



# Draft Suffolk County Consortium HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

PREPARED FOR

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# 1

## Introduction

This Allocation Plan describes how Suffolk County intends to utilize funds appropriated under section 3205 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-2) (“ARP”) for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) to provide homelessness assistance and supportive services. On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed ARP into law, which provides 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 need for homelessness assistance and supportive services, Congress appropriated \$5 billion in ARP funds to be administered through HOME to perform activities that must primarily benefit qualifying individuals and families who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or in other vulnerable populations. These activities include:

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.

The program described in this Plan is the HOME-American Rescue Plan or “HOME-ARP.”

ARP defines qualifying individuals or families as those that are (1) homeless, as defined in section 103(a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 11302(a)) (“**McKinney-Vento**”); (2) at risk of homelessness, as defined in section 401 of McKinney-Vento; (3) fleeing, or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking; (4) part of 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; or (5) veterans and families that include a veteran family member that meet the criteria in one of (1)-(4) above.

This HOME-ARP Allocation Plan describes how Suffolk County will utilize its \$2,436,367 award of HOME-ARP funds to provide assistance to Qualifying Populations. This document has been prepared based on HUD Notice CPD-21-10 (September 13, 2021) – Requirements for the Use of Funds in the HOME-American Rescue Plan Program. This Plan includes descriptions of the following:

- Consultation
- Public Participation

## Suffolk County Consortium HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

- Needs Assessment and Gaps Analysis
- HOME-ARP Activities
- HOME-ARP Production Housing Goals
- HOME-ARP Refinancing Guidelines

The Suffolk County Community Development Office is the administrative agency for HUD's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and the Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program. The County administers these programs for the Suffolk County Community Development Consortium, which is comprised of 12 municipalities for CDBG and 16 municipalities for HOME. The Community Development Office manages the implementation of approximately 35-45 active projects throughout the Suffolk County Consortium on an annual basis. Projects include construction and rehabilitation of community parks, streets, sidewalks, community and senior centers, public services, water main installations, handicap accessibility, housing rehabilitation and downtown revitalization. The Suffolk County Community Development Office has the staff, procedures, and systems in place to effectively administer HOME-ARP funds.

# 2

## Consultation

*Describe the consultation process including methods used and dates of consultation.*

Suffolk County (the County) engaged in a robust consultation process in the preparation of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan. The County met with the Long Island Continuum of Care (CoC), service providers, non-profit organizations, the public, and other regional Participating Jurisdictions to inform the needs assessment portion of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan and to assist in determining strategies for using HOME-ARP funding.

The organizations and service providers consulted during the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan process included: the CoC, homeless service providers, domestic violence service providers, veteran's groups, public agencies that address the needs of the qualifying populations, and organizations that address fair housing, civil rights, and the needs of persons with disabilities. Public housing agencies were not consulted because there are no public housing agencies within the Suffolk County Consortium.

The County consulted with the CoC regarding data necessary to perform the Needs Assessment and Gaps Analysis, as well as strategies for allocating the HOME-ARP resources, implementing the Allocation Plan, and identifying additional resources.

On February 1, 2022, the CoC hosted a meeting with the County, other Participating Jurisdictions in Long Island, and service providers. The CoC and service providers provided feedback on several questions specific to the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan. These questions included, but were not limited to, whether there are other populations not specifically included as a qualifying population who should be included; what are the priority needs and unmet housing and service needs of qualifying populations, what are the gaps within the current shelter and housing inventory.

The organizations who were consulted with identified the largest unmet need within the current shelter and housing inventory as the lack of affordable units for all Qualifying Populations. Other identified needs of the Qualifying Populations included studio apartments with supportive services, homeless housing without restrictions, more long term services, rental assistance, and a collective resource map for each community.

