



Franklin County  
Board of Commissioners

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

# HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

Franklin County Department of  
Economic Development & Planning

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Columbus, OH 42315

Franklin County, Ohio  
**HOME-ARP Allocation Plan**

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## Introduction

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.

To address the critical need for homelessness assistance and supportive services across the country, Congress appropriated \$5 billion in ARPA funds to be administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the HOME Investment Partnerships program to carry out activities that **must primarily benefit qualifying individuals and families** who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, and other vulnerable populations as defined by HUD.

HOME-ARP funds can be used for four the **eligible activities** of (1) development and support of affordable housing, (2) tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA), (3) provision of supportive services, and (4) acquisition and development of non-congregate shelter units.

As a HOME program participating jurisdiction (PJ), Franklin County received \$3,158,302 to benefit our community's qualifying populations. The Allocation Plan describes the County's intended use and distribution of the HOME-ARP funds and identifies any preferences for eligible activities as required in [HUD Notice CPD-21-10](#). The development of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan has been informed through stakeholder consultation and community engagement.

## Consultation

### Summary of Consultation Process Including Methods Used and Dates of Consultation

Franklin County's Office of Economic Development and Planning consulted with a wide range of housing services providers including all required agencies and service providers listed in CPD-21-10. This cumulative contact list included **110 local housing and service provider agencies**, including but not limited to members of the City of Columbus and Franklin County Continuum of Care (CoC), homeless service providers, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking service providers, veteran's groups, the public housing agency serving the County's geographic area (Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority), public agencies that address the needs of the qualifying populations, and both public/private organizations that address fair housing, civil rights, and the needs of persons with disabilities.

All of those included in the consultation contact list were invited to participate in both the HOME-ARP online survey and the virtual stakeholder input meeting. Franklin County's community development administrator emailed the contact list on four occasions leading into, during and after the open survey period and virtual meeting. Examples of these email communications are included within as Appendix A HOME-ARP Communication Materials. Any responses, questions or comments were quickly responded to by the Franklin County staff.

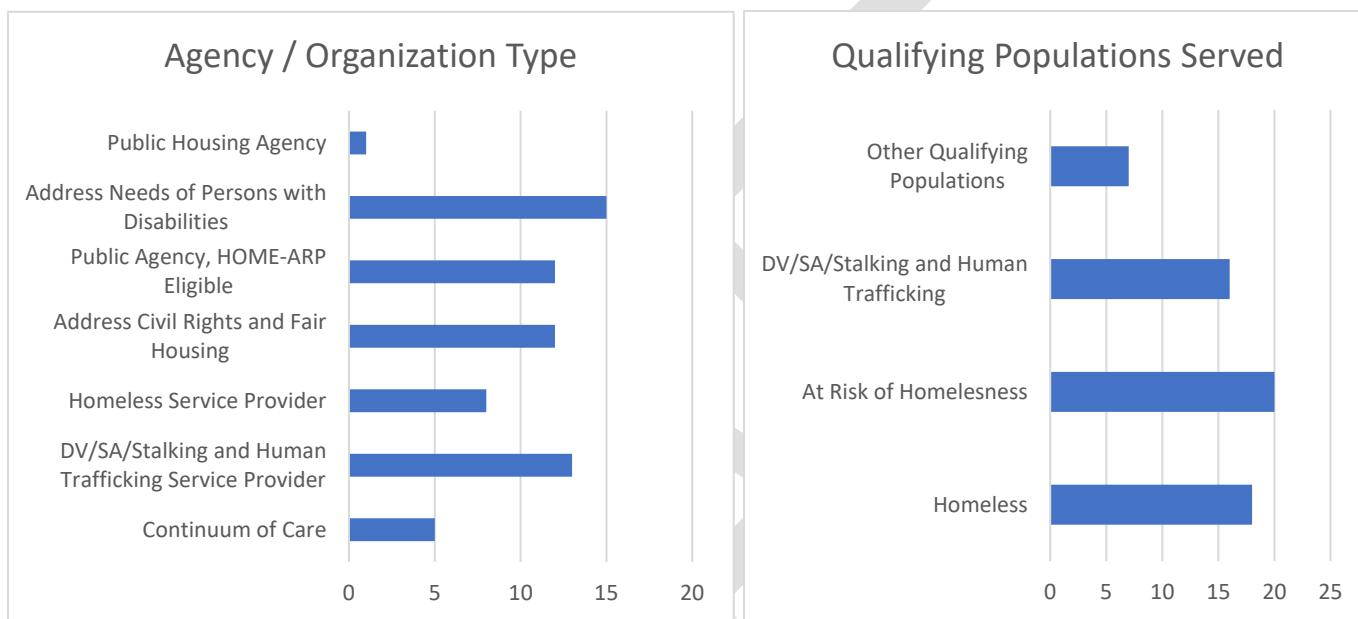
### SURVEY

The Franklin County HOME-ARP survey was open for the three-week period of Monday December 12<sup>th</sup> through Friday December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. **The survey was sent to the complete consultation contact list and was completed by 26 stakeholders from 22 distinct organizations and agencies.** Respondents completed 11 required questions, followed by two optional open-ended questions and the option to upload community data sets or reports to

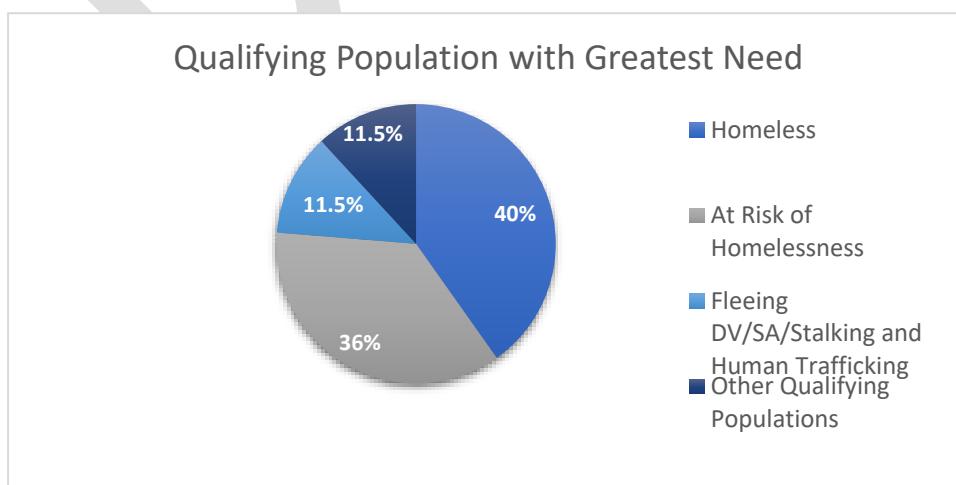
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support the HOME-ARP planning process. The complete survey is included within as Appendix B HOME-ARP Survey.

