

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

*** 1. Type of Submission:**

- ☐ Preapplication
☒ Application
☐ Changed/Corrected Application

*** 2. Type of Application:**

- ☒ New
☐ Continuation
☐ Revision

*** If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):**

*** Other (Specify):**

*** 3. Date Received:**

3/29/23

4. Applicant Identifier:

5a. Federal Entity Identifier:

5b. Federal Award Identifier:

M21-DP-34-0231

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State:

7. State Application Identifier:

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

*** a. Legal Name:**

County of Essex

*** b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):**

22-6002433

*** c. UEI:**

CN2CVKQV2125

d. Address:

*** Street1:**

20 Crestmont Road

Street2:

*** City:**

Verona

County/Parish:

*** State:**

NJ: New Jersey

Province:

*** Country:**

USA: UNITED STATES

*** Zip / Postal Code:**

07044-2902

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name:

Economic Development, Training

Division Name:

Housing & Community Development

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix:

Mr.

*** First Name:**

John

Middle Name:

M

*** Last Name:**

Soares

Suffix:

Title: Division Director

Organizational Affiliation:

*** Telephone Number:** 973 655 0200

Fax Number:

*** Email:** jsoares@hcd.essexcountynj.org

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

*** 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:**

B: County Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

*** Other (specify):**

*** 10. Name of Federal Agency:**

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

14.239

CFDA Title:

HOME Investment Partnerships Program

*** 12. Funding Opportunity Number:**

M21-DP-34-0231

*** Title:**

HOME American Rescue Plan HOME ARP)

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

*** 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:**

2021 HOME AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (HOME ARP) PROGRAM ALLOCATION

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424**16. Congressional Districts Of:*** a. Applicant * b. Program/Project

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

17. Proposed Project:* a. Start Date: * b. End Date: **18. Estimated Funding (\$):**

* a. Federal	<input type="text" value="4,527,082.00"/>
* b. Applicant	<input type="text" value=""/>
* c. State	<input type="text" value=""/>
* d. Local	<input type="text" value=""/>
* e. Other	<input type="text" value=""/>
* f. Program Income	<input type="text" value=""/>
* g. TOTAL	<input type="text" value="4,527,082.00"/>

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

- ☐ a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on
- ☐ b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.
- ☒ c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001)**

☒ ** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix: * First Name:

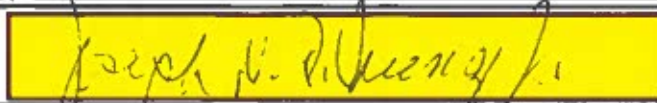
Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Suffix:

* Title: * Telephone Number: Fax Number: * Email:

* Signature of Authorized Representative:

* Date Signed

Attachment for Congressional Districts

Application covers Congressional Districts NJ 8 , NJ 10 and NJ 11

ASSURANCES - CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Number: 4040-0009
Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0042), Washington, DC 20503.

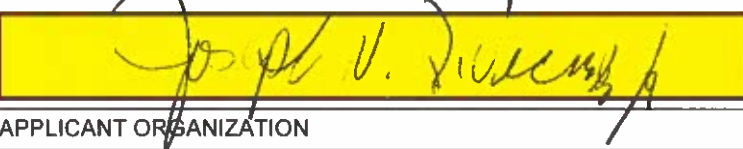
PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the Awarding Agency. Further, certain Federal assistance awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project costs) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the assistance; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will not dispose of, modify the use of, or change the terms of the real property title or other interest in the site and facilities without permission and instructions from the awarding agency. Will record the Federal awarding agency directives and will include a covenant in the title of real property acquired in whole or in part with Federal assistance funds to assure non-discrimination during the useful life of the project.
4. Will comply with the requirements of the assistance awarding agency with regard to the drafting, review and approval of construction plans and specifications.
5. Will provide and maintain competent and adequate engineering supervision at the construction site to ensure that the complete work conforms with the approved plans and specifications and will furnish progressive reports and such other information as may be required by the assistance awarding agency or State.
6. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
7. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
8. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards of merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
9. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
10. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to non-discrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681 1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.

11. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal and federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
12. Will comply with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.
13. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333) regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
14. Will comply with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
15. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).
16. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
17. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
18. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
19. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.
20. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL 	TITLE County Executive
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION County of Essex	DATE SUBMITTED 3/29/23

ASSURANCES - NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0040), Washington, DC 20503.

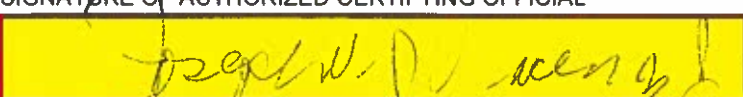
PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the awarding agency. Further, certain Federal awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project cost) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
4. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
5. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
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14. Will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.
15. Will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. §§2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.
16. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
17. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
18. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.
19. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL 	TITLE County Executive
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION County of Essex	DATE SUBMITTED 3/29/23

HOME-ARP CERTIFICATIONS

In accordance with the applicable statutes and the regulations governing the consolidated plan regulations, the participating jurisdiction certifies that:

Affirmatively Further Fair Housing --The jurisdiction will affirmatively further fair housing pursuant to 24 CFR 5.151 and 5.152.

Uniform Relocation Act and Anti-displacement and Relocation Plan --It will comply with the acquisition and relocation requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 4601-4655) and implementing regulations at 49 CFR Part 24. It will comply with the acquisition and relocation requirements contained in the HOME-ARP Notice, including the revised one-for-one replacement requirements. It has in effect and is following a residential anti-displacement and relocation assistance plan required under 24 CFR Part 42, which incorporates the requirements of the HOME-ARP Notice. It will follow its residential anti-displacement and relocation assistance plan in connection with any activity assisted with funding under the HOME-ARP program.


Anti-Lobbying --To the best of the jurisdiction's knowledge and belief:

1. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of it, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement;
2. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, it will complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions; and
3. It will require that the language of paragraph 1 and 2 of this anti-lobbying certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

Authority of Jurisdiction --The consolidated plan is authorized under State and local law (as applicable) and the jurisdiction possesses the legal authority to carry out the programs for which it is seeking funding, in accordance with applicable HUD regulations and program requirements.

Section 3 --It will comply with section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u) and implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 75.

HOME-ARP Certification --It will use HOME-ARP funds consistent with Section 3205 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-2) and the CPD Notice: *Requirements for the Use of Funds in the HOME-American Rescue Plan Program*, as may be amended by HUD, for eligible activities and costs, including the HOME-ARP Notice requirements that activities are consistent with its accepted HOME-ARP allocation plan and that HOME-ARP funds will not be used for prohibited activities or costs, as described in the HOME-ARP Notice.


Signature of Authorized Official

3/27/23
Date

Essex County Executive

Title

ESSEX COUNTY HOME ARP Allocation Plan DRAFT

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APPENDIX A – SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS

APPENDIX B – PUBLIC NOTICES AND PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

APPENDIX C – POINT IN TIME COUNT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In April 2021, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocated \$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 the impact of 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 include (a) the production or preservation of affordable housing; (b) tenant-based rental assistance; (c) supportive services, including homeless prevention services and housing counseling; (d) nonprofit operating and capacity building assistance, and (e) 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 sub recipients administering all or part of the award.

During the past several months, and in accordance with Notice CPD – 21 – 10 and subsequent notices that described the requirements for developing a HUD approved allocation plan for utilizing the HOME ARP funds, the County has consulted the Essex County CoC which services the jurisdiction’s geographic area, homeless service providers, domestic violence service providers, veterans’ groups, public housing agencies (PHAs), public agencies that address the needs of the qualifying populations, and public or private organizations that address fair housing, civil rights, and the needs of persons with disabilities. The County has also collected and assessed various housing data, and considered the results of a survey made available to both agencies and individuals.

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

	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	100.00%

HOME ARP funds for the development of affordable housing units will be targeted for activities which (a) develop HOME ARP assisted units for persons from the Qualifying Populations described herein, with a preference for the QP1 and QP3 populations (b) utilize the referral method identified in the HOME ARP written agreement to identify eligible persons who are members of the qualifying populations when filling the HOME ARP assisted units, and (c) ensure tenant accessibility to supportive services.

Subject to any revisions arising from the receipt of public comments that may be made during the current public comment period, this proposed plan will be submitted for a review by HUD. If the application is approved by HUD, then the proposed plan will be inserted as a substantial amendment to the County's PY 2021 HUD Action Plan and the County will seek out applications to utilize the proposed funds. The proposed plan was presented to and authorized by the Essex County Board of Commissioners on March 15, 2023,

CONSULTATION

Describe the consultation process including methods used and dates of consultation:

In compliance with Notice CPD - 21 – 10, during the preparation of this allocation plan, the County consulted with agencies and service providers whose consumers represent the various HOME ARP qualifying populations in order to help identify unmet needs and gaps in housing or service delivery systems, HOME ARP eligible activities currently taking place within the County, and potential collaborations for administering HOME ARP funds. These consultations have guided the County to create a plan for distributing HOME ARP funds for eligible activities that address the needs of qualifying populations.

As listed below the County has contacted and met several agencies and service providers, including but not limited to the Essex County CoC, homeless and domestic violence service providers, veterans organizations, public housing agencies (PHAs), public agencies that address the needs of the qualifying populations, and public or private organizations that address fair housing, civil rights, and/or the needs of persons with disabilities.

Since executing a contract with HUD for the HOME ARP funds in September 2021, the County has undertaken various consulting activities that include the following:

- Invitations to various persons affiliated with organizations dedicated to community and housing activities to participate in the consultation process and/or respond to queries related to HOME ARP.
- Survey of organizations and individuals about various issues related to homelessness, affordable housing and the Qualifying populations.
- Virtual focus group meetings and interviews with representatives from organizations that service one or more of the qualifying populations to discuss various topics related to affordable housing, housing stability, and homelessness.
- Consultations with the Executive Board of the Essex County CoC and the full membership of the CoC/CEAS

The County HOME ARP Survey was conducted from February 2 to February 21, 2023. The survey was made available both electronically via a County website link and distributed as a hard copy to the CoC Executive Committee, the CoC/CEAS membership, Community Development representatives, and Service Agencies who have collaborated with the Division in the past. All parties were encouraged to make the survey available to their colleagues, town officials, and clients. The survey queried respondents about the issues and concerns that needed to be addressed to enhance the accessibility of affordable housing, identify populations who presently need assistance, and identify future activities that could positively impact the stability of housing in Essex County. The survey received a total of 76 responses through February 21, 2023. These responders represented all the QPs. The top six classifications identified in the survey were Homeless Services Provider (34%), Supportive Services Provider (30%), Person with Lived Experience of Homelessness or Housing Instability (20%), Emergency/Temporary Shelter Provider (16%), Continuum of Care Staff/Leadership (14%), and Organization Serving People with Disabilities (14%).

For the focus group meetings and other meetings/interviews with relevant parties, the County provided an overview of HOME ARP to the attendees and participants, including a reading of the qualifying populations and the potential eligible uses of funds as defined by Notice CPD 21 - 10. During these meetings, we asked questions to initiate discussions with the participants and recorded their comments regarding the issues and concerns related to affordable housing in their communities and their proposed solutions to alleviate the affordable housing crunch in Essex County. The County also conducted one on one meetings with representatives of various agencies who provided additional insights about the designated qualifying populations.