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The County met with the consortium members (Towns of East Hampton, Huntington, Riverhead, Shelter Island, Smithtown, Southampton and Southold, and the Villages of Greenport, Huntington Bay, Lloyd Harbor, Northport, Sag Harbor, Southampton, The Branch, Westhampton Beach and Westhampton Dunes) regarding HOME-ARP on September 30, 2021 and July 12, 2022. During these meetings the County presented the HOME-ARP requirements and status, discussed community needs, and requested project ideas and proposals. The County's Community Development Office has also consulted with the County's Department of Social Services which provides services to homeless individuals and households and other vulnerable populations.

Suffolk County held a public hearing on March 15, 2022, to gather feedback on housing needs and the needs of qualifying populations to inform the Allocation Plan and the County's 2022 Annual Action Plan. This meeting was attended by service providers as well as members of the public. All consortium members were invited to the public hearing.

Feedback provided by these organizations greatly informed the needs assessment portion of the Allocation Plan through first-hand descriptions of the needs of and resources available to the qualifying populations. This feedback also assisted the County with determining how to allocate and use the available funding.

## Organizations Consulted

*List the organizations consulted.*

*Summarize the feedback received and results of upfront consultation with these entities.*

The table below lists the organizations consulted as part of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan process.

**Table 1** Organizations Consulted

Agency/Organization Consulted	Type of Agency/Organization	Method of Consultation	Feedback
Long Island Continuum of Care	Continuum of Care	Direct communication regarding data needs and collection, organization of and attendance at consultation meeting in February 2022.	Provided data and feedback during calls, emails, consultation meeting in February 2022, and public hearing in March 2022.
Long Island Coalition for the Homeless	Homeless	Attendance at consultation meeting in February 2022.	Provided feedback during consultation meeting in February 2022.
The Safe Center Long Island	Domestic Violence	Attendance at consultation meeting in February 2022.	Provided feedback during consultation meeting in February 2022.

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Retreat, Inc.	Domestic Violence	Attendance at consultation meeting in February 2022.	Provided feedback during consultation meeting in February 2022.
Family Service League Long Island	Emergency shelter and support services for homeless	Attendance at consultation meeting in February 2022.	Provided feedback during consultation meeting in February 2022.
EOC of Suffolk, Inc.	Rapid rehousing, Veteran's services, housing assistance	Attendance at consultation meeting in February 2022.	Provided feedback during consultation meeting in February 2022.
Community Housing Innovations	Homeless emergency and permanent housing, other housing services	Attendance at consultation meeting in February 2022.	Provided feedback during consultation meeting in February 2022.
Services for the Underserved (SUS)	Veterans, homeless, housing	Attendance at consultation meeting in February 2022.	Provided feedback during consultation meeting in February 2022.
Family and Children's Association	Addiction, Mental Health (Residence and services), Youth Emergency Shelter	Attendance at consultation meeting in February 2022.	Provided feedback during consultation meeting in February 2022.
Federation of Organizations	Housing for individuals with disabilities, community residences	Attendance at consultation meeting in February 2022.	Provided feedback during consultation meeting in February 2022.
MOMMAS House	Homeless	Attendance at consultation meeting in February 2022.	Provided feedback during consultation meeting in February 2022.
Mercy Haven, Inc.	Supportive housing, community residences	Attendance at consultation meeting in February 2022.	Provided feedback during consultation meeting in February 2022.
Wyandanch Homes and Property Development Corporation	Affordable rental housing and support for low income and homeless families with children	Attendance at consultation meeting in February 2022.	Provided feedback during consultation meeting in February 2022.
Catholic Charities	Mental health, persons with disabilities, senior housing	Attendance at consultation meeting in February 2022.	Provided feedback during consultation meeting in February 2022.