The initial four questions of the survey collected the name, agency or organization, position title, and contact information of respondents. These initial questions ensured each respondent was part of the intended survey stakeholder group. The next set of questions provided important information on the respondent's organizations and the clients they serve. The respondents represented all of the HUD required stakeholder groups and served all of the qualifying populations. As shown below, agencies / organizations that work with those experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness were represented the most in the survey responses.

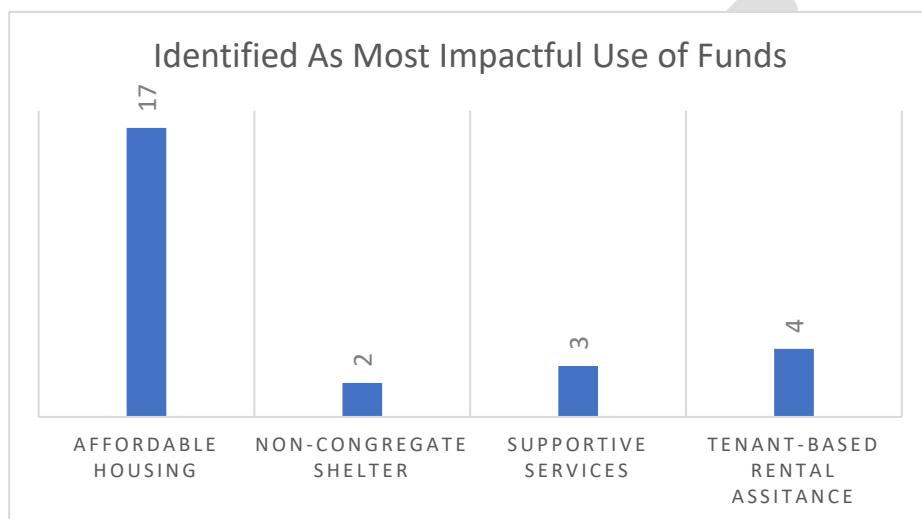
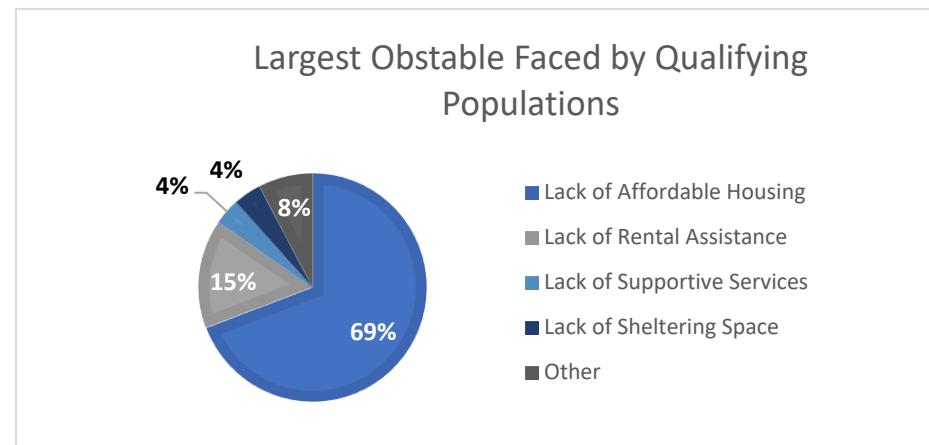


Respondents were instructed to identify which of the qualifying populations have the current highest level of need in the County. They were instructed to select only one qualifying population of the four eligible under HUD's requirements. As shown in the graph below, most respondents, **39%, chose those currently experiencing homelessness as the population in greatest need**, this was closely followed by those at risk of homelessness, 35%. Other qualifying populations and those fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking were both chosen by 11.5% of respondents. Lastly the remaining respondents chose other populations who need supportive services for homelessness prevention.



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The vast majority of respondents identified **lack of affordable housing as the largest obstacle for their clients**, followed by lack of rental assistance and then supportive services. Respondents that identified "other" as their selection commented that all options presented are equal and lack of access to "Housing First" model housing due to ongoing active substance use, issues with identification, open court cases, etc.



Respondents heavily favored the **creation of affordable house as the most impactful use of funding**. This data point supports the above-mentioned obstacle that community members in the County are facing of lack of affordable housing. The survey results show that affordable housing was followed by tenant-based rental assistance, supportive services and non-congregate shelter respectively.

In addition to the data provided above, survey respondents were given the option to reply to the two open ended questions; "What are your ideas for housing projects?", and "How can the County ensure impactful use of funds?". The responses to the open-ended questions have been integrated into the [List of Organizations Consulted, Method of Consultation and Summarized Survey Feedback](#) section.

### VIRTUAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT MEETING

Franklin County hosted a virtual stakeholder engagement meeting on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022. This meeting was **attended by 15 stakeholders representing 15 distinct agencies and organizations**. The goals of the stakeholder meeting were to bring together housing services stakeholders to discuss HOME-ARP funding, request data and input on current housing needs and ensure that the Franklin County community receives the most possible benefit from the funding allocated. The Franklin County team reviewed the stakeholders invited, introduced the HOME-ARP funding source, qualified populations, eligible activities and the allocation plan timeline.

Stakeholders in the meeting were encouraged to complete the HOME-ARP survey, provide data to support the allocation plan and to stay engaged in the planning process. The Franklin County staff provided their contact information and stated their intentions to reach out to all stakeholders again to participate in the public comment period planned for February 2023.

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**LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED, METHOD OF CONSULTATION AND SUMMARIZED SURVEY FEEDBACK**

The County has organized consultation outcomes by respondent organization or agency below, including all responses to the open-ended questions from survey responses.