List the organizations consulted:

Agency/Organization Consulted:

Presented below is a table listing the organizations consulted for this plan. This list includes agencies and organizations that provided comments about the HOME ARP application via surveys, focus groups, interviews, organizational meetings, etc. Also lists those agencies and organizations that were invited to participate but did not present comments to the County. Following is a brief summary of terms and definitions for this table.

Acronyms:

CoC	Essex County Continuum of Care
CEAS	Comprehensive Emergency Assistance System
CPP	Citizen Participation Plan
DHCD	Essex County Division of Housing and Community Development. PJ for County HOME funds.
NFP	Not for Profit agency
PHA	Public Housing Authority
CoC/CEAS:	planning body comprised of local stakeholders who partner with the County of Essex in the development and ongoing implementation of community based strategies preventing homeless including planning and coordinating the delivery of emergency services to those who are homeless or in imminent danger of becoming homeless.

Method of Consultation:

CoC Board Meetings:	County discussed HOME ARP application at Executive Board Meetings on 2.2.23 and 3.2.23 during which time the Board communicated various comments regarding the application, qualifying populations, and potential utilization of the proposed funding.
CEAS Meetings:	County discussed, collected comments, and invited all participating members of CEAS to participate in HOME ARP focus groups, interviews, and surveys at monthly meetings of the full membership that were held on 9.9.22, 12.8.22, 2.9.23, and 3.9.23.
CPP	References organizations that participated on two sub committees for Affordable Housing and Homelessness as part of the Citizen Participation activities for preparing the County's PY 2023 Annual Plan for CDBG, ESG and HOME funds
Survey respondent	References agencies, organizations or individuals that responded to survey
Survey Invitation	References agencies and organizations that were provided access to the survey but did not respond
DHCD Meetings & Notification:	County communicated parameters and status of HOME ARP program and need for consultation to DHCD municipalities and agencies that received CDBG/ESG funding from DHCD at several monthly meetings beginning in April 2022 and going through to March 2023. Also invited all agencies and municipalities to participate in focus groups, interviews, and surveys.
Feedback:	
Narratives	Includes comments from agencies, organizations or individuals that were communicated via the various methods of consultation, including those that added a comment to their survey submission
Survey Respondent:	References agency/organization/individual that completed the survey but did not add any comments. Overall results of the survey are included as a separate attachment in the application.
No comments received:	References agencies and organizations that were invited to participate in developing the HOME ARP allocation plan but did not provide any comments or submit a survey

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Agency/Organization Consulted	Type of Agency / Organization	Qualifying Population Served	Method of Consultation	Feedback
EXECUTIVE BOARD COC/CEAS				From Executive Board meetings of 2.2.23 3.2.23: Primary issue identified is low supply of affordable units which is contributing to higher rents and more persons with rent arrears. Shelters need to provide more personal space for clients. Also need more shelter space for families. Domestic violence cases up during Covid. Other groups that need help are undocumented persons, veterans, seniors and disabled adults. Cited lack of support services for non english speaking households and long waits for accessing affordable units in minority communities. Creating units must be backed up by supportive services to minimize tenants returning back to shelter. At 3.3.23 meeting, communicated special needs for victims of domestic violence and agreed to suggestion that 25% of the funds allocated for affordable housing be allocated for production of units for DV victims (equal to 15% of total allocation). Coordinated entry will help provide referrals.
Agency/Organization Consulted	Type of Agency / Organization	Qualifying Population Served	Method of Consultation	Feedback
Bridges Outreach Project Connect	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider NFP service provider for persons with disabilities	QP1	CoC Board Meetings CEAS Meetings Survey Respondent DHCD Meetings & Notifications	survey respondent
Covenant House	homeless service provider shelter NFP service provider - young adults	QP1 QP2 QP3 QP4	CoC Board Meetings CEAS Meetings Focus Group 10.26.22 Survey Respondent CPP Homeless 10.19.22 DHCD Meetings & Notifications	CPP for Homeless 10.19.22: shortage of cooperating landlords to match persons with rental voucher subsidies. More barriers to receiving assistance post pandemic. Turnover of units slowed during pandemic due to health concerns and moratorium on evictions. Need to transport homeless to job opportunities. DHCD Application 12.29.22 and interview 2.1.23: Homeless youth hard to identify as they are more likely to "couch surf" with friends and relatives for a few nights at a time. Therefore, the PITC homeless youth statistic of 188 homeless youth is considered to be an undercount. Courts backlogged and eviction documentation not being processed. COC exec board meeting 2.2.23: need more units. Survey respondent.
Essex County Div. of Community Action	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider public agency service provider for QPs	QP1 QP2 QP4	CoC Board Meetings CEAS Meetings One on One Interview Focus Group 10.26.22 Survey Respondent	Provided data; assessment of current homeless and housing issues in County; explained referral lists of potential tenants; survey respondent. Focus Group - Section 8 vouchers do not come with supportive service requirements. Largest demographic of homeless is 55 to 64 year olds, many of whom have a mental health disorder. Need to undertake collaborative projects such as Georgia King Village which is receiving support services from University Hospital. Need to improve interaction between HOME developers and CoC to fill affordable units. Survey response: There is a need for all of the services/ housing needs listed for victims of domestic violence. Job readiness and housing counseling courses do exist but are not advertised and are underutilized. People would significantly benefit from these. *Target population in the 2nd to last question would be to me would be the chronically homeless individuals who can't necessarily double up or do not/no longer qualify for services from the board of social services.
Habakkuk's Vision Charitable Ministries	CoC/CEAS NFP service provider - victims of domestic violence; previously incarcerated persons, elderly persons	QP1 QP2 QP3 QP4	CoC Board Meetings CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	CoC Exec Board 2.2.23: Investors buying up properties, need to fund NFPs to acquire available properties.

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New Community Corp - Resource Center - Harmony House	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider shelter NFP service provider - seniors and disabled persons NFP affordable housing developer	QP1 QP2 QP4	CoC Board Meetings CEAS Meetings Survey Respondent	Survey comment: affordable housing is very much needed. As NJ's population becomes more diverse; so should the housing availability. More black and brown children are left traumatized from Homelessness as a result of their parents, underemployment, unemployment, substance abuse/dependence and/or mental health issues. Affordable housing with supportive services have been shown to alleviate Homelessness and stabilize families.
Newark Community Solutions	CoC/CEAS homeless services provider NFP service provider - legal assistance for tenants, victims of domestic violence, previously incarcerated persons	QP2 QP3 QP4	CoC Board Meetings CEAS Meetings Provided written comments on tenant - landlord legal issues Survey respondent	12.28.22 - Tenants need assistance to navigate legal system for tenant landlord disputes; too many persons being evicted without opportunity to clear obligations. CoC Exec Board 2.2.23: Inventory of affordable rental units shrinking as landlords prefer to risk vacating their unit so that they raise rents rather than keep existing tenant at old rates. Survey comment: Most Eviction Cases are for Non-Payment of Rent. NCS currently sees an influx of Warrant of Removals going into 2023 that will lead to imminent lockouts which lead to homelessness. If clients don't have the funds to pay before trial or are still "pending" with an agency by the time of trial they usually have to agree to an unrealistic settlement before vacating or vacate immediately. If NCS and our partner agencies that have rental assistance programs can be granted funds or if the county is reimbursed with emergency rental assistance it will help individuals and families going through eviction. Some clients just need assistance paying their arrears to dismiss their cases. We can prevent people from having to seek shelter or rapid rehousing if their court cases can be dismissed when rental arrears balances are paid.
Project Live, Inc.	Non profit Developer CoC/CEAS public agency for QPs housing for mental health consumers, families	QP1 QP2 QP4	Focus Group 10.26.22 CoC Board Meetings CEAS Meetings DHCD Meetings & Notifications	Focus Group 10.26.22: inventory of safe affordable housing is shrinking. Landlords less willing to accept subsidized renters representing vulnerable populations given rising rent rates. At risk populations prefer standalone unit rather than returning to a shelter. All populations in need of housing, but more younger adults are now at risk and sometimes forced to sell their bodies for rent.
Salvation Army Montclair	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider shelter RRH/HP rental assistance NFP service provider	QP1 QP2 QP4	CoC Board Meetings CEAS Meetings Focus Group 10.26.22 Survey Respondent DHCD Meetings & Notifications Public Hearing 3.6.12	Public Hearing 3.6.22 Emphasized need for more affordable units. Survey comments: each of the populations listed need services and have multiple barriers in most cases. How best to prioritize is a difficult decision. The most obvious would be the unhoused, but they can be the most difficult. Housing is needed, and the cultivation of relationships with developers is needed and a way to expedite the process, and then there is the need to provide both subsidy and supportive services.
Soldier On	CoC/CEAS homeless services provider NFP service provider for veterans	QP1 QP2 QP4	CoC Board Meetings CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation Correspondence	Correspondence 2.27.23: Key issues for veterans who are behind on rents are the rising costs for food, rent and utilities, and in many cases a resolve to withhold rent until maintenance issues are resolved by the landlord. Impactful supportive services include daily living courses re social and apartment maintenance activities, credit repair, and guidance in navigating rental and social service programs. Need assistance for vets with criminal or eviction records, low credit scores or savings, and escalating rents. Veteran population impacted heavily by mental health and substance abuse issues.
Turning Point	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider shelter NFP services provider - families & victims of domestic violence	QP1 QP2 QP3 QP4	CoC Board Meetings CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation DHCD Meetings & Notifications	CoC Exec Board 2.2.23: need funding to help towns and agencies to acquire abandoned properties. Domestic violence incidents up during Covid. Need safe haven shelters and housing units. Need more supportive services.

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YMCA of Newark	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider shelter RRH/HP rental assistance youth housing program	QP1 QP2 QP4	Focus Group 11.29.22 CEAS Meetings CoC Board Meetings Survey invitation	Focus Group 11.29.22 Strong proponent of need for housing for victims of Domestic Violence; supportive services. Need senior housing over 55 years old. Difficult to place persons with criminal records and families with children that have disabilities. Developers may set aside up to 10% of gross for supportive services; sometimes need full time social worker. Some seniors being pushed out so that landlords can charge higher rents. Greater need for housing units than rental assistance. Supportive services such as child care and transportation would help homeless get jobs. Available housing units from HOME projects needs to be better publicized. Exec Board 2.3.23: Rent averages now ranging from 1800 to 2800. Not enough shelter beds for families. DV victims not able to stay in dedicated shelters long enough to avoid repeating cycle.
Isaiah House	homeless service provider shelter NFP service provider for persons with disabilities; families	QP1 QP2 QP4	CoC Board Meetings CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation DHCD Meetings & Notifications	no comments received
MEMBER OF COC/CEAS	Type of Agency / Organization	Qualifying Population Served	Method of Consultation	Feedback
Essex County Tenant Resource Center	CoC/CEAS public agency service provider for persons at risk of homelessness; addresses fair housing and civil rights	QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings Interview Survey Invitation DHCD Meetings & Notifications	Interview 3.9.23 Indicates greater volume of calls for assistance with unpaid rent
Family Promise	supportive services for homeless shelter RRH/HP rental assistance	QP1 QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings Focus Group 10.26.22 Survey Respondent DHCD Meetings & Notifications	Focus Group 10.26.22 Communicated support of non congregate shelters, need for supportive services, and creative responses to housing situation in Essex Survey respondent
Montclair Neighborhood Development Corporation	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider; rental assistance NFP service provider for at risk youth and young adults, seniors	QP1 QP2 QP4	Survey Invitation DHCD Meetings & Notifications	DHCD Application 12.29.22 Family incomes impacted by Covid and need supportive services
NESF	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider shelter - families RRH/HP rental assistance	QP1 QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation DHCD Meetings & Notifications	DHCD application interview 1.27.23 - high rents make it difficult to match up consumers preferences with affordability
NJ HMFA / Dept of Community Affairs	public government agency -- service provider for Qps and rental/emergency financial assistance programs	QP1 QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	CEAS meeting 3.2.23 NJ HMFA is favoring LIHTC projects with units set aside for homeless persons
St James Social Service	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider RRH/HP rental assistance	QP1 QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings DHCD Meetings & Notifications Survey Invitation CPP 10.19.22 Affordable Housing, Homelessness	CPP 10.19.22 Communicated difficulty in locating affordable units available for persons who are at risk of homelessness. Encouraged county to support not for profit developers and to provide training for the HOME program. Seeing more homeless young people. Need more shelter space and resources for supportive services/work opportunities. Need to assist in accessing necessary identification documents.
University Hospital(Violence Intervention Program)	CoC/CEAS healthcare provider for homeless/at risk of homelessness populations	QP1 QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	Note: County recently funded HOME project for which hospital is providing health care clinic for at risk residents
ARFC St. Claire	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider NFP service provider for persons with disabilities	QP1 QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Respondent	survey respondent