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Pax Christi Hospitality/Hope House Ministries	Homeless shelter	Attendance at consultation meeting in February 2022.	Provided feedback during consultation meeting in February 2022.
Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc (FREE)	Residential programs, disabilities services	Attendance at consultation meeting in February 2022.	Provided feedback during consultation meeting in February 2022.
Project Safety Net	Mental health, care coordination	Attendance at consultation meeting in February 2022.	Provided feedback during consultation meeting in February 2022.
Circulo de la Hispanidad	Domestic Violence	Attendance at consultation meeting in February 2022.	Provided feedback during consultation meeting in February 2022.
Concern for Independent Living	Affordable rental housing	Attendance at consultation meeting in February 2022.	Provided feedback during consultation meeting in February 2022.
Brighter Tomorrows	Domestic Violence	Attendance at public hearing in March 2022.	Provided feedback during public hearing in March 2022.
Long Island Housing Services (LIHS)	Fair Housing	Attendance at consultation meeting in March 2022.	Provided feedback during consultation meeting in March 2022.
Suffolk County Consortium Members	Municipal agencies	Meetings held on September 1, 2021 and July 12, 2022.	Consortium members provided feedback on community needs and potential projects.
Suffolk County Department of Social Services	Homeless services, at-risk of homeless services, other social services	Call held on July 13, 2022.	Provided feedback on community needs and potential projects.



# 3

## Public Participation

*Describe the public participation process, including information about and the dates of the public comment period and public hearing(s) held during the development of the plan.*

The County held a public hearing on March 15, 2022 to gather feedback on the needs of qualifying populations to inform the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan needs assessment and to assist in determining usage for HOME-ARP funding. Prior to submission of the Allocation Plan, the County provided residents with notice and an opportunity to comment on the proposed Allocation Plan through a 15-day comment period. The draft Allocation Plan was posted on the County's website. The notice was issued on December 23, 2022 and the comment period was open from December 23, 2022 to January 9, 2023.

## Efforts to Broaden Public Participation

*Describe efforts to broaden public participation.*

The intent of the public participation process is to encourage citizens to become involved in the funding process through identification of the needs of the low to moderate income community and qualifying populations. The qualifying populations, funding amounts, and eligible activities were described so respondents could make suggestions, identify issues, and provide comments.

Written comments were solicited via notices published in the local newspaper and posted on the County's website. Efforts to broaden public participation included publishing public hearing notices in English and Spanish and providing translation services at the public hearings via Language Line, when requested. Although the public hearing was held virtually due to the pandemic, in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations, the County ensured that the hearing allowed real-time communication via question and answer through an internet platform. All comments from the public hearing, comment periods, and consultations were used to help inform and formulate the Allocation Plan.

## Comment Summary

*Summarize the comments and recommendations received through the public participation process either in writing, or orally at a public hearing.*

*Summarize any comments or recommendations not accepted and state the reasons why.*

All attendees represented non-profit organizations and provided input on community and qualifying population needs and spoke about the programs they represent and the needs of their organizations.

All comments and recommendations received were accepted.

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# 4

## Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis

The Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis examines the size and demographic composition of qualifying populations within its boundaries and assesses the unmet needs of those populations. After consulting with the Long Island Continuum of Care, other agencies, and citizens and interested developers of affordable housing, Suffolk County has identified the gaps within its current shelter and housing inventory as well as the service delivery system. Current census and housing data, including the point in time count, CHAS data, and other data available through the CoC was used to identify the gap of available affordable rental units throughout Suffolk County.

### Size and Demographic Composition of Qualifying Populations

*Describe the size and demographic composition of qualifying populations within the PJ's boundaries.*

#### Homeless

According to the 2021 Point in Time (PIT) counts from the CoC, there were 350 sheltered families with 1,225 sheltered persons in families, 486 sheltered single adults, and an estimated 225-300 unsheltered individuals in Suffolk County.

The racial breakdown of homeless individuals for all of Long Island (Suffolk and Nassau Counties) show that approximately 57% identify as Black or African American, 35% as White, 5% as Multiple Race, 2% as American Indian, and less than 1% for Asian and Native Hawaiian. Approximately 80% of homeless on Long Island identify as Non-Hispanic and 20% as Hispanic/Latino.

