



MEETING AGENDA

City of Duluth HOME-ARP Community Needs Discussion **Wednesday, June 29, 2022 - 1:00 p.m. Virtual Meeting**

I. Introductions

Organizations Present

- The Salvation Army
- YWCA Duluth
- St. Louis County
- SOAR Career Solutions
- AICHO
- Lutheran Social Services (Center for Changing Lives)
- AEOA
- Duluth HRA
- LISC-Duluth
- Office of Senator Tina Smith
- Safe Haven
- Accessible Space
- Churches United in Ministry
- One Roof Community Housing
- Center City Housing Corporation
- Life House

II. HOME-ARP Overview – \$1,986,658 allocation

a. Qualifying Populations (see below)

b. Eligible Activities

- i. Rental Housing
- ii. Tenant Based Rental Assistance
- iii. Supportive Services
- iv. Non-Congregate Shelters

III. Community Needs by Qualifying Population → aprx 2400 served

→ Community Needs Assessment Survey: strong support for more affordable housing; 33.8% said HOME-ARP rental housing would address the community's most pressing need.

→ Discussion Question: What are the most pressing needs for these HOME-ARP Qualifying Populations?

a. Experiencing Homelessness (24 CFR 91.5) → aprx 803 chronically homeless



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- i. Not enough family shelter, no space in shelters, not enough emergency shelters for family
 - 1. Especially for high-barrier families
 - ii. Not a lot of options for people in non-traditional shelters – not enough options
 - iii. How do we really support people holistically?
 - 1. Access to health care, culturally specific services, etc
 - 2. How to include voices of people with lived experience?
 - iv. Working towards authorized encampments; not a lot of places that also allow animals!
 - v. Among homeless youth 18-24--seeing longer stays in a program designed for 20-35 days but they want people housed when they leave so wait list gets longer
 - 1. Smaller shelters work better for the youth that we work with
 - 2. Often want to enter with a friend/significant other/sibling
 - vi. Seeing a lot more mental health and chemical health needs
 - vii. Most DV shelters are 30 day shelters and we're seeing longer stays because it's very rare to get housing in 30 days; people end up shelter hopping; not enough time or space and then there's lack of response—"hurry up and wait" because there's just such a clog in the system; need expansion in shelters and maybe expansion in terms of our criteria for keeping people longer; need more transitional shelters; if you lose people after 30 days it undoes the work you did during that 30 days
 - viii. We don't have enough units for the need; more girls than we can bring into our housing
 - ix. Echoing mental health and chemical dependency issues
 - x. Need upkeep for existing shelter space!
- b. At Risk of Experiencing Homelessness (24 CFR 91.5)**
- i. People over 30% AMI are struggling as well!
 - ii. People with no income need support for back rent
 - iii. Seeing a lot of really high requests for rental assistance—a lot of times can't cover high requests with funding streams we currently have
 - iv. AICHO is seeing people struggling with how to maintain a home once they do get housing; what support do we have for them?
 - 1. Sometimes this creates even bigger stressors than they have before—sets people up to fail even once they do have housing
 - 2. Maybe ongoing case management? Checking in to see if they're paying their bills? Follow up services—light case management; even just struggles to keep apartment clean; people living on the street tend to hoard and means they are reluctant to get rid of things/clean up when they are in a home



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3. One client moved out of a transitional shelter and called to ask how to get a money order to pay rent; need to cover all the steps that people need to walk through
 - v. LSS works with youth exiting foster care and they often face the reality of homelessness when they turn 18. They don't have a lot of resources and often times struggle finding housing.
 - vi. Another population often facing homelessness is LGBTQ+2S youth. Youth often are kicked out of their homes at all ages when they come out. Often times they struggle to find housing...are faced with behavioral health needs, chemical dependency, trafficking and much more
- c. Fleeing or Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking → aprx 788 with DV history; 532 fleeing**
- i. Shelter beds are at a premium – working with the VAWA provision that lets us bifurcate the lease, but the timing is complicated because the process takes a long time so need more beds on a temporary basis until they can return to their home
 - ii. Pets!!
 - iii. More private space for shelter guests
 - iv. More flexibility—people need storage units, money to assist with bus tickets, car repair, etc
 - v. One thing not addressed well in our community: DV against men; not a lot provided— there is a need for men experiencing DV and how to help them
 - vi. Subsidy usually stays with the house so if someone leaves they lose the subsidy
- Also need units for sex offenders! Desperately needed**
- d. Other populations requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness AND other populations at greatest risk of housing instability → aprx 1159 reporting mental health disorder, aprx 161 with alcohol use disorder, 234 with drug use disorder, 403 with chronic health condition, 177 with developmental disability, 499 with physical disability**
- i. Wrap-around support—sometimes with rental assistance request we're seeing people making their request but no follow up to make sure they're paying
 1. People had to reapply each year so missed up to 6 months or a year in rent
- e. WHAT eligible activities are most important?**
- i. Safe haven currently in the middle of shelter renovation but there's a lot of things that could be improved --\$ for shelter infrastructure
 - ii. More shelter, housing, shelter beds



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- iii. Maintaining some of the properties we have!
- iv. Maintenance!! Very difficult to get vendors in and cover high materials costs
- v. We need more \$ for maintaining the shelter units we have; we are a 45 day shelter and some of our clients have stayed 7 months
- vi. Implications of significant mental health and chemical health problems—even \$ we get to address these issues don't cover everything we need to do to keep the property habitable

IV. Adjourn