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Catholic Charities St Roccas	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider shelter Service provider for families	QP1	Survey respondent	survey respondent
Clinton Hill Community Action	NFP services provider - supportive services for QPs; senior housing counselor	QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Respondent	survey respondent
CSPNJ	homeless service provider NFP service provider - persons with developmental disability fair housing/civil rights organization	QP1 QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings survey Respondent	survey respondent
East Orange Community Development Corp	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider NFP service provider for various QPs, including rental assistance	QP1 QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Respondent	survey respondent
Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider NFP service provider for persons with mental health disabilities; developer of affordable group home housing	QP1 QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Respondent DHCD Meetings & Notifications	survey respondent
Newark Public Library	CoC/CEAS NFP service provider - workshops on housing issues	QP1 QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey respondent	Survey Comment- need more outreach
RCHP Affordable Housing Corp.	CoC/CEAS NFP Developer affordable housing homeless services - youth shelter NFP service provider - victims of domestic violence, veterans, developmentally disabled HOME loan recipient	QP1 QP2 QP3 QP4	CEAS Meetings survey Respondent	survey respondent
Catholic Charities of Newark	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider emergency shelter NFP service provider -persons with disabilities, mental illness, at risk youth affordable housing	QP1 QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Access Family Services	homeless service provider	QP1 QP3	CoC Board Meetings CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Apostle House	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider shelter RRH/HP rental assistance	QP1 QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation DHCD Meetings & Notifications	no comments received
Care Plus NJ	CoC/CEAS NFP service provider - persons requiring mental health and/or substance abuse treatment	QP1 QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Catholic Charities (SSVF)	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider RRH/HP veterans' group public agency for QPs	QP1 QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Catholic Charities PAC (Parish Access Center)	CoC/CEAS NFP service provider - homeless prevention rental assistance	QP1 QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Catholic Charities St. Bridget's	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider shelter Service provider for persons with HIV / Aids	QP1 QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received

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Center for Family Services	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider shelter NFP service provider - victims of domestic violence, at risk youth	QP1 QP2 QP3 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Circle of Life	homeless service provider shelter NFP service provider - persons requiring substance abuse treatment	QP1 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
City Relief	homeless service provider	QP1	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Community Hope	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider RRH/HP rental assistance NFP services provider - veterans; persons with disabilities	QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Cope Center	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider NFP service provider persons with disabilities, at risk families and youth	QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings DHCD Meetings & Notifications Survey Invitation	no comments received
Dept Children and Families (DCF) /Division of Child Protection & Permanency	CoC/CEAS public agency service provider - at risk youth, victims of domestic violence	QP3 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Easter Seals	CoC/CEAS NFP service provider - persons with disabilities	QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
EC LGBT Rain Foundation	homeless service provider shelter NFP developer of housing and service provider - young adults from LGBT community, victims of domestic violence	QP1 QP3	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation HOME awardee	no comments received
Essex/Newark Legal Services	CoC/CEAS NFP service provider - homeless services; legal assistance for persons at risk of homelessness, victims of domestic violence, housing, expunging criminal records	QP1 QP2 QP3 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Fairmount Health Services	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider shelter	QP1	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Forte House	CoC/CEAS NFP service provider - housing stability for previously incarcerated persons	QP1 QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Goodwill of Greater NY and Northern	CoC/CEAS NFP service provider - persons with disabilities	QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Helping the Homeless	homeless service provider shelter	QP1	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Hyacinth AIDS Foundation	CoC/CEAS NFP service provider for homeless/at risk of homeless persons; persons with HIV/AIDS	QP1 QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Integrity House	homeless service provider shelter NFP service provider - persons receiving mental health and substance abuse treatment	QP1 QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation DHCD Meetings & Notifications	no comments received
La Casa Don Pedro	CoC/CEAS NFP service provider - Housing Consultation for low income persons; rental assistance; counseling for victims of domestic violence; youth programs	QP1 QP2 QP3 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received

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My Sisters Lighthouse	CoC/CEAS NFP service provider for victims of domestic violence	QP2 QP3 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Newly Destined Inc.	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider shelter for families	QP1	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
NJ HIV Housing Collaborative	CoC/CEAS public collaborative homeless service provider - transitional housing for persons with HIV Aids	QP1 QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
North Jersey Community Research Initiative (NJCRI)	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider NFP service provider for victims of domestic violence and/or LGBT persons	QP1 QP3	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Office of Public Defender	CoC/CEAS public agency legal assistance for low income residents	QP1 QP2 QP3 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Positive Healthcare	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider and shelter rental assistance NFP service provider for persons with HIV / Aids	QP1 QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Pringle Pit Stop	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider - homeless and persons recently incarcerated	QP1 QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Real House Shelter	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider shelter NFP service provider for persons seeking treatment for substance abuse/victims of domestic violence	QP1 QP2 QP3 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Restoration Center	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider shelter NFP service provider for persons with substance abuse	QP1 QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
RPM Development	CoC/CEAS For profit Developer of affordable housing	QP1 QP2 QP4	Developer questionnaire	no comments received
Safe House	CoC/CEAS shelter for domestic violence victims	QP3	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Sanar Institute	CoC/CEAS NFP service provider for victims of domestic violence	QP3	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Shani Baraka Woman Resource	CoC/CEAS homeless services provider public agency services provider for victims of domestic violence	QP1 QP3	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Sierra House	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider NFP agency service provider for at risk youth, persons aging out of foster care and young mothers	QP1 QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
St. Clares Services (AIDS Resource Foundation for Children)	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider Hospital service provider for persons with HIV AIDS	QP1 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received

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Team Management 2000 Inc.	CoC/CEAS NFP service provider at risk youths and young adults	QP1 QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
The Salvation Army-Newark	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider shelter RRH/HP rental assistance NFP service provider for area residents	QP1 QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
United Community Corp	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider shelter RRH/HP rental assistance NFP service provider for families and youths	QP1 QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Unity Fellowship Church Newark	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider shelter church program for homeless with focus on LGBT youth	QP1 QP3	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Urban League of Essex County	CoC/CEAS NFP agency - civil rights	QP1 QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received - contacted several occasions
Urban Renewal Corp.	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider shelter NFP service provider for veterans; persons previously incarcerated	QP1 QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Veterans Affairs	Public agency service provider - veterans	QP1 QP2 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Veterans Achieving Sustainability Through Training = VAST	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider NFP service provider for veterans	QP1 QP2 QP3 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Visions and Pathways	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider NFP service provider for at risk youth, youth out of foster care; victims of domestic violence	QP1 QP2 QP3	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Volunteer Lawyers for Justice	CoC/CEAS NFP service provider - legal assistance for renters, veterans, reentry of incarcerated persons, human trafficking	QP1 QP2 QP3 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Well Together	CoC/CEAS NFP service provider for young adults	QP1 QP2	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Workforce Development	CoC/CEAS public agency community job training service provider	QP1 QP2 QP3 QP4	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Zufall Health center	CoC/CEAS homeless service provider NFP service provider - health care	QP1	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received

NON COC/CEAS AGENCY/ORGANIZATION	Type of Agency / Organization	Qualifying Population Served	Method of Consultation	Feedback
1st Cerebral Palsy of NJ	NFP service provider - persons with disabilities	Disabled persons with Cerebral Palsy	Survey Respondent DHCD Meetings & Notifications	survey respondent

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Bethany Center	NFP service provider - youth mentoring/education	QP1 QP2 QP4	Survey Respondent DHCD Meetings & Notifications	survey respondent
Newark Community Street Team/Newark/Southward	Public Agency service provider to general population - mediating and intervening to alleviate stressful situations; youths and young adults	QP1 QP2 QP3 QP4	Survey respondent	survey respondent
Planned Parenthood	NFP service provider - persons with HIV/Aids	QP1 QP2 QP4	Survey Respondent DHCD Meetings & Notifications	survey respondent
Rutgers Dept of Psychiatry/NJMS Addiction Medicine	University Medical School Medication Assisted Treatment Center	QP1 QP2 QP4	Survey respondent	survey respondent -Homeless need support and services to obtain safe shelter and permanent housing. It is also important to provide funding for those who are at risk for homelessness.
SALON	NFP services provider homeless persons	QP1	Survey respondent	survey respondent
Succeed2gether	NFP agency service provider for youths from income eligible families - education	QP1 QP2 QP4	survey Respondent DHCD Meetings & Notifications	Survey Comment - insufficient affordable housing units in Montclair
Alpert Group	For profit Developer	QP1 QP2 QP3 QP4	CEAS Meetings Focus Group 10.26.22 Respondent to Developer's Survey 3.15.22	Focus Group 10.26.22 need to upgrade existing homes. Construction costs up 20% during Covid. Proponent of MOUs with developers for supportive services and more dollars for development of mixed use projects as well as home repairs and FTHBs. Developer response 3.15.22: Significant shortage of affordable housing units. Obstacles to development include inflationary material costs, rising interest rates, competition for limited available land. Issues for renters and homeowners in Essex include high property taxes, significantly higher rents that are not covered by section 8 vouchers and/or motivate landlords to go for highest market rate. Future optimism based on Fair Share court settlements and advancements in modular housing. To address access to amenities and transportation, preferred solution is to provide mixed use development and shuttles to train stations as it is difficult to navigate development issues around transit stations. Identifies funding and rental assistance vouchers as preferred uses of funds.
Arc of Essex County	NFP service provider - persons with disabilities Non profit housing Developer	QP2 QP4	Survey Invitation DHCD Meetings & Notifications Citizen Participation - Affordable Housing 10.19.22	CPP 10.19.22 Home purchase and construction costs significantly higher. Vacant land scarce in Essex. Consumers are aging. Work with towns to identify potential properties for Arc consumer who have disabilities
Essex County Dept of Welfare	Public agency service provider for low income residents	QP1 QP2 QP4	Focus Group 11.29.22	Focus group 11.29.22 Difficult to place large families
Essex County Legal Aid Association (ECLAA)	NFP service provider - legal assistance for civil cases for various QPs (assist in tenant landlord and family law cases) fair housing; civil rights	QP1 QP2 QP4	Survey Invitation DHCD Meetings & Notifications	DHCD application 11.18.21: need to expand staff so that ECLAA can provide free legal representation to tenants attending mandatory pre-eviction settlement conferences as mandated by the NJ Supreme Court. In 2020, clients needed legal assistance and representation even more due to economic hardship and increased complexity of legal cases.
Family Connections	NFP service provider for persons who require mental health and substance abuse counseling	QP1 QP2 QP3 QP4	Survey Respondent DHCD Meetings & Notifications	Survey Comment: Since beginning of the COVID Pandemic, there has been a dramatic increase in the demand for mental health and substance use treatment services. Increasing affordable housing availability is priority. This however cannot exist without accessible supportive services: mental health, legal, child care