Trends in homelessness show that family homelessness continues to decrease while single adult homelessness continues to increase. Individuals exiting jail or prison to homelessness continues to remain a leading cause of homelessness amongst single adults. Unsheltered/street homelessness has continued to increase. The population of unsheltered/street homeless is primarily single adults.

## At-Risk of Homelessness

The definition of the at-risk of homelessness qualifying population per Notice CPD-21-10 is as follows:

- An individual or family who:
  - Has an annual income below 30% AMI
  - Does not have sufficient resources or support networks
  - Meets housing instability criteria set forth in Notice CPD-21-10, such as frequent moving because of economic reasons, living in someone else's home, being evicted, self-paying to live in a hotel or motel, living in crowded housing, or exiting a publicly funded institution or system of care.
- A child or youth who does not qualify as "homeless" under Notice CPD-21-10 but qualifies as "homeless" per other federal programs as identified in Notice CPD-21-10

Per 2014-2018 CHAS data, there are 63,050 households earning 30% or less of AMI. Approximately 20,845 households are earning 30% or less of AMI and living in renter-occupied housing with one or more severe housing problems.

According to the CoC, those considered most at-risk of homeless in Suffolk County are households that have previously been homeless and the re-entry population. Formerly homeless households that are at the greatest risk of housing instability include single adults previously unsheltered with undiagnosed mental illness and/or with alcohol/substance use disorders, single adults placed in temporary housing situations without ongoing case management, and households that fled domestic violence but returned to their abusers. The demographics of those most at-risk are families that identify as Black/African American or Latino (especially mother and child/children with mother in the generational range mostly born in 1980s-1990s), single adults that identify as White (generational range generally born in 1950s-1970s), and single adults that identify as Black/African American and are becoming homeless directly from jails or prisons (generational range is mostly born 1970s-1990s).

The County's 2020 Consolidated Plan also identified a lack of housing stability for farm and seasonal workers who often struggle to retain housing during off-seasons when their income is not steady. The County also has a number of accessory or interior apartments, that may or may not be legal, that do not have formal leases or agreements. These tenants are also at-risk of homelessness.

## Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking

Comprehensive data is not available for the number of individuals or families who are fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking. The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services reports there were 4,845 domestic violence victims reported in 2021, including 4,073 victims of simple assault, 489 victims of violated protection order, 242 victims of aggravated assault, and 41 victims of sex offense. There were 57 individuals residing in domestic violence shelters in Suffolk County per the 2021 point in time count.

Per HUD Notice CPD-21-10:

For HOME-ARP, this population includes any individual or family who is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking. This population includes cases where an individual or family reasonably believes that there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence due to dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member, including a child, that has either taken place within the individual's or family's primary nighttime residence or has made the individual or family afraid to return or remain within the same dwelling unit. In the case of sexual assault, this also includes cases where an individual reasonably believes there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if the individual remains within the same dwelling unit that the individual is currently occupying, or the sexual assault occurred on the premises during the 90-day period preceding the date of the request for transfer.

## Other Populations

Other Populations refers to other populations, not included in the Qualifying Populations described above, where providing supportive services or assistance would prevent the family's homelessness or would serve those with the greatest risk of housing instability. This population must meet one of the following criteria:

- 1) Other individuals or families requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness, such as individuals or families who have previously been qualified as homeless, are currently housed due to temporary or emergency assistance, and who need additional housing assistance or supportive services to avoid a return to homelessness.
- 2) Individuals or families at greatest risk of housing instability, defined as having an annual income less than or equal to 30% AMI and is experiencing severe cost burden, or has annual income less than or equal to 50% AMI and meets one of the conditions defined for the At-Risk of Homelessness qualifying population.

As of the 2021 point in time count, there are 2,113 people residing in permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing. Approximately 765 households are currently using Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers throughout the Suffolk County Consortium. These populations may qualify under this Qualifying Population.