<b>Agency/Org Consulted</b>	<b>Type of Agency/Org</b>	<b>Populations Served</b>	<b>Method of Consultation</b>	<b>Summarized Feedback</b>
<b>ADAMH Board of Franklin Co.</b>	Columbus/Franklin County Continuum of Care (CoC) board member, Public agency that addresses the needs of the HOME-ARP eligible populations	Franklin Co. residents in need of behavioral health services	Survey, Stakeholder Engagement Session	Identified most impactful use of funds as production or preservation of affordable housing. Attended the virtual stakeholder engagement session. Highlighted that there is insufficient housing stock for those at or below 30% AMI. Stakeholder suggested understanding what is already available and working in the community is essential so that there is not unnecessary duplication.
<b>Advocating Opportunity</b>	Public or private organization that addresses civil rights and fair housing, Public agency that addresses the needs of the HOME-ARP Eligible populations	Homeless individuals/families, individuals/families at risk of homelessness, those fleeing/attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking	Survey	Identified most impactful use of funds as production or preservation of affordable housing. Commented that the reason for the increased homeless population in Columbus is a direct result of housing that prices out lower income individuals and families. Shared that is difficult to refer trafficking survivors in need of housing to shelters when they are full.
<b>Affordable Housing Trust Corporation</b>	Columbus/Franklin County Continuum of Care (CoC) board member	Homeless individuals/families, individuals/families at risk of homelessness, other families requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness or at greatest risk of housing instability	Survey	Identified most impactful use of funding as production or preservation of affordable housing. Commented that the lack of available rental units is the largest issue. Suggested funding existing LIHTC allocations that need assistance with filling gaps due to increased interest rates and increased construction costs.
<b>Alvis, Inc.</b>	Public agency that addresses the needs of the HOME-ARP eligible populations, Public or private organization that addresses the needs of persons with disabilities	Individuals/families at risk of homelessness, those fleeing/attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking	Survey	Identified most impactful use of funds as production or preservation of affordable housing. Alvis shared that transitional housing would be a beneficial use of funds to allow individuals to maintain sobriety, employment, and eventually independent living.
<b>Bhutanese Community Central Ohio</b>	Domestic violence service provider, Franklin County/Columbus Continuum of Care (CoC) member, Homeless service provider  Public agency that addresses the needs of the HOME-ARP eligible populations, Public or private organization that addresses civil rights and fair housing, Public or private organization that addresses the needs of persons with disabilities	Homeless individuals/families, individuals/families at risk of homelessness, those fleeing/attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, other families requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness or at greatest risk of housing instability, veterans and/or families who qualify in any of the above categories	Survey, Stakeholder Engagement Session	Identified most impactful use of funds as tenant-based rental assistance. Attended virtual stakeholder engagement session. The stakeholder understands that the long-term solution would be affordable housing, however tenant-based rental assistance could prevent homelessness in the short-term.



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<b>City of Columbus</b>	Franklin County/Columbus Continuum of Care (CoC) board member, Public agency that addresses the needs of the HOME-ARP eligible populations, Public or private organization that addresses civil rights and fair housing, Public or private organization that addresses the needs of persons with disabilities	Homeless individuals/families, individuals/families at risk of homelessness, those fleeing/attempts to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, other families requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness or at greatest risk of housing instability, veterans and/or families who qualify in any of the above categories	Survey	Identified the most impactful uses of funding as production or preservation of affordable housing and purchase and development of non-congregate shelter. Would like for Franklin County and the City of Columbus to collaborate in their use of HOME-ARP funds. Suggested Family Permanent Supportive Housing, services of individuals and families earning less than \$50,000 annually and the development of housing for pregnant/parenting single head of households as used of funding. Commented that stop-gap transitional/mobile housing developments provide relief to the system and a respectful place to stay for those stuck in limbo due to lack of deeply affordable housing.
<b>Clintonville-Beechwold Community Resources Center</b>	Public or private organization that addresses civil rights and fair housing, Public or private organization that addresses the needs of persons with disabilities	Homeless individuals/families, individuals/families at risk of homelessness, those fleeing/attempts to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, other families requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness or at greatest risk of housing instability	Survey, Stakeholder Engagement Session	Identified the most impactful use of funding as tenant-based rental assistance, because they work heavily with older individuals, who are particularly vulnerable to victimization in shelters. Attended the virtual stakeholder engagement session.
<b>Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority</b>	Franklin County/Columbus Continuum of Care (CoC) member, Public Housing Agency (PHA), Public agency that addresses the needs of the HOME-ARP eligible populations	Homeless individuals/families, individuals/families at risk of homelessness, those fleeing/attempts to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, other families requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness or at greatest risk of housing instability, veterans and/or families who qualify in any of the above categories	Survey	Identified the most impactful use of funding as supportive services. As the housing authority, CMHA noted a lack of coordination in serving residents. While they have access to affordable housing and rental assistance, it is important for these individuals achieve self-sufficiency through supportive services.
<b>Columbus State Community College</b>	Public agency that addresses the needs of the HOME-ARP eligible populations	College students at greatest risk of housing instability	Survey, Stakeholder Engagement Session	Identified most impactful use of funds as production or preservation of affordable housing. While they provide some rental assistance to their students, the current housing rates will continue to pose a challenge. Suggest more housing counseling programs to support community members as their income grows. Attended the virtual stakeholder engagement session.

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Columbus Urban League	Homeless service provider, Public agency that addresses the needs of the HOME-ARP eligible populations, Public or private organization that addresses civil rights and fair housing, Public or private organization that addresses the needs of persons with disabilities	Homeless individuals/families, individuals/families at risk of homelessness, those fleeing/attempts to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, other families requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness or at greatest risk of housing instability, veterans and/or families who qualify in any of the above categories	Survey, Stakeholder Engagement Session	Identified most impactful use of funds as production or preservation of affordable housing. Suggested funds be used to gather current housing inventory, develop low income housing, and convert commercial buildings into affordable housing. Attended the virtual stakeholder engagement session.
Columbus Veterans Association	Franklin County/Columbus Continuum of Care (CoC) member, Homeless service provider	Veterans and/or families who qualify in any of the above categories	Survey	Identified most impactful use of funding as production or preservation of affordable housing. Noted that although housing vouchers exist, the lack of available housing is constricted. Commented that non-congregate housing is needed for couples and those with pets, as well as emergency housing for those with sex offenses.
Community Housing Network	Franklin County/Columbus Continuum of Care (CoC) member, Homeless service provider, Public or private organization that addresses the needs of persons with disabilities	Homeless individuals/families, individuals/families at risk of homelessness, those fleeing/attempts to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, other families requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness or at greatest risk of housing instability, veterans and/or families who qualify in any of the above categories	Survey, Stakeholder Engagement Session	Identified most impactful use of funds as production or preservation of affordable housing, specifically for those who have a fixed or low income. Noted a need for housing options for those with a 20% AMI fixed income, or extremely low income at or below 30% AMI. Attended the virtual stakeholder engagement session.
Community Shelter Board	Columbus/Franklin County Continuum of Care (CoC) member, Public agency that addresses the needs of the HOME-ARP eligible populations, Public or private organization that addresses the needs of persons with disabilities	Homeless individuals/families, individuals/families at risk of homelessness	Survey, Stakeholder Engagement Session	Identified most impactful use of funds as production or preservation of affordable housing. Suggested re-development of vacant hotels/motels into affordable housing units as a use of funds. Attended the virtual stakeholder engagement session.