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Family Service League	NFP service provider for victims of domestic violence	QP3	Interview 12.22.22 Survey Invitation DHCD Meetings & Notifications	Interview 12.22.22 Domestic violence cases sharply increased during Covid; need spaces to house families escaping from violence at home; need to improve awareness of assistance programs to population
Fair Housing Council of Northern NJ	NFP fair housing organization	QP2 QP3 QP4	Correspondence	we have seen a rise in the number of complaints involving source of income/rent payment (including Covid rental assistance funds) since the pandemic. And there does seem to be some rise in landlords trying to evict/force people out and increasing rents.
Main Street Counseling	NFP service provider for persons requiring mental health counseling; - focus on young adults and youths; lower income populations	QP1 QP2 QP3 QP4	Survey Respondent DHCD Meetings & Notifications	Survey comment: Communicated significant increase in number of persons seeking counseling since start of Covid; need more counselors to meet demand. The number of 1 parent female headed households with children in need of shelter is growing. DV and sexual abuse is common, child on child sexual abuse and within family members is quite common. Few options for safe housing specially since economic and mental health issues impact housing decisions
Monarch Housing Associates	Non profit Housing and Homelessness Consultant	QP1 QP2 QP3 QP4	Focus Group 10.26.22	Focus Group 10.26.22 High construction and material costs have forced developers to rebudget projects, thereby delaying construction start up. Proponent project based rental assistance programs.
Montclair Shared Housing Association	NFP Housing developer - senior housing	QP1 QP2 QP4	Survey Respondent DHCD Meetings & Notifications	DHCD Meeting 3.16.22 indicated there is shortage of senior housing survey respondent
National Council of Jewish Women	NFP service provider for low income women - empowerment and vocational training	QP1 QP2 QP3 QP4	Survey Invitation DHCD Meetings & Notifications	DHCD application 12.29.22 COVID-19 pandemic created unprecedented economic and employment challenges, especially for women and particularly women of color. Clientele more than doubled during pandemic
NJ Citizen Action	NFP service provider - Fair Housing; counseling and advocacy; first time homebuyer and renter assistance and counseling	QP1 QP2 QP4	Survey Invitation DHCD Meetings & Notifications Correspondence 2.28.23	Correspondence 2.28.23 sent report dated 2.24.23: In December 2022, ATTOM Data released a report that identified Essex County as having the most vulnerable housing market in the country due to its poor housing affordability (i.e., mortgage, property tax, and insurance costs as a percentage of wages), as well as relatively high unemployment and foreclosure rates, and percent of homeowners across the county whose mortgages are underwater. While nationwide, major expenses on typical homes sold in the third quarter of 2022 required 30 percent of average local wages, in Essex County, major expenses on typical homes required 47.6 percent of average local wages. With regard to foreclosure, Essex County has been among one of the top 10 counties in the country with the highest rate of residential foreclosures in 2022. Statewide, ATTOM mortgage data shows that in 2022 New Jersey ranked second in the nation with regard to rate of foreclosure activity, with between 16,000 and 17,000 NJ households receiving a foreclosure notice throughout 2022. And, while the average time to foreclose decreased both quarterly and annually across the nation in 2022, in New Jersey it took an average of 2,041 days to foreclose, compared to the average 1,000 and 1,200-day cycle for NJ foreclosures prior to pandemic.
SOFIA	NFP agency service provider - victims of domestic violence	QP3	Survey Invitation DHCD Meetings & Notifications	DHCD Application 12.29.22: domestic violence cases are undercounted
The Bridge	NFP service provider for persons receiving mental health and substance abuse treatments	QP1 QP2 QP3 QP4	survey Respondent DHCD Meetings & Notifications	Application Interview 2.1.23: Significant increase in demand for counseling supportive services during pandemic. Need to hire more clinicians. Survey respondent
Wynona's House	NFP service provider for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking; unaccompanied youth	QP1 QP2 QP3 QP4	Survey Respondent DHCD Meetings & Notifications Interview 3.1.23	Interview 3.1.23: High percentage of homeless youth are escaping from family violence situation. Need more shelters and housing units for victims of domestic violence.
Brother to Brother	NFP service provider - youth mentoring/education	QP1 QP2 QP4	Survey Invitation DHCD Meetings & Notifications	no comments received

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Children's Aid & Family Service	NFP service provider - persons with disabilities NFP Developer of group homes	QP1 QP2 QP4	Survey Invitation DHCD Meetings & Notifications	no comments received
HOME Corp	NFP Developer of affordable housing DHCD HOME loan recipient	QP1 QP2 QP3	Survey Invitation DHCD Meetings & Notifications	no comments received
Jewish Family Service of Metro West	NFP service provider for seniors, persons with disabilities, victims of domestic violence	QP1 QP2 QP3 QP4	Survey Invitation DHCD Meetings & Notifications	no comments received
Jewish Vocational Services (JVS) of Metrowest	NFP service provider persons with disabilities - vocational training	QP1 QP2 QP4	Survey Invitation DHCD Meetings & Notifications	no comments received
North Ward Center	NFP service provider - seniors	QP2 QP4	Survey Invitation DHCD Meetings & Notifications	no comments received
Northwest Essex	NFP service provider for persons receiving mental health and substance abuse treatment	QP1 QP2 QP4	Survey Invitation DHCD Meetings & Notifications	no comments received

Oaks Integrated Care, Inc.(COPE)	NFP service provider for persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and who require treatment for mental illness, substance abuse or have developmental disabilities	QP1 QP2 QP4	Survey Invitation DHCD Meetings & Notifications	no comments received
Opportunity Project	NFP service provider for persons with disabilities	QP1 QP2 QP4	Survey Invitation DHCD Meetings & Notifications	no comments received
Veterans Affairs	Federal agency service provider for veterans	QP1 QP2 QP4	Survey Invitation	no comments received

PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITIES	Type of Agency / Organization	Qualifying Population Served	Method of Consultation	Feedback
Bloomfield Housing Authority	PHA	QP1 QP2 QP3	Interview invitation	no comments received
Montclair Housing Authority	PHA	QP1 QP2 QP4	Survey Respondent	no comments received
Orange Public Housing Authority	PHA	QP1 QP2 QP4	Focus Group 10.26.22	Focus Group 10.26.22: Proponent of more housing units and supportive services. Current vouchers from HUD not keeping pace with rising rents. Wonders how we can slow rent increases. Concerned that households may be compelled to reside in unsafe locations where rent is lower. Need support from community to redevelop degraded properties. Need funding commitments for higher development costs. Population in need of affordable housing expanding - young college grads now part of that equation.
West Orange Housing Authority	PHA	QP1 QP2 QP4	Interview 2.27.23	Interview 2.27.23: rents much higher; difficult to assign vouchers that match rent levels; tight supply of affordable units; need to increase rent subsidies until market corrects.

IDENTIFIED INDIVIDUAL - SURVEY RESPONDENTS	Type of Agency / Organization	Qualifying Population Served	Method of Consultation	Feedback
Individual Davis	Lived Experience or Homelessness or Housing Instability	QP1 QP2	Survey respondent	survey respondent
Individual Edwards	Lived Experience or Homelessness or Housing Instability	QP1 QP2	Survey respondent	survey respondent
Individual Forman	Lived Experience or Homelessness or Housing Instability	QP1 QP2	Survey respondent	survey respondent
Individual Frais-Fernandez	Lived Experience or Homelessness or Housing Instability	QP1 QP2	Survey respondent	survey respondent

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Individual Newark Sykes/yanta	Lived Experience of Homelessness or Housing Instability	QP1 QP2	Survey Respondent	survey respondent
Individual Newark Marques McCoy	Lived experience; CEAS Board	QP1	CoC Board Meetings CEAS Meetings	no comments received
Individual Asha	Lived Experience of Homelessness or Housing Instability, Social Work	QP1	Survey Respondent	survey respondent
Individual Quiles thru NJ Citizen Action	Lived Experience or Homelessness or Housing Instability	QP1 QP2	Survey Respondent	survey respondent
Individual Stewart	Lived Experience or Homelessness or Housing Instability	QP1 QP2	Survey respondent	survey respondent
Individual Wood	Lived Experience or Homelessness or Housing Instability	QP1 QP2	Survey respondent	survey respondent
Individual YMCA Newark	Lived Experience or Homelessness or Housing Instability	QP1 QP2	Survey Respondent	survey respondent
Individual Young	Lived Experience or Homelessness or Housing Instability	QP1 QP2	Survey respondent	survey respondent
Individual Glen Ridge Scott	Interested Community Member	Unknown	Survey respondent	survey respondent
Individual Glen Ridge Timmers	Interested Community Member	Unknown	Survey respondent	survey respondent
Individual Glen Ridge Young	Youth Group/Service Organization, Interested Community Member	Unknown	Survey respondent	survey respondent
Individual Trent	Interested Community Member	Unknown	Survey Respondent	survey respondent
Individual West Orange - Gaertner	Interested Community Member	Unknown	Survey respondent	Survey comment: lack of accessible residences is appalling. As baby boom population ages, we must ensure all future housing is accessible, possibly built on one level-living, or built with low-cost elevator options. I don't realize why architects and planners are not planning/building for this burgeoning population. ALSO, we must build near public transportation so folks after age 75 will have access to get places we want to go on our own.
Individual Winbush	Not Posted	Unknown		survey respondent
MUNICIPALITIES OF ESSEX COUNTY	Type of Agency / Organization	Qualifying Population Served	Method of Consultation	Feedback
East Orange	Municipality	All 4 QPs	CEAS Meetings Survey respondent	survey respondent
Montclair	Municipality DHCD	All 4 QPs	Survey Respondent DHCD Meetings & Notifications CPP - Affordable Housing 10.19.22	CPP Sub Committee Affordable Housing 10.19.22: Promoting Accessory Dwelling Units to be constructed at homes to help address severe affordable housing shortage. Want to leverage funds from HTF with homeowner equity and potential County funds to construct units that will be deed restricted for income eligible persons Survey Respondent
Newark - Mayor's Office of Homeless Services	Municipality	All 4 QPs	CoC Board Meetings CEAS Meetings Interview 2.17.23 Survey Respondent	Interview 2.17.23: Noted that staff for shelters not always equipped to manage aggressive behavior against shelter persons who are members of LGBT community or domestic violence victims Exec Board 2.2.23 - need to redesign shelter concept as consumers prefer individual space vs congregated shelters. Survey comments: Supportive and educational services, coupled with more affordable housing, can shorten the length of homelessness for families and individuals who are currently experiencing homelessness, while creating a pipeline to independent living.
Orange / Orange Planning & Economic Development	Municipality DHCD	All 4 QPs	Survey Invitation DHCD Meetings & Notifications Focus Group 10.26.22	Focus group 10.26.22: To enhance fiscal viability of projects, developers prefer mixed use and mixed income projects with market rate units included. Need to motivate owners of degrading properties to sell so that town or developers can redevelop. Some locations not zoned to house veterans or developmentally disabled adults. Need to advertise affordable housing units when available and incentivize first time home buyers.