Per CHAS data, there are 46,925 households with an annual income less than or equal to 30% AMI who are experiencing severe housing cost burden, which represents 74% of all households in this income bracket. Of these households, approximately 57% live in owner-occupied housing and 43% reside in renter-occupied housing. There are 76,000 households earning 50% AMI or less living with one or more severe housing problems. Many of these households may qualify under this Qualifying Population. For an expanded description of this population, see the At-Risk of Homelessness description above.

## Current Resources Available to Assist Qualifying Populations

*Identify and consider the current resources available to assist qualifying populations, including congregate and non-congregate shelter units, supportive services, TBRA, and affordable and permanent supportive rental housing.*

### Homeless

There are a total of 2,045 emergency shelter beds (in 83 projects), 20 supportive housing units (in 1 project), 67 temporary housing units (in 3 projects), 470 rapid re-housing units (in 6 projects, not including ESG-CV rapid re-housing), and 1,831 permanent supportive housing units (in 53 projects) in Suffolk County. Of emergency shelter beds: 1,377 beds are for families, 547 beds are for single adults, 18 beds are for youth, and 4 beds are for parenting youth households. Of rapid re-housing units: 389 beds are for families and 24 beds are for single adults. Of permanent supportive housing units: 501 beds are for families, 51 beds are for single adults. The inventory for homeless veterans includes 43 emergency shelter beds, 20 supportive housing units, 54 units of transitional housing, 33 rapid re-housing units, and 749 units of permanent supportive housing in Suffolk County.

The County has established a coordinated services approach to assist families and individuals in imminent danger of residing in shelters, or being unsheltered. The imminently homeless have access to emergency housing via one of the County's Social Services Centers located throughout the County or after business hours through the 24 hour, seven day a week emergency hotline established by the County's Department of Social Services. The centralized unit matches client needs with available bed space in accordance with Federal and local guidelines. Each of the County's service centers are staffed with Housing Specialists who assess client needs, offer permanent housing resources or arrange for emergency placements, if necessary. Homeless clients who appear to have a need for special services are referred to a caseworker screener who works at each Center.

### At-Risk of Homelessness

Per CHAS 2014-2018 data, there are 487,980 housing units in Suffolk County, of which 390,895 (80%) is owner occupied and 97,085 (20%) is renter occupied. Of the renter occupied housing units, approximately 13,810 (14%) are affordable to households earning 30% of AMI, or the at-risk population. Another 13,000 (13%) rental units are affordable to households earning between 30% and 50% AMI.

Within the Suffolk County Consortium, there are approximately 904 Section 8 vouchers administered through: the Community Development Corporation of Long Island, East Hampton Housing and Community Development, Riverhead Housing Development Corporation, Town of Smithtown (through Community Development Corporation of Long Island), North Fork Housing Alliance, and Town of Southampton Community Development.

## Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking

Facilities for domestic violence households includes 19 emergency shelter beds, 5 temporary housing units, and 6 rapid re-housing units in Suffolk County. Domestic violence shelter and services are provided through:

- Brighter Tomorrows
- Long Island Against Domestic Violence
- Retreat, Inc.
- Empowerment Collaborative of Long Island/Vibes

## Other Populations

Other populations are currently served by permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, supportive housing, and resources available to the At-Risk of Homelessness Qualifying Population. This population is also served by some of the County Consortium's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs such as public services, homelessness prevention, homebuyer down payment assistance, home improvement programs, housing rehabilitation, and production of new affordable housing units.

## Unmet Housing and Service Needs of Qualifying Populations

*Describe the unmet housing and service needs of qualifying populations.*

### Homeless

The table below shows the current inventory of homeless housing and homeless population in Suffolk County along with a gap analysis of permanent beds for families and adults (not including veteran, domestic violence, or other specialized housing inventory or population). The gap analysis is based on the CoC's ideal ratio for system flow of 200% total permanent housing beds to total shelter beds, with permanent housing consisting of rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing and shelter defined as emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Haven (Low Demand Homeless Program) housing. The County has a total of 2,132 permanent housing beds and 2,301 shelter beds for a total ratio of 92.7% permanent housing beds to shelter beds, which is well under the ideal ratio of 200%. This translates into a gap of 2,470 permanent housing beds.

