

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF ESSEX**

RESOLUTION NO. _____ **AUTHORITY FOR RESOLUTION:** N.J.S.A. 40:41A-38(n)

PROPOSED BY: COUNTY EXECUTIVE **AUTHORITY FOR ACTION:** N.J.S.A. 40:41A-36(i)

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING, & EMPLOYMENT, DIVISION OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – HOME ARP GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT - FOR THE 2021 HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS (HOME) PROGRAM (M-21-DP-34-0231) – \$4,527,082

WHEREAS, the County of Essex, acting through its Division of Housing and Community Development, has been awarded a HOME Investment Partnerships Act – American Rescue Plan (HOME ARP) grant through the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development in the amount of \$4,527,082; and

WHEREAS, the County must submit an HOME ARP Allocation Plan for approval by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development in order to disburse funds for future activities; and

WHEREAS, HOME ARP loan and grant agreements will be executed by the County Executive and the Department and Division Directors; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners is empowered by N.J.S.A. 40:41A-38(n) to approve, by Resolution, contracts presented by the County Executive;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Essex as follows:

1. That the HOME Investment Partnerships Program – American Rescue Plan Grant (M-21-DP-34-0231) Allocation Plan in the amount of \$4,527,082, as per the matrix attached hereto and made part hereof, is accepted and approved according to the provisions of law
2. The Division and the Department will utilize up to 15% of these funds for administrative and planning costs related to the HOME ARP funding program
3. The Division and the Department will enter into financial agreements with eligible applicants for eligible activities once the Allocation Plan is approved

4. The Period of Performance for this contract shall end on September 30, 2030
5. That three (3) executed copies of this resolution be forwarded to Craig Lombardi, Housing Coordinator, Division of Housing and Community Development.

Approved as to form and legality



Date

3/1/23

ESSEX COUNTY COUNSEL

RECORD OF VOTE (X=Vote N.V.=Abstention ABS=Absent)

Moved by Commissioner

Second by Commissioner

Commissioner	Yes	No	N.V.	ABS	Commissioner	Yes	No	N.V.	ABS
Cooper					Mercado				
Gill					Pomares, V.P.				
Graham					Richardson, Pres.				
Johnson					Sebold				
Luciano									

It is hereby certified that the foregoing Resolution was () adopted () defeated () tabled by roll call vote at a _____ meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Essex, New Jersey held on _____.

Is Publication Required () Yes () No

Date Published _____

Wayne L. Richardson, President

HOME ARP Agreement
2/28/2023



COUNTY OF ESSEX

DECISION MEMORANDUM

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

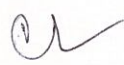
Robert D. Jackson

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

To: Robert D. Jackson
County Administrator

Economic Development,
DEPARTMENT: Training & Employment
DIVISION: Community Development

THRU: Anibal Ramos, Jr., Department Director 
Director of Economic Development, Training & Employment

FROM: Craig Lombardi, Project Coordinator 
Division of Housing & Community Development

DATE: February 28, 2023

SUBJECT: Proposed allocation of HOME Investment Partnerships Program - American Rescue Plan grant totaling \$4,527,082

INTRODUCTION

In 2022, the Board of Commissioners authorized the County to enter into a contract agreement with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in order to accept a grant award of \$4,527,082 to the County of Essex (Essex County) through the HOME Investment Partnerships Program – American Rescue Plan (HOME ARP) fund. This allocation represents part of the Federal government’s response to Covid and is a one time supplement to the County’s regular HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) allocations. The primary objective of the HOME ARP program is to help communities provide housing, shelter, and services for their most vulnerable populations. More specifically these funds are to be utilized to assist individuals or families from the following Qualifying Populations: (a) homeless; (b) at-risk of homelessness; (c) fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking; (d) other populations where providing assistance would prevent the family’s homelessness or would serve those with the greatest risk of housing instability; and (e) veterans and families that include a veteran family member that meet one of the preceding criteria. Eligible activities may include (a) the production or preservation of affordable housing; (b) tenant-based rental assistance; supportive services, including homeless prevention services and housing counseling; (c) nonprofit operating and capacity building assistance, and (d) the purchase or development of non-congregate shelter for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Additionally, up to 15 percent of the allocation can be utilized for administrative and planning costs of the County and/or subrecipients administering all or part of the award.

During the past several months, and in accordance with directives from HUD, the County has analyzed available data and consulted various interest groups via discussion groups, interviews, and surveys in order to assess affordable housing needs and present a proposed allocation plan to HUD. These groups included the Essex County CoC, homeless service providers, domestic violence service providers, veterans' groups, public housing agencies (PHAs), public agencies that address the needs of the Qualifying Populations (QPs), and public or private organizations that address fair housing, civil rights, and the needs of persons with disabilities.

Based on the information communicated and compiled to date, the County is recommending that the award of \$4,527,082 be allocated as follows:

Supportive Services	\$1,131,771	(25% of grant)
Development of Affordable Rental Housing Units	\$2,716,249	(60% of grant)
Administration and Planning	\$679,062	(15% of grant)

In addition, HOME ARP funds awarded for the development of affordable housing units would require that a developer (a) collaborate with the County CoC to ensure that there is a coordinated entry process for members of the Qualifying Populations when HOME ARP assisted units become available for occupancy, (b) contract with area agencies to deliver supportive services for the tenants, and (c) set aside HOME assisted units for members of the Qualifying Populations defined herein

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners authorize the submission of the proposed HOME ARP allocation plan. Upon HUD approval of the proposed allocation, the County will publicly announce a request for proposals to utilize the proposed funds to address affordable housing and homelessness issues in Essex County.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

1. Approval of the HOME ARP Program allocation plan in the amount of \$4,527,082 will enable the County to submit the plan for approval by HUD.
2. Future HOME ARP project activities can be implemented once the HUD HOME ARP allocation is approved by HUD.
4. The HOME ARP funds are a direct grant from the federal government enabling the County to support activities designed to address homelessness and affordable housing issues in Essex County.

FISCAL IMPACT

The HOME ARP program is totally funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the American Rescue Plan. Therefore, there will be no fiscal impact experienced by the County of Essex.

CONCLUSION

This action would result in the County submitting its HOME ARP allocation plan totaling \$4,527,082 to HUD and subsequently expend these funds upon approval of the plan to help address homelessness and affordable housing issues that impact Essex County.

Please contact Craig Lombardi or John Soares at (973) 655-0200 for more information regarding the HOME ARP program.

MATRIX FOR HOME ARP ALLOCATION PLAN

	Funding Amount	Percent of the Grant
Supportive Services	\$1,131,771	25%
Development of Affordable Rental Housing	\$2,716,249	60%
Administration and Planning	\$679,062	15%
Total HOME ARP Allocation	\$4,527,082	100%