County of Essex HOME ARP Allocation Pan

Belleville; Caldwell; Cedar Grove; Essex Fells, Fairfield; Glen Ridge; Livingston; Maplewood; Millburn; North Caldwell; Nutley; Roseland; South Orange; West Caldwell; West Orange; Verona	Municipality DHCD - various municipalities which provided no comments	All 4 QPs	Survey Invitation DHCD Meetings & Notifications	no comments received
Bloomfield	Municipality DHCD	All 4 QPs	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received
Irvington Neighborhood Improvement Corp	Municipality public agency service provider for homeless/at risk of homeless persons	QP1 QP2	CEAS Meetings Survey Invitation	no comments received

Summarize feedback received and results of upfront consultation with these entities:

Two messages consistently communicated at various sessions were (1) Essex County needs to build more affordable housing units and increase accessibility for these units, and (2) there is an underserved demand for supportive services to persons occupying these units, including but not limited to:

- assistance for physically and/or developmentally disabled persons
- case management guidance
- training for those assisting persons who are victims of domestic violence
- counseling for persons with mental health and substance abuse issues
- legal aid for persons dealing with gender/racial bias, landlord disputes, and other legal concerns

Several participants acknowledged the high housing costs for Essex County, but generally agreed that we needed to increase the supply of units because placements have been slowed by a shortage of available units despite the availability of funds to subsidize rents. Virtual and in person meetings reinforced survey results that indicated homeless persons represented the largest group who merited prompt assistance given their situation, but most agreed all of the qualifying populations were also struggling with housing stability, including victims of domestic violence and other groups defined in QP3 for whom there was a distressingly low number of available units designed and set aside for that population. In regards to the availability of affordable housing, the participants added that landlords are less cooperative in allowing for the clearance of rent arrearages because the market rate for rentals has increased significantly during the past year and allows for a long term revenue benefit for the landlord.

The overall results of our survey generally reinforced the observations from the consultations referenced above that Essex County needs to build more affordable housing units and increase accessibility for these units, and that the homeless population is a qualifying population for whom there was the most urgency for assistance. In addition to affordable housing units, several respondents referenced supportive services and rental assistance as significant unmet needs. Most comments from the survey reflected themes presented in meetings and interviews. One respondent strongly supported supportive services because evidence shows these services can stabilize families and end a cycle of homelessness; especially for minority and lower income children whose lives may be traumatized because of their parents' unemployment, underemployment, substance abuse or mental health issues. A resource navigator dealing with eviction cases emphasized the need to provide legal services to tenants dealing with potential evictions or unrealistic settlement agreements. One commentator noted that Montclair has just a few affordable units. Another responder called for planners to provide affordable housing near amenities and transportation for an aging baby boom population, which was also communicated at the focus group meetings.

There is a note that the number of single mother households seeking shelter space is rising. A provider of services for domestic violence victims commented that supportive services are effective but not impacting enough persons because said services are not advertised sufficiently and therefore underutilized.

Various focus groups and interviews reinforced many of the statements and conclusions presented herein, but also provided insights and recommendations that will help achieve the objectives of the allocation plan. Key discussion points included:

- 1. Need construction of affordable units to offset declining availability of affordable units since the onset of Covid
- 2. Need to help tenants sustain tenancy for long term by providing supportive services as case managers want to provide long term solutions to the housing stability of their clients, not short term fixes
- 3. Major need for counseling, especially for those transitioning out of homelessness, which is consistent with communications from various counseling and service agencies for which the Division provides CDBG and ESG funds
- 4. Tenants benefit from vocational and life skills training
- 5. Domestic violence and other sexual crimes are rising but still undercounted.
- 6. The CoC’s efforts to improve efficiency and provide greater support to its consumers will help ensure that QPs are able to reside in newly created and rehabilitated affordable units
Tenants need assistance when navigating resolutions to tenant – landlord disputes because of the backlog in cases

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:

Date(s) of public notice:	March 9, 2023
Public comment period:	March 9, 2023 to March 24, 2023
Date(s) of public hearing:	March 6, 2023
Date(s) of public hearing notice:	February 24, 2023

Describe the public participation process:

The County invited citizens to participate in the development of the HOME ARP allocation plan by providing residents with reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on the proposed HOME ARP allocation plan of no less than 15 calendar days. A public notice inviting public comment on the Allocation Plan to be submitted to HUD was published on March 9, 2023 that provided for a 15 day comment period commencing on March 9, 2023 and ending on March 24, 2023. As of the date of this application, no public comments have been received orally or in writing. Any comments received by or before March 24, 2023 will be included in the plan. There are no comments or recommendations that have been received and subsequently not accepted.

A public hearing was held on March 6, 2023 at The Salvation Army of Montclair, 13 Trinity Place, Montclair. The public notice for this hearing affirmed that upon request, the County would accommodate those who needed translation services and/or assistance to attend and participate in the hearing. The announcement was made available in English and Spanish. Two persons attended the hearing.

The County's public participation commitment also included a survey that was released to the full membership of the CEAS/CoC, community development representatives from the County consortium of municipalities and agencies, all of whom were encouraged to share that with their local officials, residents, and/or consumers.

Describe efforts to broaden public participation:

Public meeting notices were posted in the Newark Star Ledger and the Worrall newspapers (covering Irvington, West Orange, East Orange, Orange, Bloomfield, Glen Ridge, Maplewood, South Orange), and posted online at the County website as well as NJ.com and njpublicnotices.com. The County's public participation commitment included the survey that was released to the full membership of the CEAS/CoC, community development representatives from the County consortium of municipalities and agencies, all of whom were encouraged to share that with their local officials, residents, and/or consumers. The public hearing was held at the Salvation Army of Montclair in part because it has hosted the County's annual spring and fall public hearings for several years as well as monthly meetings of the Essex County CoC/CEAS and is therefore a familiar location to County residents and organizations. Furthermore, the location is accessible via public transportation, has a parking lot, and can easily accommodate 50 to 100 attendees.

The County also spoke about the HOME ARP plan at several CEAS meetings and initiated contact with several organizations affiliated with the Qualifying Populations and prospective HOME ARP activities over several months.

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

No comments or recommendations have been received to date in response to the public notice requesting public comments regarding the allocation plan. One attendee at the public hearing commented that there is a significant need for funding to help create more affordable housing and reinforced that the targeted populations need supportive services to sustain housing stability for the long term.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND GAPS ANALYSIS

As per Notice CPD - 21 – 10, the County must evaluate the size and demographic composition of **all four** of the qualifying populations and veterans within its boundaries and assess the unmet needs of each of those populations. Qualifying populations are as follows:

- Homeless
- At-risk of Homelessness
- Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking
- Other Populations (Other Families Requiring Services or Housing Assistance to Prevent Homelessness and Households at Greatest Risk of Instability)
- Veterans and Families that include a Veteran Family Member and fall within one or more of other four categories

Size and Demographic Composition

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

Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

In conjunction with New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA) and Monarch Housing Consultants, the County and the State conducted a Point In Time (PIT) count on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 in order to collect demographic and other data about families and individuals experiencing homelessness in both the County and the State. The PIT for 2023 was recently completed but that report will not be available until later this year.

A snapshot of the count conducted for the State shows Essex County is populated by a significantly higher number of homeless persons vs. any other County in the state.

Figure i. Number of Homeless Persons by County and Percentage of State Total						
County	Total Homeless Persons	% of Total Homeless Persons	Chronic Homeless Persons	% of Chronic Homeless Persons	Unsheltered Homeless Persons	% of Unsheltered Homeless Persons
Atlantic	343	4%	118	7%	107	11%
Bergen	306	3%	12	1%	15	2%
Burlington	585	7%	143	8%	15	2%
Camden	625	7%	211	12%	136	14%
Cape May	119	1%	18	1%	1	0%
Cumberland	123	1%	23	1%	8	1%
Essex	1,914	22%	254	15%	149	15%
Gloucester	127	1%	15	1%	11	1%
Hudson	665	8%	154	9%	143	15%
Hunterdon	184	2%	26	1%	8	1%
Mercer	533	6%	100	6%	94	10%
Middlesex	586	7%	156	9%	87	9%
Monmouth	453	5%	95	5%	23	2%
Morris	351	4%	62	4%	13	1%
Ocean	419	5%	96	5%	13	1%
Passaic	374	4%	107	6%	86	9%
Salem	20	0%	5	0%	4	0%
Somerset	220	3%	16	1%	3	0%
Sussex	67	1%	5	0%	1	0%
Union	677	8%	116	7%	59	6%
Warren	63	1%	18	1%	2	0%
Total	8,754		1,750		978	

Source: NJ Counts 2022

A snapshot of the count conducted for Essex County shows, Newark reports a significantly higher number of homeless persons vs. any other County municipality.

Figure i. Number of Homeless Persons by Municipality and Percentage of County Total						
Municipality	Total Homeless Persons	% of Total Homeless Persons	Sheltered Homeless Persons	% of Sheltered Homeless Persons	Unsheltered Homeless Persons	% of Unsheltered Homeless Persons
Bloomfield	31	1.7%	30	1.7%	1	0.7%
City of Orange	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	1	0.7%
East Orange	51	2.7%	48	2.8%	3	2.0%
Essex Fells	2	0.1%	2	0.1%	0	0.0%
Fairfield	4	0.2%	4	0.2%	0	0.0%
Irvington	43	2.3%	42	2.4%	1	0.7%
Maplewood	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	1	0.7%
Montclair	41	2.2%	34	2.0%	7	4.7%
Newark	1,695	90.6%	1,561	90.7%	134	89.9%
Nutley	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	1	0.7%
Total	1,870*		1,721		149	

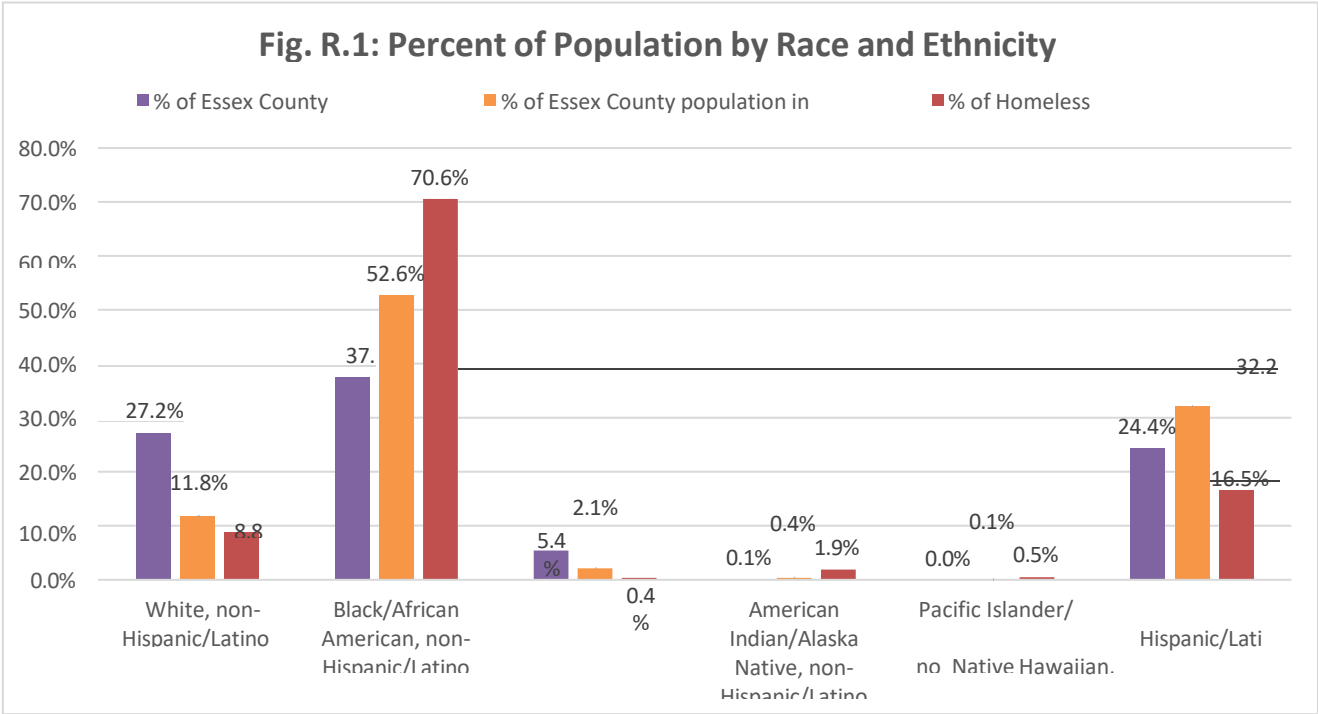
*Does not reflect 44 homeless persons who did not reference a municipality