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<b>Equitas Health</b>	Domestic violence service provider, Franklin County/Columbus Continuum of Care (CoC) member, Homeless service provider, Public agency that addresses the needs of the HOME-ARP eligible populations, Public or private organization that addresses the needs of persons with disabilities	Homeless individuals/families, individuals/families at risk of homelessness, those fleeing/attempts to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, other families requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness or at greatest risk of housing instability, veterans and/or families who qualify in any of the above categories, Franklin County residents living with HIV	Survey	Identified the most impactful uses of funding as production or preservation of affordable housing and purchase and tenant-based rental assistance. Suggested Converting hotels into long term and transitional housing units, evaluating foreclosed and abandoned apartment building across the city to determine if they can be renovated to be able to be safe and affordable housing. Commented that there are populations that do not feel safe accessing traditional congregate shelters, particularly trans and non-binary folk, and folk living with HIV. Non-congregate shelter would allow folk to feel safe and to access the housing system and supports that they need to become independently and stably housed more quickly more quickly and efficiently. Recommended joint ventures to provide housing education/employment services and longer-term housing/rental assistance.
<b>Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services (ETSS)</b>	Domestic violence service provider	Those fleeing/attempts to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking	Survey	Identified most impactful use of funds as supportive services, specifically for survivors of domestic violence. Commented that the County needs to ensure collaborative effort and provide a culturally responsive services.
<b>Franklin County Board of Commissioners</b>	Local government official	Homeless individuals/families Individuals/families at risk of homelessness Other families requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness or at greatest risk of housing instability	Stakeholder Engagement Session	Attended the virtual stakeholder engagement session.
<b>Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services</b>	Franklin County/Columbus Continuum of Care (CoC) member, Public agency that addresses the needs of the HOME-ARP eligible populations	Homeless individuals/families, individuals/families at risk of homelessness, other families requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness or at greatest risk of housing instability, Franklin County families on public benefits	Survey, Stakeholder Engagement Session	Identified most impactful use of funds as production or preservation of affordable housing. Attended the virtual stakeholder engagement session. Noted that with increasing rent costs, families that have never received public assistance before are having to seek them out. Recommended rental subsidies tied to things such as continuous employment that allow families to save money and be better equipped to handle emergencies that might otherwise leave them in debt.
<b>Furniture Bank of Central Ohio</b>	Domestic violence service provider, Homeless service provider	Homeless individuals/families Those fleeing/attempts to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking Veterans and/or their families who qualify in	Stakeholder Engagement Session	Attended the virtual stakeholder engagement session.

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		any of the above categories		
Lutheran Social Faith Mission-Homeless Shelter and Services	Homeless and Domestic Violence Service Providers	Homeless individuals/families, individuals/families at risk of homelessness, families requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness or at greatest risk of housing instability,	Stakeholder Engagement Session	Attended the virtual stakeholder engagement session.
National Affordable Housing Trust	Public or private organization that addresses civil rights and fair housing, Public or private organization that addresses the needs of persons with disabilities	Homeless individuals/families, individuals/families at risk of homelessness, families requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness or at greatest risk of housing instability, veterans and/or families who qualify in any of the above categories, Franklin County residents with low to moderate incomes including seniors	Survey	Identified most impactful use of funding as production or preservation of affordable housing.
Neighborhood Services, Inc.	Homeless and Domestic Violence Service Providers	Homeless individuals/families Individuals/families at risk of homelessness Other families requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness or at greatest risk of housing instability Those fleeing/attempts to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking Veterans and/or their families who qualify in any of the above categories	Stakeholder Engagement Session	Attended the virtual stakeholder engagement session.
Ohio Hispanic Coalition	Domestic violence service provider	Those fleeing/attempts to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking	Survey	Identified most impactful use of funds as supportive services. The Latino/Hispanic community is in need of bilingual and bicultural supportive case management in the housing space.

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<b>Sanctuary Night</b>	Public or private organization that addresses the needs of persons with disabilities	Homeless individuals/families, individuals/families at risk of homelessness, those fleeing/attempts to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking	Survey, Stakeholder Engagement Session	Identified most impactful use of funding as purchase and development of non-congregate shelter. Attended the virtual stakeholder engagement session. Suggested the use of old hotels/schools to house women in efficiency 1-5 year apartments to assist existing programming.
<b>The Community Builders, Inc.</b>	Public or private organization that addresses civil rights and fair housing, Public or private organization that addresses the needs of persons with disabilities	Homeless individuals/families Individuals/families at risk of homelessness Other families requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness or at greatest risk of housing instability	Stakeholder Engagement Session	Attended the virtual stakeholder engagement session.
<b>The Legal Aid Society Columbus</b>	Franklin County/Columbus Continuum of Care (CoC) member, Public or private organization that addresses civil rights and fair housing, Public or private organization that addresses the needs of persons with disabilities	Homeless individuals/families, individuals/families at risk of homelessness, those fleeing/attempts to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, other families requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness or at greatest risk of housing instability, veterans and/or families who qualify in any of the above categories	Survey	Identified most impactful use of funding as production or preservation of affordable housing. Commented that current Rental assistance programs have been helpful in many eviction cases as a way to keep poor tenants from becoming homeless to begin with.
<b>Woda Cooper Companies, Inc.</b>	Public or private organization that addresses civil rights and fair housing, Public or private organization that addresses the needs of persons with disabilities	Homeless individuals/families Individuals/families at risk of homelessness Other families requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness or at greatest risk of housing instability Those fleeing/attempts to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking Veterans and/or their families who qualify in any of the above categories	Survey, Stakeholder Engagement Session	Identified most impactful use of funds as production or preservation of affordable housing because the current demand for affordable housing cannot be filled fast enough. Attended the virtual stakeholder engagement session. Suggested funds be used as gap financing to help offset rising construction costs and a rising interest rate environmental. Unlike market rate developments, affordable housing rents are capped so as rates rise, affordable housing deals cannot support as much debt.

