'll be for?

That'll be out a week or two?

BJ **Berghaus, Jake** 22:39

I mean, I would hope or I'm aiming to have that all up, by Friday at the very latest.

SM **Shonda McMillian** 22:45

OK, perfect.

Thank you very much.

BJ **Berghaus, Jake** 22:47

You're very welcome.

Any other questions or?

And I know what the nonprofit operating application a closing tomorrow, there could be some that arise.

So you all are welcome to shoot over an email.

Umm in the meantime too, we're happy to keep this chat.

Kind of open and Jake and I'll hang out until noon.

So if you hop off and decided you have something to ask, you can join us again and we're happy to address the questions at this time.

N **NCBAE** 23:28

Hi, everyone.

Hi LaChe' I do have a question.

You said the nonprofit operating cost portal closes tomorrow.

When will people who apply for that know if they received it or not?

BJ **Berghaus, Jake** 23:41

Absolutely.

So we will have our HOME-ARP subcommittee, which is a small branch of the Community Development Advisory Committee, review those applications next week.

They will have to get a consensus from the full committee and their next meeting would be April 18th.

We would anticipate making those announcements either Friday the 19th or that next Monday.

N **NCBAE** 24:12

Thank you.

BJ **Berghaus, Jake** 24:13

You're welcome.

Other questions?

Well, Jake and I will hang out here until noon.

We understand if you need to have off and again if you would like to rejoin a prior to that time, feel free.

BJ **Berghaus, Jake** 24:39

And then after 12:00 o'clock, you can shoot us an email and we'll have this all uploaded.

Hopefully by Friday.

Yeah.

And if you have also if you have any need for our email, those are posted to the HOME-ARP section of the county's community development website and you can just shoot LaChe, myself, or Maria an email.

If you have any specific questions that you would like answered in that format, or you know after this meeting.

And I can put that link in each chance.

BJ **Berghaus, Jake** 25:39

You're welcome.

Thank you for joining us.