**Table 2 Homeless Housing Gap Analysis**

	Current Inventory		Homeless Population		Gap Analysis	
	Family	Adults Only	In Family Household (at least 1 child)	In Adult Household (without child)	Family Beds	Adults Only Beds
	# Beds	# Beds				
Emergency Shelter	1,377	547				
Transitional Housing & Safe Haven	0	0				
Rapid Re-Housing	389	24				
Permanent Supportive Housing	501	51				
Ratio Permanent to Shelter	65%	14%				
Sheltered Homeless			1,225	486		
Unsheltered Homeless			225-300*			
Ratio of Permanent to Shelter Beds					65%	14%
Gap in Permanent Beds per Ideal Ratio of Permanent to Shelter Beds					1,864	1,019

\* This data combines both and adult households.

The table above breaks down the gap in ratio for family and adult household permanent housing to shelter. Per this analysis, the County needs another 1,864 permanent housing beds for families and 1,019 permanent housing beds for single adults. It is noted that emergency shelter occupancy is 85% and temporary housing occupancy is 63%, therefore, the system may need fewer shelter or temporary housing beds. However, a substantial number of more permanent housing beds are needed. During the consultation process it was recognized by service providers that the need for additional permanent



housing for single adults and families exiting homelessness is one of the most significant needs of this population.

Service needs include supportive services, health care, transportation, job training and placement, substance abuse programs, child care and other services. Service providers identified more long-term services, on-going rental assistance, transportation, and case management as particular needs for this population.

### At-Risk of Homelessness

As shown in the table below, there is a gap of approximately 7,000 housing units for at-risk households, estimated using CHAS data for rental units affordable at incomes of 50% AMI and lower and renter households with one or more severe housing problems earning incomes at or below 50% AMI. According to the County’s 2020 Consolidated Plan, the most common housing problems are housing cost burden and a lack of affordable housing units. Housing cost burden affects households at all income levels but disproportionately impacts households who rent and households with lower income. There is a lack of rental units in the County, and those that do exist are primarily expensive luxury rentals.

**Table 3 At-Risk of Homelessness Housing Gap Analysis**

	<b>Current Inventory</b>	<b>Level of Need</b>	<b>Gap Analysis</b>
	# of Units	# of Households	# of Households
Total Rental Units	97,085		
Rental Units Affordable to HH at 30% AMI (At-Risk of Homelessness)	13,810		
Rental Units Affordable to HH AT 50% AMI (Other Populations)	13,000		
0%-30% AMI Renter HH w/ 1 or more severe housing problems (At-Risk of Homelessness)		20,845	
30%-50% AMI Renter HH w/ 1 or more severe housing problems (Other Populations)		10,150	
Current Gaps			±7,000 rental units needs for households

			at-risk of homelessness
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Formerly homeless families and individuals who are receiving rapid re-housing assistance and are nearing the termination of that assistance often need social services aimed at gaining employment or reducing their costs so they can continue to afford housing payments. There is a need for employment benefits, daycare for children, mental health care (especially for re-entry population), transportation, job training and placement, medical care, substance abuse programs and other services. These services need to be provided during the transitional period in order to ensure that these families and individuals are less likely to return to homeless.

### Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking

The housing and services needs of this Qualifying Population include access to safe, sanitary, and affordable housing and services such as counseling, access to food, health services, rental assistance, legal advocacy, employment training and opportunities, and other services. Per conversations with the CoC and consultation with domestic violence organizations that serve the region, housing supply for this qualifying population is adequate to serve regional needs. Although there was an increase in domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic, the domestic violence housing capacity increase that occurred through CoC domestic violence set aside funds generally matched the new need.