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Agency/Org Consulted	Type of Agency/Org	Populations Served	Method of Consultation	Summarized Feedback
YMCA of Central Ohio	Domestic violence service provider, Franklin County/Columbus Continuum of Care (CoC) member, Homeless service provider, Public agency that addresses the needs of the HOME-ARP eligible populations, Public or private organization that addresses civil rights and fair housing, Public or private organization that addresses the needs of persons with disabilities	Homeless individuals/families Individuals/families at risk of homelessness Other families requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness or at greatest risk of housing instability Those fleeing/attempts to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking	Survey	Identified most impactful use of funding as production or preservation of affordable housing and tenant-based rental assistance. Suggested conversion of hotels, reducing barriers for developers, and working with communities to eliminate bias regarding individuals in poverty. With an over-whelmed shelter system, the YWCA recommended this use of funding as a way to prevent homelessness.

## Public Participation

### Public Participation Process

The County understands the importance of receiving input from the public as part of the HOME-ARP allocation planning process. County staff provided residents with reasonable notice of one week to participate in the open comment period and attend the public hearing. Each of the 100+ stakeholders engaged in the consultation process were sent the draft plan directly via email and invited to attend the public hearing. To encourage public participation the County provided an option to participate in the meeting virtually, this meeting link was shared in all communications about the meeting.

The public hearing was held in person at an accessible and centrally located County building. All flyers and promotional materials for the meeting included contact information to request additional accommodations needed for persons with disabilities and limited English proficient (LEP) residents.

**DATE OF PUBLIC NOTICE: FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: FEBRUARY 13<sup>TH</sup> – 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**

**DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING: FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**

### Efforts to Broaden Public Participation

To broaden public participation the County posted the request for plan feedback on the home page of the County website and provided an option to attend the meeting virtually. The County also created an easily completed online form to submit feedback on the draft plan. For accessibility to those most vulnerable in the community, the form does not require respondents to have email addresses and can be viewed and used via mobile device.

### Summary of Comments and Recommendations in Public Participation Process

To be included after public comment period and public hearing.

### Summary of Comments and Recommendations Not Accepted

To be included after public comment period and public hearing.

## Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis

### Size and Demographic Composition of Qualifying Populations in Franklin County

Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

As mandated by HUD, all Continuums of Care are required to submit a census of the homeless population in their area. This inventory data was collected by The Community Shelter Board (CSB) to compose the size and demographic of the homeless population in Franklin County. Below we discuss data provided by CSB in their System and Program Indicator Report FY2022, which covers the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

In this report, CSB identifies three emergency shelter types: family, women's, and men's. In the 2022 fiscal year, 709 households were served in family shelters. Of these 709 households, 94% were female head of households. The race and/or ethnicity of the heads of household were 69% black, 25% white, 5% multi-racial, and 1% other. In men's emergency shelters, 3,249 individuals were served, of which 247 were Veterans. Of the men served, 61% were black, 31% were white, 5% were multi-racial, and 2% were other ethnicities. The age range with the highest

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percentage of individuals served was men aged 35-44 years. 1,485 single women were served in emergency women's shelters. Of these women, 52% were black, 39% were white, 8% were multi-racial, and 1% were other. The average age of these women was 43 years old.

At Risk of Homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

As defined by HUD, at risk of homelessness, is an individual or family who has an income below the 30% Area Medium Family Income (AMI), do not have sufficient resources or support networks to prevent homelessness, or have housing instability. According to the [HUD Income Limit Report](#) in Franklin County for the year 2022 was \$19,700 for 1 person, \$22,500 for 2 people, \$25,300 for 3 people, \$28,100 for 4 people, and \$30,350 for 5 people.

According to Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy data compiled by HUD for the years 2015 through 2019, there are 58,070 people with a household income that is less than or equal to 30% of AMI. The reported individuals are housed, 17,395 or 30% own the home they live in, while 40,675 or 70% are renters.

Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking, as defined by HUD in the Notice

Domestic violence is any form of violence or abuse that occurs in a domestic setting, whereas dating violence is violence that occurs by at least one member within a dating relationship. It is often challenging to document the size and demographic of these populations for safety reasons; therefore, they are often underreported.

As reported by the [Franklin County Forensic Science Center](#), there has been a steady increase in domestic violence in the past years. They reported that from 2018 to 2021 there was a 166.7% increase in domestic violence cases. COVID-19 may have been a factor for such a jump in cases, due to stay-at-home orders making it difficult for victims to have time away from their abusers to seek out help. For both men and women, intimate partner violence encompasses the most cases. During the three years reported in their studies, there were 90 cases of domestic violence reported, 61% of victims were African American/Black, 30% were white, and 10% were other races. In situations of child-parent, family, parent-child, and other cases, men are more likely to be involved in domestic violence; however, in intimate partner, or dating violence, women are more likely to be victims. The Franklin County Blueprint for Safety reported 33,462 911 domestic violence calls in 2022. They also reported 4,604 domestic violence misdemeanors and 411 domestic violence felonies filed. LSS CHOICES, a domestic violence service provider in Columbus, reported that they served 827 unduplicated domestic violence survivors in shelter during 2022. Of these sheltered individuals, 470 were black, 180 were white, 37 were Hispanic, 134 were other races, and 6 are unknown. The largest portion of these survivors were children consuming 53% of the population, 45% were women, and 2% were men. Most of the individuals reported English as their primary language, but 149 are reported as speaking another language primarily. In addition to these 827 individuals, their community-facing programs served 603 individuals experiencing domestic violence.

Ohio ranks fifth in the nation for human trafficking as reported by the Ohio Department of Health. Another report by the US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Ohio, reported the second-highest number of defendants charged with human trafficking in the US. In a 2020 study done by the [Ohio Attorney General](#) on human trafficking, it was identified that 147 of 148 potential victims were women. The largest portion of these victims were aged 21-29. Of these potential victims, 68% were white, 22% were black, 8% were Asian/Pacific Islander, and 1% were unknown.