Source: NJ Counts 2022/ESSEX COUNTY

The PIT report for January 25, 2022 indicates a total of 1914 persons (1501 households) were experiencing homelessness on a single night in Essex County. Of that total, 19% were less than 17 years old, 75% were 19 to 64 years old, and 6% (107 persons) were 65 and older. The number of persons from the PIT report that identified themselves as homeless veterans totaled 187. A representative from Soldier On, an organization dedicated to assisting veterans with housing stability issues, noted that as of February 27, 2023, 62 veterans were identified as homeless in Essex County, a majority of which were male and non white. The number of persons identifying themselves as unaccompanied youth totaled 188, or 10% of the total count.

RACIAL DISPARITIES IN TOTAL HOMELESS POPULATION

Posted below is a table for the PIT report breaking down results by race and ethnicity. Analysis of this data is taken from the analysis in that report.



The authors of the PIT report note that “In comparing the racial breakdown of those experiencing homelessness to the racial breakdown in the general population and those living in poverty, disparate impacts along racial lines are evident.” The authors continue: The chart above highlights that race rather than poverty appears to be a more predictive indicator of who will experience homelessness. Within this context it is important to explore the impact of systemic racism on experiences of homelessness, both in terms of who is likely to become homeless, and how systems of care work to end homelessness.

Data from Figure R.1 indicates the following:

- 1. Persons identifying as Black or African American are overrepresented in the population experiencing homelessness. While 37.5% of the general population, persons identifying as Black or African American are 52.6% of the population in poverty and 70.6% of the population identified as experiencing homelessness.

2. While persons identifying as Black or African American and Hispanic/Latino represent most persons living below the poverty line (52.6% and 32.2%, respectively), they represent differing rates of the population identified as homeless – 70.6% are persons identifying as Black or African American, and 16.5% are persons identifying as Hispanic/Latino.
3. Persons identifying as White non-Hispanic/Latino represent 9% of the sheltered population and 8.3% of the unsheltered population.

For the consultation survey conducted by the County, when queried about racial and ethnic disparities in affordable housing, 70% of respondents indicated that minorities must wait a long time to be accepted for an affordable housing unit. 50% of responders also cited a lack of development in neighborhoods with amenities such as transportation, grocery stores, etc. Over 30% of respondents indicated there is a lack of supportive services and outreach efforts about available programs to minority residents. The poor advertising of programs was also referenced during focus group meetings and interviews, especially for undocumented persons and persons who are dealing with sexual violence.

Based on the data and information presented above, there appears to be a disparity based on race, and more research and action needs to be done in this regard. These results also suggest supportive services are needed in minority communities. Furthermore, when tied in with the survey, development projects in a predominantly minority area should preferably be located within an area that offers transportation, food stores and other amenities.

At Risk of Homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

As defined in the HOME ARP Guidance, households at risk of homelessness are those with incomes below 30% of AMI that do not have resources or family, friend, or faith-based support networks to prevent homelessness, and are dealing with economic hardships, overcrowded conditions, is exiting a system of care, is facing eviction, or is living from a motel or hotel.

For the purpose of this analysis we are focusing on the number of households with incomes at or below 30% AMI, and meet one of the other criteria defined in the Notice for designation as At Risk of Homelessness.

For Essex County, the current income limit for 30% AMI is \$24,150 for a single person, \$27,600 for a two person household and \$31,050 and higher as household size goes to 3 or more. Per ACS 2021 data, 29% of households (approximately 90K of 322K households) earned less than \$ 35,000 in 2021.

The Essex County CoC recently provided a snapshot of the population identified as At Risk of Homelessness in the County HMIS system. This database included 3,137 persons who are considered to be At Risk of Homelessness. Demographics for this group of 3,137 persons is as follows:

Demographic	% of 3,137 persons
Annual household earnings in excess of \$11,000	<1% (14 persons)
18 to 29 years old	16%
30 to 49 years old	57%
50 to 69 years old	27%
Female	64%
Black/African American/African	79%
White	11%
Hispanic/Latino	11%
Persons from household with only adults	81%
Persons from households with children	10%
Persons that did not indicate if household has children	9%
Current housing situation for this population:	
Currently renting with no subsidies	62.4%
Living with family/friend	8.9%
Living in shelter or transitional housing	8.8%
Rental with subsidy	4.3%
Not suitable for habitation	2.4%
Prison or detention facility	1%
Other	12.2%

HOUSING INSECURITY AND EVICTION

Another criteria for designation as a person at risk of homelessness is facing eviction. Based on data from Eviction Labs published in 2018 prior to the Covid pandemic, Essex County reported 104 eviction filings per day vs. 8 and 40 in Morris and Hudson counties respectively. This high number is consistent with the narratives from nonprofit agencies regarding the high number of persons at risk of eviction in Essex County.

SEVERE OVERCROWDING

Most current CPD map from 2015 shows that for the County there were 1405 households at or below 30% AMI that were considered to be severely over crowded 1280 of which were located in Newark, East orange, and Irvington.

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

Data from the PIT Count in January 2022 for reported homeless persons who identified themselves as part of this group indicates 78 persons, or 4% of the homeless population for that day, identified themselves as a victim of domestic violence. Approximately 4\$ of this population indicated they had no source of income, but the group as a whole reported an average monthly income of \$1,900.

Regarding the incident rate of domestic violence for the general population, a domestic violence statistical report, prepared by the NJ Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), and compiled by the Judiciary on domestic violence matters suggests that Essex County had the highest DV incident rate in the State during 2020. For example, Essex County (and Camden County) reported over 3100 new DV complaints in 2020, with Hudson County next at 2156, and Essex County reported the filing of 2615 DV criminal cases during 2020, followed by Camden County with 1915 filings. This report further indicated that 78% of plaintiffs are female.

Various persons who contributed comments for this plan noted that victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking are often undercounted in the general population and homeless population, and therefore the true count of victims of domestic violence experiencing homelessness may be higher than reported. Both counseling agencies and agencies dedicated to assisting sexual violence victims also note that Covid has contributed to greater stress and incidents of domestic violence. One agency which services domestic violence victims indicated they are receiving a significantly greater volume of calls about sexual assault incidents, and believe that many go unreported because victims are often afraid or unaware of any programs where they can get help. An organization dedicated to assisting unaccompanied youths indicates that a high percentage of their consumers are escaping from a sexual or violence abuse family situation.

Representatives from Wynona's house Child Advocacy Center noted that the young adults and families they are assisting are generally trying to escape from sexual or violence abuse in their homes.

Other populations requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness and other populations at greatest risk of housing instability, as defined by HUD in Notice CPD 21-10

As per The HOME-ARP notice CPD -21-10, criteria for being designated as a member of “Other Populations” includes families “*Requiring Services or Housing Assistance to Prevent Homelessness*”; households at lower than 30% AMI experiencing severe cost burdens, and households at 50% AMI who are struggling with various scenarios, including but not limited to being on notice for eviction, living in an overcrowded situation, and other criteria listed in the notice

SEVERE COST BURDEN

As per HUD guidelines, tenant households who pay more than 30% of their income for rent and utilities are considered cost burdened and those who pay over 50% of their income for occupancy costs are considered to have a severe cost burden. A source of data for assessing this population is taken from the 2015-2019 HUD Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data base for Essex County. Data for this CHAS report is based on surveys conducted from 2015 to 2019 and does not reflect the Covid impact. However, given the economic turmoil during the Covid years that the number of people at risk of homelessness is at minimum similar to the numbers posted below and likely higher than the data presented herein.

Following is a summary of cost burden for different income levels:

CHAS DATA 2015 – 2019 for Essex County

Household Income (HHI)	Total renters	Cost burden is 30 to 50% of income	Cost burden exceeds 50% of income	% of cost burden 30% to 50%	% of cost burden over 50%
HHi <30% AMI	58,305	8,230	36,015	14%	62%
HHi 30% to 50% AMI	30,675	15,160	7,975	49%	26%
HHI 51% to 80% AMI	29,430	9,640	1,025	33%	3%
HHI 80% to 100% AMI	13,705	1,460	80	10%	1%
HHI over 100% AMI	28,020	1,055	35	4%	0%

For Essex County, the CHAS data indicates that 36,015 households are presently earning less than 30% AMI and struggling to cover occupancy costs that exceed 50% of their household income, which means that 62% of this income group meet the criteria for QP4. Similarly 7,975 households earning between 30% to 50% AMI are dealing with a severe cost burden, which represents 26% of that income population.

Current Resources

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 (Optional).

Congregate and Non-Congregate Shelter Units

It is noted that the Covid pandemic forced some shelters to reduce number of existing beds in an attempt to meet Covid protocols; as result, during the pandemic agencies and municipalities established partnerships with hotels/motels to create non-congregate settings that replaced the lost shelter beds.

It is noted that no specific requests for funding non congregate were raised during the consultation process for HOME ARP, but various agencies are strategizing for creating non congregate shelters in the future. It is noted that the survey consistently rated the access to shelters as a low priority for various populations.

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

Essex County has supported various agencies with CDBG and ESG funds to provide supportive services to the QPs cited in this report. The breakdown posted below of the agencies directly contacted by the County for consultation shows a diversity of groups that receive supportive services that include counseling, legal assistance, case management, vocational training, food delivery, health care, educational, and other services. Nearly all of these agencies are not for profit agencies that are less costly than a corporate provider and some have sliding fee schedules or subsidized rates based on the income level of their consumers.

Beneficiaries/description of supportive services provided by agencies consulted for HOME ARP allocation plan	# of agencies providing supportive service
Homeless persons	60
Victims of domestic violence, sexual assault	23
Tenants /Homeowners (legal, financial counseling, and case mgt)	22
Young adults	22
Persons with disabilities	19
Treatment for mental illness and substance abuse	16
Health care	10
Veterans	9
Seniors	7
Reentry from incarceration	7
Vocational training	2

TENANT BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Various resources for rental assistance are available. Consultees identified rental assistance as important but not a major need or deficiency. Of more concern was finding housing units available for occupancy for lower income households. The County previously disbursed ERAP funds for rental assistance and is now processing rent assistance payments via ESG CV and CDBG CV grants. Various PHAs in the County offer Section 8 housing vouchers. One result of the pandemic has been much stronger demand for rental units in the County such that landlords are not making as many units available for lower income tenants because the market rate rents are significantly higher.