### Other Populations

Other Populations need access to services to remain permanently housed. Needed services may include rental assistance, employment benefits, daycare for children, mental health care, transportation, job training and placement, medical care, substance abuse programs and other services. This population may also need access to permanent affordable housing. Deeply affordable housing is scarce in Suffolk County.

## Gaps within the Current Shelter and Housing Inventory and Service Delivery System

*Identify any gaps within the current shelter and housing inventory as well as the service delivery system.*

The existing facilities for providing services to homeless individuals and families, including homeless shelters and the service centers operated by DSS throughout the County, are well used and well operated. However, finding permanent affordable housing for those who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness is an on-going challenge, compounded by a gap in funding for the construction of new affordable rental units, especially units that will be rented to those with very low incomes. High demand for housing, high regional construction costs, limited sewer access and local zoning practices also impede the development of new affordable housing.

## Additional Characteristics if Further Refining Definition of “Other Populations”

*A PJ may provide additional characteristics associated with instability and increased risk of homelessness in their HOME-ARP allocation plan. These characteristics will further refine the definition of “other populations” that are “At Greatest Risk of Housing Instability,” as established in the HOME-ARP Notice. If including these characteristics, identify them here.*

The County does not plan to refine its definition of the Other Populations Qualifying Population. All program beneficiaries assisted as Other Populations will meet one of the two required definitions in CPD Notice 21-10, Section IV(A)(4).

## Priority Needs for Qualifying Populations

*Identify priority needs for qualifying populations.*

Priority needs for the qualifying populations center around the need for more permanent affordable housing units, with or without supportive services. For services, there is a need for more long term services, on-going rental assistance, and transportation services.

## Methodology

*Explain how the PJ determined the level of need and gaps in the PJ’s shelter and housing inventory and service delivery systems based on the data presented in the plan.*

This Allocation Plan follows the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan template provided by HUD and uses data from the CoC (collected through HMIS) and CHAS 2014-2018 data. Consultation with the CoC, service providers, and the public provide qualitative information and assist in providing a full assessment of the needs of the qualifying populations in Suffolk County.

# 5

## HOME-ARP Activities

## Method for Soliciting Applications

*Describe the method(s) that will be used for soliciting applications for funding and/or selecting developers, service providers, subrecipients and/or contractors.*

*Describe whether the PJ will administer eligible activities directly.*

*If any portion of the PJ's HOME-ARP administrative funds are provided to a subrecipient or contractor prior to HUD's acceptance of the HOME-ARP allocation plan because the subrecipient or contractor is responsible for the administration of the PJ's entire HOME-ARP grant, identify the subrecipient or contractor and describe its role and responsibilities in administering all of the PJ's HOME-ARP program.*

The County will use their internal procurement methods to select and contract with a qualified housing developer for construction of new affordable housing, in accordance with HOME Program and HOME-ARP guidelines. The County will create a separate application for HOME-ARP funding that will be posted on the County's website and provided to interested developers.

The County will partner with a qualified non-profit organization to administer eligible activities. The selected non-profit will receive HOME-ARP administrative funding from the County. If the RFP does not result in a suitable non-profit organization, then the County will administer the activities itself.

No subrecipient or contractor will be provided with HOME-ARP funds prior to HUD acceptance of the County's HOME-ARP Allocation Plan.

## Use of HOME-ARP Funding

*Describe how the PJ will distribute HOME-ARP funds in accordance with its priority needs identified in its needs assessment and gap analysis.*

*Describe how the characteristics of the shelter and housing inventory, service delivery system, and the needs identified in the gap analysis provided a rationale for the plan to fund eligible activities.*

The County plans to use 85% (\$2,070,911) of the HOME-ARP allocation for the development of affordable rental housing. The remaining 15% (\$365,455) of funding will be used for administration and planning activities in accordance with the HOME-ARP Notice.