Franklin County, Ohio  
**HOME-ARP Allocation Plan**

Other populations requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness and other populations at greatest risk of housing instability as defined by HUD in the Notice

As defined in 212(a) of NAHA (42 U.S.C. 12742(a)), these are populations that require services or housing to prevent homelessness yet do not qualify under any of the other populations listed above. The data below, provided by the Community Shelter Board, represents a portion of these populations as of July 2019. These individuals who use or are on waiting lists for public and subsidized housing could be at risk of experiencing homelessness, but do not fall within the other qualifying populations.

Assistance Type	In use	On waiting list
Public Housing Units	1,002	3,623
Section 8 Subsidized Housing Vouchers	11,722	1,955

Other populations that are at risk of housing instability are the elderly and persons with disabilities. According to the [American Community Survey](#), there are 167,514 people 65 and over in Franklin County. 43.5% of this population are male, and 56.5% are female. The elderly population is considered at risk of homelessness because most of the population relies on a fixed income, while housing costs continue to increase. The Ohio State University's College of Social Work reported that the elderly in Franklin County need at minimum \$35,484 a year to afford basic necessities. 38% of the elderly population are living below that amount. The median annual income for this population is actually \$20,223, putting them at risk of experiencing homelessness. The Ohio Housing Finance Agency reported 57% of elderly residents in Franklin County who rent are spending over 30% of their income on housing expenses and 23% of those who own their homes are paying over 30% of their income on housing expenses. As reported in the 2021 ACS, there are 149,479 people (11.4% of the population) with a disability living in Franklin County.

Veterans are another population that require services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness in Franklin County. As of the 2021 census there are 59,227 veterans residing in Franklin County. The US Department of Veteran's Affairs reports that up to 450 Veterans become homeless every year in the US.

#### Current Resources Available to Assist Qualifying Populations

Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

Provided by the CSB, the table below demonstrates the capacity of the emergency shelters in Franklin County. In addition to these emergency shelters, there are a number of additional non-emergency shelters that service Franklin County. In total, the Community Shelter Board along with a system of providers throughout the county served over 15,000 individuals in providing shelter and other homeless services.

## Franklin County, Ohio HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

FY2023 Emergency Shelter System Providers and Capacity

Agency	Shelter Type	Regular	Regular Overflow	Total Capacity
Lutheran Social Services	Single Adult Shelter VA Emergency Housing	252	21	273
Maryhaven	Inebriate Shelter	50	6	56
Southeast, Inc.	Single Adult Shelter	160	10	170
Volunteers of America	VA Emergency Housing	15	-	15
YMCA <sup>2</sup>	Single Adult Shelter Seasonal Overflow Family Shelter	222	244	466
YWCA <sup>2</sup>	Family Shelter	50	-	50
<b>Total Capacity</b>		<b>749</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>1030</b>

According to the CSB System and Program Indicator Report for FY2022 the average daily waitlist number for emergency shelters are as follows:

- Men's Emergency Shelter System—29 Days
- Women's Emergency Shelter System—16 Days
- Family Emergency Shelter System—45 Days

At Risk of Homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

Resources to assist those at risk of homelessness are more difficult to find in comparison to those who are currently homeless. While there were programs put in place during the pandemic to provide housing assistance, these programs have ended, or will in the near future, putting this population at greater risk of becoming homeless.

Franklin County has PRC (Prevention, Retention, and Contingency) programs that provide short-term benefits to low-income families. The goal of these programs is to move them out of poverty and assist them in becoming self-sufficient. Categories of this program include emergency assistance, disaster assistance, community projects, and a temporary emergency rental assistance program that was established in response to COVID-19.

The county's [Prevention, Retention, and Contingency \(PRC\) Emergency Rental Assistance Program](#) offers multiple types of assistance to its recipients affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program has the flexibility to cover up to 100% of a resident's delinquent rent costs to get them caught up with their landlord, can help to cover the cost of up to three additional months of, and help with utilities. The program is eligible for families located within Franklin County, with at least one minor child and/or a pregnant person in the household and a household income at or below 80% AMI. The program began on June 1, 2021 and was run until the funding was exhausted.

The Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority provides housing assistance for very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled through their [Housing Choice Voucher](#) program. The purpose of this program is to allow participants to live in safe, quality affordable housing in the private market. According to a report by the CMHA, there are currently 13,582 resident vouchers in use and 696 public housing units. It is reported that there are nearly 30,000 people on the waiting list, which is currently closed to new applicants. This represents that the availability of affordable housing does not remotely meet the needs of the community.

Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking, as defined by HUD in the Notice

## Franklin County, Ohio HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

While victims of these specific populations can seek shelter from any shelter in the county, there are specific resources available to them as well. [LSS Choices](#) serves domestic violence victims in multiple ways in Franklin County. They can provide victims of domestic violence with temporary emergency shelter, counseling, legal advocates, support groups, and hotline support. This organization offers 120 beds and according to their [2020 Annual Report](#), provided 44,587 nights of shelter to those victims of domestic violence. The average length of stay at CHOICES has increased by 55% in 2022, and the average daily census of the shelter's population also is trending upwards by roughly 32%.

[Freedom A La Cart](#), located in Columbus, is a resource for survivors of sex trafficking. Each year, Freedom A La Cart provides supportive services to over four hundred survivors. Through programs like their Butterfly Program, they are able to aid survivors by providing them with long-term support that will allow them transition back into society. They provide services such as independent living assistance, employment coaching, support group meetings, case management, crisis assistance, and more. In addition, they have a court support program, as well as a workforce development program.

The CMHA recently received \$15.6 million dollars that they will put towards construction of Harriet's Hope, an affordable housing community that will serve human trafficking survivors. Harriet's Hope will include both single and two-bedroom apartments, and other amenities for its residents such as on-site computers and a laundry facility. This project will be the first of its kind in Ohio to advocate for female human-trafficking survivors. Harriet's Hope will be drug and alcohol-free to allow victims to focus on recovery and long-term sustainability. The project is expected to be completed in late 2023.

Other populations requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness and other populations at greatest risk of housing instability as defined by HUD in the Notice

The Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority owns 6 senior public housing units which encompass 570 units. In the same report, the CMHA provides that they provide 1,175 vouchers to special populations which include nonelderly disabled people.

Unmet housing and service needs of qualifying populations  
Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

The main unmet need within the county as stated by nearly all stakeholders and continuum of care throughout the county is affordable housing. The following table, provided by the Community Shelter Board, shows the large need for beds in Franklin County.