AFFORDABLE AND PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE RENTAL HOUSING

The County provides HOME assistance for affordable housing development projects and retrofitting residential homes to be occupied by persons with disabilities. For some projects the County collaborates with the City of Newark to fund HOME projects

Unmet Need

Describe the unmet housing and service needs of qualifying populations.

Assessments of unmet housing and service needs of specific QPs are based on consultations with various organizations, research data, and a consultation survey conducted by the County. Data from the consultation survey and narratives from various discussions are excerpted below for each of the populations. The overall results of the survey generally reinforced the observations from other consultation activities that Essex County needs to build more affordable housing units and increase accessibility for these units, and that the homeless population is clearly identified as a QP in need of assistance.

When queried about affordable housing issues, 71% of all respondents cited lack of housing units as an issue. Similarly, the % of respondents who posted Access to Affordable Housing as the most significant unmet need for persons/families who are homeless and at risk of homelessness was 80% and 52% respectively.

A need for supportive services was also identified to a lesser degree than the lack of housing inventory by survey respondents but the demand for these services was more emphatically communicated by participants in focus groups, interviews, and other consultations.

Homeless Populations, as defined in 24 CFR 91.5.

Based on data provided by the County CoC, in late December 2022 there was a shortage of available beds. This shortage reflected in part efforts to separate beds to minimize Covid infections. Based on narratives from area agencies, there also appears to be a shortage of qualified trained case managers. Another obstacle to relocating clients to suitable rental units is that there is a supply and demand crunch presently as landlords are holding out for high market rents.

Survey results show that when queried about which Qualifying Population (QP) should be prioritized, homeless and at risk of homelessness persons were identified as priority groups by 63% and 50% of all 76 responders, vs 36% and 33% for victims of domestic violence and other populations respectively.

For homeless veterans, Soldier On, an advocacy group for homeless veterans, described various support services and other actions that would benefit homeless veterans seeking affordable housing that also apply to other subgroups of the homeless population. Recommended activities included counseling about how to maintain an apartment and interact with neighbors, credit score repair and budget management assistance, increased allocations for housing vouchers or other rental assistance to offset rising costs for rents and basic living expenses, and legal assistance to address existing criminal or eviction records.

At Risk of Homelessness, as defined in 24 CFR 91.5.

As defined in the HOME ARP Guidance, households at risk of homelessness are those with incomes below 30% of AMI that do not have resources or family, friend, or faith-based support networks to prevent homelessness, and are dealing with economic hardships, overcrowded conditions, is exiting a system of care, is facing eviction, or is living from a motel or hotel.

Survey results show that when queried about which Qualifying Population (QP) should be prioritized, homeless and at risk of homelessness persons were identified as priority groups by 63% and 50% of all 76 responders, vs 36% and 33% for victims of domestic violence and other populations respectively.

When queried about affordable housing issues, 71% of all respondents cited lack of housing units as an issue. Similarly, the % of respondents who posted Access to Affordable Housing as the most significant unmet need for persons/families who are homeless and at risk of homelessness was 80% and 52% respectively.

Difficulties in obtaining access to affordable units was also emphasized during focus groups and other sessions, an issue which has been impacted by rising rents that motivating landlords in the pat who may have accepted referrals from housing assistance providers to pass on these referrals because of the strong demand for rental units in the County.

Another deficiency noted for those at risk of homelessness is a lack of resources to navigate the current court system for tenant - landlord disputes. During the pandemic, a backlog of cases piled up during the moratorium period that expired January 2022. During this time the court system became more automated and difficult for a tenant to navigate his/her way through a dispute or rent arrearage situation in a timely manner with the landlord. In some cases, the tenant is unable to present a case and ends up being evicted with a very short notice period that does not allow for the chance to receive certain rental assistance monies that could clear the eviction. Organizations such as Newark Community Solutions provide legal assistance to renters and help them gain access to the right persons so that an eviction may be avoided either through a lump sum payment or mediation.

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

Agencies focusing on domestic violence generally agreed there is a need for funding to support understaffed offices that are working with those who are fleeing domestic violence. There is also a consensus that public awareness of available programs needs to be increased via creative and consistent advertising about available programs. Also, there are not many units dedicated solely for the special circumstances of DV victims who need to relocate from an unacceptable housing situation. And there are not enough shelter or housing units dedicated to address the special circumstances for victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Other comments from providers for domestic violence victims is that they need more staff to assist their undermanned operations, as well as training and improved communications technology to enhance their when servicing victims, and safe and secure shelter spaces. Another common theme is that funding for advertising the availability of programs would be very beneficial because many persons are unaware they may have options, especially undocumented persons and victims of human trafficking who may have traveled to the US based on false promises and don't know how to escape their situation.

Persons affiliated with assisting LGBTQ individuals find shelter or housing emphasized that training of case managers is needed when housing this population because of the potential for violence and harassment against members of this community, both in the shelters and on the streets.

Survey results show that when queried about which Qualifying Population (QP) should be prioritized, Homeless and At risk of homeless persons were identified as priority groups by 63% and 50% of all 76 responders, vs 36% and 33% for victims of domestic violence and other populations respectively.

Other populations requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness and other populations at greatest risk of housing instability, as defined by HUD in Notice CPD 21-10

It is noted that 33% of all responders identified Other Populations as a QP to be prioritized and 8% indicated Other populations have the greatest need for supportive services.

The Cost burden for residing in Essex County is extremely high and creates an unstable housing situation for many families whose budgets are tight. Unfortunately, that burden is worsening as incomes for many renters may have been stagnant or reduced, while rent rates have been steadily increasing during the pandemic. Furthermore, families and friends may be less open to allowing someone to stay with them due to Covid health concerns. And some agencies noted landlords who may have made units available to various housing agencies are now holding out for higher free market rate and reducing the available inventory, and/or are forcing tenants to vacate units that will go for a much higher rent on the open market.

Persons who make up the Other Population category may also need supportive services to address emotional, health and/or mental conditions to move on from an unstable housing situation, and/or assistance to navigate the current court system for tenant - landlord disputes in order to clear up rent arrearages.

Narratives from various agencies highlighted various communities that are struggling to secure affordable housing and more importantly need supportive services to ensure that they can sustain a stable housing situation. These groups included seniors with limited benefits, persons with physical disabilities, persons with developmental and emotional disabilities, persons struggling with substance abuse, veterans, etc. A common theme from all sources, regardless of the population they serve, is a need for supportive services.

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

As per the data provided by County CoC, the status of the Essex County homeless system in December 2022 was as follows:

Inventory of Available Sites

	Beds	Units
Shelter / Transitional Housing for Families	1318	418
Shelter / Transitional Housing for Adults Only	1127	1127
Shelter / Transitional Housing for Veterans	41	-
Homeless Population of Sheltered Families		591
Homeless Population Sheltered/Unsheltered Adults		1321
Population of Sheltered/Unsheltered Vets		105
Population of Domestic Violence		45
Gap Units family		172
Gap units Adults Units		194
Permanent Housing for families		502
Permanent Housing for adults		408

Based on this data, in December 2022 the # of homeless persons exceeded the inventory of beds., which reflects that *there* is a population of unsheltered persons in our County on any given day who are living in places not meant for human habitation, i.e., car, street, abandoned home etc. It is noted that the Covid pandemic forced some shelters to reduce number of existing beds in an attempt to meet Covid protocols; as result, during the pandemic agencies and municipalities established partnerships with hotels/motels to create non-congregate settings that replaced the lost shelter beds.

Additional Characteristics Associated With Instability And Increased Risk Of Homelessness

Optional: Under Section IV.4.2.ii.G of the HOME-ARP Notice, 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.

Priority Needs for Qualifying Populations

The following priority needs have been identified for qualifying populations:

- Affordable housing units
- Supportive services that minimize housing instability and homelessness, and provide for case management, housing navigation, counseling, etc.

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:

By accessing data and narratives from different organizations and individuals who participate in delivering housing services and/or developing affordable housing units, the County focused on the two needs that were consistently advocated for by those who chose to participate in this process and supported by available data. We understand we cannot address every need identified during this process, but we strive to be part of the ultimate solution.

In addition to consulting with various organizations, we conducted a survey to assist in identifying the housing and service needs of qualifying populations. The overall results of the survey generally reinforced the observations from other consultations that Essex County needs to build more affordable housing units and increase accessibility for these units, and clearly identified the Homeless population as the primary QP for which assistance should be targeted.

There was also strong support for providing affordable housing options and supportive services to the persons making up the QP3 population, an emphasis that was consistently communicated when interacting with the CoC/CEAS members. Both data and comments from service providers dedicated to victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse noted the increased rate of incidents in recent years. When queried about which Qualifying Population (QP) should be prioritized, homeless and at risk of homelessness persons were identified as priority groups by 63% and 50% of all 76 responders, vs 36% and 33% for victims of domestic violence and other populations respectively.

Survey results also communicated a slightly higher demand for rental assistance vs. supportive services, which is contrary to the narratives from various focus groups and interviews which suggest agencies are not struggling to obtain rental payment resources, but their consumers are struggling to stay in their affordable units without supportive services. (One potential reason for this difference may be that some responders consider rent assistance as a supportive service). The Division's day to day experience with various rental assistance funding sources that have not yet been fully expended, and with service agencies who consistently emphasize the significantly higher demand for supportive services since the onset of Covid, is more consistent with the narratives from our consultants rather than the survey as it pertains to rental assistance.

When asked to identify populations at the greatest risk of housing instability, and by inference in need of supportive services, 61% of all responders marked persons with disabilities, which is consistent with narratives from focus group and interview meetings, followed by unaccompanied youths at 24% and individuals exiting the correctional system at 14%. Focus groups and interviewees did reference these secondary populations but participants in those meetings generally mentioned seniors on fixed incomes more than unaccompanied youth and previously incarcerated individuals.

When queried about racial and ethnic disparities in affordable housing, a high percentage of 70% indicated that minorities must wait a long time to be accepted for an affordable housing unit. 50% of responders also cited a lack of development in neighborhoods with amenities such as transportation, grocery stores, etc. Plus, over 30% over respondents indicated there is a lack of supportive services and outreach efforts about available programs to minority residents. The poor advertising of programs was also referenced during focus group meetings and interviews, especially for undocumented persons and persons who are dealing with sexual violence.

Over 80% of survey respondents indicated that the impact of housing counseling services, and Job Readiness and Life Training skills had some to major impact.

Most of the consultation survey feedback reflected themes presented in meetings and interviews. One respondent strongly supported supportive services because evidence shows these services can stabilize families and end a cycle of homelessness; especially for minority and lower income children whose lives may be traumatized because of their parents' unemployment, underemployment, substance abuse or mental health issues. A resource navigator dealing with eviction cases emphasized the need to provide legal services to tenants dealing with potential evictions or unrealistic settlement agreements; this responder adds she is a proponent of rental assistance to help tenants avoid evictions.

One commentator noted that Montclair has just a few affordable units. Another responder called for planners to provide affordable housing near amenities and trains for an aging baby boom population, which was also communicated at the focus group meetings. There is a note that the number of single mother households seeking shelter space is rising. A provider of services for domestic violence victims commented that supportive services are effective but not impacting enough persons because said services are not advertised sufficiently and therefore underutilized.