**Table 4 Use of HOME-ARP Funding**

Activity	Funding Amount	Percent of Grant	Statutory Limit
Supportive Services	-	-	-
Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelters	-	-	-
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	-	-	-
Development of Affordable Rental Housing	\$2,070,911	85%	-
Non-Profit Operating	-	-	5%
Non-Profit Capacity Building	-	-	5%

## Suffolk County Consortium HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

Administration and Planning	\$365,455	15%	15%
Total HOME-ARP Allocation	\$2,436,367	100%	-

The needs assessment and gap analysis show a significant need to increase the permanent housing stock, particularly rental units that are affordable to households exiting homelessness and at-risk of homelessness. The gap analysis showed that the County needs 7,000 units of affordable housing to serve the at-risk of homelessness population and more units are needed to serve households exiting homelessness and those in Other Populations. The County has long identified the need to provide additional affordable housing units and uses every resource available to build more. The use of 85% of HOME-ARP funds for construction of new units will ensure compliance with the HOME-ARP Notice while also working towards the County's goals of providing new affordable housing units. These new units will also compliment the County's use of CDBG and HOME funds which provide a variety of ways to improve neighborhoods, provide necessary services, and rehabilitate existing and construct new housing.

## Estimate of Affordable Rental Housing Units to be Supported

*Estimate the number of affordable rental housing units for qualifying populations that the PJ will produce or support with its HOME-ARP allocation.*

*Describe the specific affordable rental housing production goal that the PJ hopes to achieve and describe how it will address the PJ's priority needs.*

The County anticipates the construction of 20 permanent affordable housing units to serve households that are exiting homelessness or at-risk of homelessness. To achieve this, the County will work with non-profit organizations who are seeking resources from the County by providing them HOME-ARP funding for units built in accordance with the HOME-ARP Notice and this Allocation Plan. It is likely that HOME-ARP funding will be used along with HOME funding or other County resources to construct affordable housing developments that serve a range of extremely-low to moderate incomes, as permitted by the various funding streams to be used. There is currently a gap in funding necessary to develop permanent housing for those with the lowest incomes. HOME-ARP funding will assist in narrowing that gap. The goal of constructing 20 new permanently affordable housing units will further the County's goal of producing new housing units, while serving populations that are most at-need for access to permanent, affordable and sanitary housing. New permanent affordable housing helps to stabilize households as well as communities. This goal will also assist in lessening the significant gap in housing needed to adequately serve at-risk households.

## Preferences and Limitations

*Identify whether the PJ intends to give preferences to one or more qualifying populations or a subpopulation within one or more qualifying population for any eligible activity or project.*

*If a preference was identified, explain how the use of a preference or method of prioritization will address the unmet need or gap in benefits and services received by individuals and families in the qualifying population or subpopulation of qualifying population, consistent with the PJ's needs assessment and gap analysis.*

*Describe whether the PJ intends to limit eligibility for a HOME-ARP rental housing or NCS project to a particular qualifying population or specific subpopulation of a qualifying population.*

*Identify the referral methods that the PJ intends to use for its HOME-ARP projects and activities. PJ's may use multiple referral methods in its HOME-ARP program. (Optional)*

Suffolk County intends to give preference to households that meet the HOME-ARP Notice definitions of homeless or at-risk of homelessness Qualifying Populations for the new affordable housing units to be constructed with HOME-ARP funding. This preference will be designed so as to not violate any applicable fair housing, civil rights, and nondiscrimination requirements, including but not limited to

those requirements listed in 24 CFR 5.105(a). The County will not give preferences to any subpopulation or limit eligibility to a particular Qualifying Population or subpopulation.

The preferences for homeless or at-risk of homelessness Qualifying Populations were chosen because the County has identified a gap in funding for constructing permanent affordable housing for populations with the lowest incomes.

A waiting list will be established for each HOME-ARP project or activity with access provided to all Qualifying Populations. Qualifying households on the waiting list will be accepted in accordance with the preferences outlined above.

## HOME-ARP Refinancing Guidelines

Suffolk County does not anticipate using HOME-ARP funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily rental housing that is being rehabilitated with HOME-ARP funds.

# Attachments

DRAFT