

Item #5

DEPARTMENT: Neighborhood & Housing Services Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Verónica R. Soto, FAICP, Neighborhood & Housing Services Department Director

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: City-wide

SUBJECT: Briefing on the use of HOME-American Rescue Plan (ARP) Program funds and next steps to administering the City's grant.

SUMMARY:

As part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) received \$5 billion to allocate to assist individuals or households who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, and other vulnerable populations, by providing housing, rental assistance, supportive services, and non-congregate shelter, to reduce homelessness and increase housing stability across the country. These grant funds will be administered through HUD's HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME).

The \$5 billion in HOME-ARP funds were allocated to cities, counties, and states, through a formula allocation, resulting in \$20 million allocated to the City of San Antonio. Staff will provide a briefing on the use of HOME-ARP funds and next steps to administering the City's allocation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In September 2021, HUD issued a formal notice outlining the allowable uses and other requirements for the use of HOME-ARP funds and next steps for communities to access their allocations. Unlike the traditional HOME program, these funds are to be prioritized for populations experiencing or at-risk of homelessness.

As part of the HUD-mandated process, the City must complete a needs assessment and host community input sessions prior to submitting a plan to HUD for review and acceptance. HOME-ARP funds remain available to spend until September 30, 2029.

HUD outlines the following as eligible activities with HOME-ARP funds:

- Production of Affordable Rental Housing
- Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)
- Supportive Services, Homeless Prevention Services, and Housing Counseling
- Purchase and Development of Non-Congregate Emergency Shelter

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

- Homeless (McKinney-Vento Act definition)
- At-risk of homelessness (McKinney-Vento Act definition)
- Fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking
- Other populations where providing supportive services or assistance would prevent a family's homelessness or would serve those with the greatest risk of housing instability.

ISSUE:

To access the City's HOME-ARP allocation, the City must complete a needs assessment and follow citizen participation requirements prior to submitting a plan to HUD for review and acceptance. DHS and NHSD will engage with stakeholders, including the Planning and Community Development Committee, the Housing Commission, the South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless, and providers as requested by HUD.

Staff hosted a community public input meeting on December 1 at 1400 South Flores Street and will host a second meeting on December 11 at the Mission Branch Library, 3134 Roosevelt Ave. Additionally, a Public Hearing will take place on December 15 at 5:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Consideration of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan by Council is tentatively scheduled for January 2022, which will result in Amendment #1 to the FY 2022 (PY 2021) Annual Action Plan when submitted to HUD.

ALTERNATIVES: This item is for briefing purposes only.

FISCAL IMPACT: This item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION: This item is for briefing purposes only.