### Homeless

Franklin County, Ohio  
**HOME-ARP Allocation Plan**

	Current Inventory					Homeless Population				Gap Analysis			
	Family		Adults Only		Vets	Family HH (at least 1 child)	Adult HH (w/o child)	Vets	Victims of DV	Family		Adults Only	
	# of Beds	# of Units	# of Beds	# of Units	# of Beds	# of Beds	# of Units			# of Beds	# of Units	# of Beds	# of Units
Emergency Shelter	414	114	684	684	39								
Transitional Housing	50	20	39	39	40								
Permanent Supportive Housing	635	199	2245	2245	377								
Other Permanent Housing						261	1788	446	14				
Sheltered Homeless						163	800	72	63				
Unsheltered Homeless						4	333	19	133				
<b>Current Gap</b>										<b>1068</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>3023</b>	<b>3023</b>

At Risk of Homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

The current gap in the availability of housing for the population to use their CMHA housing vouchers is substantial within the county. With 30,000 families on the waiting list, there is a definite need for housing. The Ohio Hispanic Coalition also noted that the Latino/Hispanic community could benefit from supportive case management that is bilingual to help them resolve housing issues with their landlord more effectively.

Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking, as defined by HUD in the Notice

With cases of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking being so widely underreported, it is challenging to identify which needs are not being met. In a report by the National Network to End Domestic Violence, it is noted that in Ohio 286 victims made requests for services, 64% of which were for housing and emergency shelter, were unmet. These requests also included childcare, legal representation, and other supportive needs.

Other populations requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness and other populations at greatest risk of housing instability as defined by HUD in the Notice

Franklin County, Ohio  
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As previously mentioned in other populations, there is an unmet need for affordable housing for the elderly populations. As reported by the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging, older adults in the community struggle with the increasing housing costs, the lack of affordable housing, and limited access to emergency housing.

Veterans in the community struggle with supportive services. Although many of them can be housed in emergency shelters, they may have additional conditions and struggles that cannot be fully supported in regular shelters.

#### Gaps in Current Shelter, Housing Inventory and Service Delivery

The CHAS data below for Franklin County demonstrates the need for housing in the area in order to prevent homelessness. According to the 2015-2019 ACS data, there is a current gap of 102,730 households in need of affordable rental units. This further proves the determination of a need for affordable housing in the area.

**Housing Needs Inventory and Gap Analysis Table**

Non-Homeless			
	Current Inventory	Level of Need	Gap Analysis
	# of Units	# of Households	# of Households
Total Rental Units	238,400		
Rental Units Affordable to HH at 30% AMI (At-Risk of Homelessness)	60,215		
Rental Units Affordable to HH at 50% AMI (Other Populations)	40,675		
0%-30% AMI Renter HH w/ 1 or more severe housing problems (At-Risk of Homelessness)		48,240	
30%-50% AMI Renter HH w/ 1 or more severe housing problems (Other Populations)		30,980	
<b>Current Gaps</b>			102,730

**Suggested Data Sources:** 1. American Community Survey (ACS); 2. Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS)

Additional Characteristics Associated with Instability and Increased risk of Homelessness  
Franklin County will not include any additional conditions in its definition of other qualifying populations as established in the HOME-ARP notice.

#### Priority Needs for Qualifying Populations

In reviewing the results from the consultation process, the needs assessment, and the gaps analysis, it was determined that there is an **immense need for affordable housing in Franklin County**. Specifically, there is a critical need for additional housing units that are priced affordably for very and extremely low-income households. Each of the qualifying populations has unique and often competing immediate needs, however the **overlapping long-term need is for safe and affordable housing in the community**. The creation of affordable housing would benefit all qualifying populations by preventing at risk households from becoming homeless and providing housing availability to those who are currently homeless. The County understands that supportive services are needed to complement all housing programs. Funding will be available to provide the qualifying populations with the supportive services needed to acquire long-term housing solutions.

Franklin County, Ohio  
**HOME-ARP Allocation Plan**

## Determination of Level of Need and Gaps in Shelter, Housing and Services

Franklin County used a combination of data sources and community feedback to determine that there is an extensive need for affordable housing in the county, including the current gap of 102,730 households in need of affordable rental units and a gap of 1,068 family beds and 3,023 adult beds to address the needs of homeless individuals. In addition to data provided by the Community Shelter Board and the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority, we utilized public federal data such as the American Community Survey. When compared, the data and the feedback from continuum of care members and stakeholders align to support the need for the development of affordable housing in the County.

The County has decided to not put funding towards the other eligible activities of tenant based rental assistance and the creation of non-congregate sheltering. Although the data collected showed that there is a need for both tenant based rental assistance and non-congregate sheltering within the community, there is limited funding available through HOME-ARP and the need to create affordable housing with supportive services for the qualifying populations will meet the community's largest identified need. The County is prioritizing the creation of affordable housing as a long-term solution that will lead to, more availability in the current non-congregate shelters and tenant based rental assistance programs. The decision on how to use the HOME-ARP Funds came from data reviewed, discussions with agencies who worked with qualifying populations and public participation.

## HOME-ARP Activities

### Method of Solicitation

Franklin County will encourage HOME-ARP Program funds to be leveraged with private and public funding sources to support the development of rental housing and the provision of supportive services.

The County will solicit proposals through a competitive request for proposals process to develop and operate rental housing and provide supportive services, in accordance with HOME-ARP regulations and its own procurement rules and requirements. HOME-ARP funds will be awarded to non-profit or for-profit organizations, based on the merit of proposals or applications received prior to or during the grant implementation period.

### Administration of Eligible Activities

The County plans to use 14.5% of the allocated HOME-ARP funds on administration of eligible activities via the services of a contractor selected through a competitive request for proposals process, in line with the County's procurement rules. The envisioned roles and responsibilities for the subrecipient or contractor include but are not limited to grant management, program implementation, policy and compliance, procurement, financial administration and reporting.

**Franklin County did not use HOME-ARP funds to appoint subrecipients or contractors for the development or administration of the HOME-ARP allocation plan.**

### Use of HOME-ARP Funding

	Funding Amount	Percent of the Grant	Statutory Limit
Supportive Services	\$ 200,000		

**HOME-ARP Allocation Plan**

Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelters	\$ 0		
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	\$ 0		
Development of Affordable Rental Housing	\$ 2,508,302		
Non-Profit Operating	\$ 0	0 %	5%
Non-Profit Capacity Building	\$ 0	0 %	5%
Administration and Planning	\$ 450,000	14.25%	15%
<b>Total HOME ARP Allocation</b>	<b>\$ 3,158,302</b>		

**Distribution of Funds in Accordance with Priority Needs**

As evidenced through the consultation process, needs assessment and gap analysis, the priority need in Franklin County is the creation of affordable housing. The County has used this data to distribute majority of the available HOME-ARP funds towards lessening the current gaps and meeting this data and community determined need. Therefore, the County plans to invest \$2,508,302 in the development of affordable rental housing and \$200,000 in supportive services to help those living in the created units remain housed. The County will also utilize \$450,000 to administer the HOME-ARP funding.

**Rationale of Plan to Fund Eligible Activities**

The County's primary use of the HOME-ARP funding is to produce affordable housing. The residents of Frank County currently lack the affordable housing needed and are faced with high costs when searching in the current housing market. Based on the stakeholder responses gathered and the current homeless and housing inventories the highest prioritized use for HOME-ARP funds is to increase the supply of affordable housing available to the qualifying populations within Franklin County.

County staff understands that the qualifying populations require a wide range of services and supports to gain viable housing or remain stably housed. The data reviewed and responses from the consultation process showed that an increase in funding for supportive services is needed to complement the planned HOME-ARP housing development activity.

**HOME-ARP Production Housing Goals****Estimated Affordable Rental Housing Units**

Franklin County estimates that 8 new affordable housing units will be created using HOME-ARP funding, at an average cost of \$255,434.00 per unit. This calculation includes an estimated 20% of total cost for ongoing operating costs or operating cost assistance reserve. The units will vary in size and will include 2-bedroom units, suitable for a family of three- and one-bedroom units, suitable for a single person or couple. Additional funding has also been allocated to provide supportive services to the occupants of the units. These units will be available to all qualifying populations.

**Production Goals and Priority Needs**

Franklin County intends to work to address the large gap in available affordable supportive housing in the County via HOME-ARP program funds. Throughout the planning process the need for affordable housing has been at the forefront of the data collected and stakeholder feedback. Through the creation of additional affordable housing units, the HOME-ARP funds will establish 8 units of permanent affordable housing for County residents. The

County intends to use, when available, leveraging from other federal, state and local funding sources to increase the total number of affordable housing units produced. If other funding sources are not available, housing projects will be solely completed using HOME-ARP funding.

## Preferences

In an effort to provide opportunities to all qualified populations, the County has elected to not apply preferences among the qualifying populations.

## Implementation of Limits to Eligibility

Franklin County does not intend limit eligibility for a HOME-ARP rental housing or NCS project to a particular qualifying population or specific subpopulation of a qualifying population.

## HOME-ARP Refinancing Guidelines

Franklin County does not intend to use HOME-ARP funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily rental housing that is being rehabilitated with HOME-ARP funds.

## Appendix A | HOME-ARP Communication Materials

DRAFT



Franklin County  
Board of Commissioners

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

# Share your important feedback!



Franklin County's HOME-ARP survey is **officially open!**

Please share your important feedback before the survey closes this **Friday, December 23rd.**

Franklin County is reaching out to stakeholders, who deliver housing services to our community, requesting feedback on the use of HOME American Rescue Plan Act (HOME-ARP) funding.

Across the country, these funds are used to reduce homelessness and increase home stability. This quick survey will serve as a valuable tool in understanding the community's needs!

**Share Your Feedback!**



Franklin County  
Board of Commissioners

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
& PLANNING**

# **HOME-ARP Survey Extended!**



**Franklin County needs your  
feedback to inform the HOME-ARP  
allocation plan.**

This quick survey will serve as a valuable tool in  
understanding our community's needs.

**Share Your Feedback!**

Franklin County, Ohio  
**HOME-ARP Allocation Plan**

## Appendix B | HOME-ARP Survey

DRAFT

Name \*

Title \*

Email Address \*

Agency / Organization \*

**Agency / Organization Description \***

Select all that apply.

- Franklin County/Columbus Continuum of Care (CoC) member
- Homeless service provider
- Public Housing Agency (PHA)
- Domestic violence service provider
- Public agency that addresses the needs of the HOME-ARP eligible populations
- Public or private organization that addresses civil rights and fair housing
- Public or private organization that addresses the needs of persons with disabilities

**Select the populations your agency works with. \***

Select all that apply. This list includes all of the eligible populations within HOME-ARP funding.

- Homeless individuals/families
- Individuals/families at risk of homelessness
- Those fleeing/attempts to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking
- Other families requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness or at greatest risk of housing instability
- Veterans and/or families who qualify in any of the above categories
- Other

**What is the largest obstacle your clients face? \***

Select only one obstacle.

- Lack of Affordable Housing
- Lack of Rental Assistance
- Lack of Supportive Services
- Lack of Sheltering Space
- Other

**Select the most impactful use of HOME-ARP funding \***

Select only one use of funds.

- Production or Preservation of Affordable Housing
- Tenant-Based Rental Assistance
- Supportive Services
- Purchase and Development of Non-Congregate Shelter

**Why did you select the most impactful funding use? \***

Please explain why the funding source selected is your preferred use of HOME-ARP funding.

**Select the qualifying population with highest need \***

Select only one of the qualifying populations listed below that experiences the highest level of housing needs in the County.

- Homeless individuals/families
- Individuals/families at risk of homelessness
- Those fleeing/attempts to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking
- Other families requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness or at greatest risk of housing instability
- Veterans and/or families who qualify in any of the above categories

**Why did you select the qualified population? \***

Please explain why you selected qualifying population as experiencing the most housing needs.

**What are your ideas for housing projects?**

Do you have ideas for housing projects that the County should consider when planning for the use of these funds? Include how would you match the projects with appropriate supportive services. Please share your ideas!

**How can the County ensure impactful use of funds?**

Is there anything else you would like us to know about your clients, their needs, your agency's needs, or potential uses for the HOME-ARP funding?

**Upload community datasets and reports**

We are asking our partners to provide the data they have available to ensure the County will implement best possible use of these funds. Please upload any of the following data to inform our funding decisions:

- Data on size and composition of the qualifying populations that the consultation partner collects and reports
- Data on the shelter, housing and services inventory for the qualifying populations
- Information on existing and anticipated resources available in the community for the eligible activities
- Annual reports, strategic plans, or similar materials which may provide helpful framing about the services provided, program outcomes and long-term community