HOME ARP Activities

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

Upon HUD approval of a plan, we will publicize via a public notice and public announcements that we are accepting applications. The outreach will include for profit and not for profit developers, not for profit service providers, and other organizations affiliated with affordable housing and the eligible qualifying populations, some of whom may have contributed to formulation of this plan.

The County will allocate HOME-ARP funds through a competitive, open process. Applications will be submitted electronically through the Division's Neighborly Software portal and will be scored by staff and then posted to the public for public comment.

Describe whether the PJ will administer eligible activities directly:

The County will contract with subgrantees for the implementation of activities and monitor all activity delivery and will not directly administer eligible activities.

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 has not provided funds to a subrecipient or contractor prior to HUD's acceptance of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan and will not allocate funds to a subrecipient or a contractor to administer the entire HOME ARP grant.

USE OF HOME ARP FUNDING

	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%

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

The County will utilize its HOME ARP funding for the development of affordable rental housing units and provision of supportive services based on the consultations and data presented in this report which strongly emphasized the need for more affordable housing units and support for these tenants to ensure their occupancy of an affordable unit is a permanent, not an interim, solution to their housing stability concerns. Eligible housing development activities will designate HOME ARP assisted units for the qualifying populations described herein and will draw from the County CoC and other referral sources to fill these units. We will also work with the developers to ensure that supportive services will be provided for these tenants.

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:

Consultations and communications via interviews and meetings, and core data collected from the survey strongly aligned with the need to create more affordable housing units in Essex County. This need was substantiated by the CHAS data showing that cost burdens for renters in Essex was extremely high pre pandemic, and based on trends we are seeing in ESG Rapid rehousing activities, the availability of affordable units is diminishing as landlords in certain cases, are choosing to move on from tenants with rent arrearages because monthly rents are increasing on the open market. Given the diminishing inventory of affordable housing we expected that rental assistance would be a highly prioritized need.

However, the second highest priority was for the provision of supportive services to help ensure that occupancy of an affordable housing unit was not an interim solution. It is noted that many responders identified persons with physical, emotional or developmental disabilities especially given the stresses caused by the impact of Covid, persons needing supportive housing services, but other populations were all mentioned as having special needs; the general consensus was that all the QPs suffered from issues requiring support, and in certain cases staff had to be better trained some requiring better trained staff. Also our interactions on a daily basis shows the need to assist persons navigating the tenant-landlord system since the onset of Covid.

HOME ARP PRODUCTION HOUSING GOALS

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

Historically the County has subsidized the construction of HOME units via the regular HOME program at a ratio ranging from \$80,000 to \$120,000. To leverage the HOME ARP dollars as much as possible and thereby support the production of more units, we will target a ratio of \$100,000 per unit, which would yield 27 new affordable housing units based on the proposed allocation of \$2.7 MM for affordable housing development activities.

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

As described above, the County proposes to allocate \$2.7 MM for the development of at least 27 affordable housing units, which would address the demand for more affordable housing units in Essex County. If funds can be leveraged more than expected, then more HOME ARP assisted units can be made available.

The impact of providing \$1.13 MM for supportive will contribute to stabilizing the housing situation over an extended period for persons occupying these new units.

PREFERENCES

Identify whether the PJ intends to give preference to one or more qualifying populations or a subpopulation within one or more qualifying populations for any eligible activity or project:

Rental Housing: The County intends to give preferences to QP1 and QP3 under the affordable housing activity, a preference that will be reflected in the RFPs for affordable housing projects, which will include scoring incentives for servicing these populations, and the related loan agreements. Selected housing projects will be required to develop a tenant selection policy that complies with the Fair Housing Act and aligns with the County's Allocation Plan.

Supportive Services: The County has not adopted any preferences among the qualified populations for the supportive services activity.

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

The County is prioritizing individuals and families from QP1 and QP3 for occupying housing units that are developed utilizing HOME ARP funds in response to (a) the shortage of affordable housing units in Essex County, (b) the identification of the Homeless Population as the population in greatest need of affordable housing, and (c) the lack of available housing units designated for those who are fleeing, or attempting to flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking

REFERRAL METHODS

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):

The referral method for each project will be determined during implementation and included in written agreements; referral methods will either be Coordinated Entry with Other Referral Methods or a project or activity specific waitlist.

If the PJ intends to use the coordinated entry (CE) process established by the CoC, describe whether all qualifying populations eligible for a project or activity will be included in the CE process, or the method by which all qualifying populations eligible for the project or activity will be covered. (Optional):

Not Applicable

If the PJ intends to use the CE process established by the CoC, describe the method of prioritization to be used by the CE. (Optional):

Not Applicable

If the PJ intends to use both a CE process established by the CoC and another referral method for a project or activity, describe any method of prioritization between the two referral methods, if any. (Optional):

Not applicable

LIMITATIONS

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 identified in section IV.A of the Notice:

Not applicable. No limitations are being implemented.

If a PJ intends to implement a limitation, explain why the use of a limitation is necessary to 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:

Not applicable. No limitations are being implemented.

If a limitation was identified, describe how the PJ will address the unmet needs or gaps in benefits and services of the other qualifying populations that are not included in the limitation through the use of HOME-ARP funds (i.e., through another of the PJ's HOME-ARP projects or activities):

Not applicable. No limitations are being implemented.

HOME-ARP REFINANCING GUIDELINES

Not Applicable. Will not use HOME ARP for refinancing.

APPENDIX A

SURVEY FOR ESSEX COUNTY HOME ARP ALLOCATION PLAN

SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS

Description of Role in Community: Some respondents identified more than one description	# times role selected	% of total surveys submitted (76)
Homeless Services Provider	26	34%
Supportive Services Provider	23	30%
Person with Lived Experience of Homelessness or Housing Instability	15	20%
Emergency/Temporary Shelter Provider	12	16%
Continuum of Care Staff/Leadership	11	14%
Organization Serving People with Disabilities	11	14%
Interested Community Member	9	12%
Youth Group/Service Organization	8	11%
Public Housing Authority or Agency	7	9%
Public Agency Servicing One or more HOME ARP QPs	5	7%
Landlord/Property manager	5	7%
Domestic Violence or Sexual Trafficking Service Provider/Victim	4	5%
Housing Developer	4	5%
Fair Housing or Civil Rights Organization	3	4%
Tribal Organization	0	0%
Veterans Group/Service Organization	0	0%
Elected official	0	0%
Other	13	17%

Other Populations at greatest risk of housing instability Some respondents identified more than one population	# times population selected	% of total populations selected (113)	% of total surveys submitted (76)
Households with physical / mental health disabilities	46	41%	61%
Unaccompanied youth	18	16%	24%
Individuals exiting correctional system	14	12%	18%
Large family households (6 or more)	9	8%	12%
Undocumented individuals	9	8%	12%
Seniors 62+	7	6%	9%
Veterans	4	4%	5%
Senior citizens 55 to 62	3	3%	4%
Individuals exiting foster care	3	3%	4%

Racial/Ethnic disparities in addressing housing needs Some respondents identified more than one disparity	# times disparity selected	% of total disparities selected (203)	% of total surveys submitted (76)
Long wait for affordable housing for non white population	53	26%	70%
Lack of affordable housing development with accessible amenities	38	19%	50%
Lack of supportive services for uncounted communities	30	15%	39%
Dissemination of information to community/ties	28	14%	37%
Lack of supportive services for non white populations	23	11%	30%
Lack of supportive services for non English speaking households	21	10%	28%
language barriers	10	5%	13%

Prioritization of issues that are impacting availability of affordable housing and services Some respondents identified more than one issue	# of times issue selected	% of total issues selected (182)	% of total responders (76)
Lack of affordable housing stock or inventory	54	30%	71%
Local government approval process	27	15%	36%
Lack of accessible amenities (transportation, grocery stores, etc)	21	12%	28%
Community Opposition ("NIMBYism")	19	10%	25%
Cost of availability of land	18	10%	24%
Lack of gap financing	13	7%	17%
Development Costs (ie. labor shortage, materials cost, etc.	13	7%	17%
Zoning or land use requirements	8	4%	11%
Lack of Developers/Developer Capacity	5	3%	7%
Other	4	2%	5%

What are the most significant unmet needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness? 15 survey respondents did not identify an unmet need	# of respondents that identified significant unmet need for homeless persons	% of total responses for identifying unmet need	% of total surveys submitted (76)
Access to Affordable Housing	49	80%	64%
Access to rental Assistance	5	8%	7%
Access to Supportive Services for Housing Stability	4	7%	5%
Access to immediate emergency shelter	3	5%	4%
Total # of responses	61		
Missing responses	15		20%

What are the most significant unmet needs of individuals and families AT RISK of homelessness? 24 survey respondents did not identify an unmet need	# of respondents that identified significant unmet need for at risk of homeless persons	% of total responses for identifying unmet need	% of total surveys submitted (76)
Access to Affordable Housing	27	52%	36%
Access to rental Assistance	12	23%	16%
Access to Supportive Services for Housing Stability	7	13%	9%
Access to immediate emergency shelter	6	12%	8%
Total # of responses	52		
Missing responses	24		32%

Highest unmet needs of those who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking? 13 survey respondents did not identify an unmet need	# of respondents that identified significant unmet need for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault	% of total responses for identifying unmet need	% of total surveys submitted (76)
Access to Affordable Housing	21	33%	28%
Access to rental Assistance	24	38%	32%
Access to Supportive Services for Housing Stability	16	25%	21%
Access to immediate emergency shelter	2	3%	3%
Total # of responses	63		
Missing responses	13	21%	17%

Which QPs should be prioritized Some responders selected more than one QP to be prioritized	# of times a QP selected as a priority	% of total surveys submitted (76)
People experiencing homelessness	48	63%
People at risk of homelessness	38	50%
People who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking	27	36%
Other populations for whom supportive services or assistance would prevent homelessness or face the greatest risk of housing instability	25	33%

Which populations have greatest need for supportive services 11 responders did not identify a population	# of times a populations identified as having greatest need for supportive services	% of total populations selected (65)	% of total surveys submitted (76)
People experiencing homelessness	17	26%	22%
People at risk of homelessness	12	18%	16%
People who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking	8	12%	11%
Other populations for whom supportive services or assistance would prevent homelessness or face the greatest risk of housing instability	6	9%	8%
Veterans	1	2%	1%
Senior citizens	4	6%	5%
Persons with disabilities	8	12%	11%
LGBTQ persons	3	5%	4%
Persons from communities that are underserved or impacted by unfair housing practices - Identify	6	9%	8%
Total # of responses	65		
Missing response	11		14%

Impact of Housing Counseling Services 17 responders did not select a level of impact	# of responses to impact of housing counseling	% of total responses with impact (59)	% of total surveys submitted (76)
No Impact	2	3%	3%
Little Impact	7	12%	9%
Some Impact	17	29%	22%
Large Impact	25	42%	33%
Unsure	8	14%	11%
Total # of responses	59		
Number of surveys missing response	17		22%

Impact of Job Readiness/Life Training Skills 13 responders did not select a level of impact	# of responses to impact of job/life skills training (63)	% of responses (63)	% of total surveys submitted (76)
No Impact	3	5%	4%
Little Impact	9	14%	12%
Some Impact	29	46%	38%
Large Impact	18	29%	24%
Unsure	4	6%	5%
Total # of responses	63		
Number of surveys missing response	13		17%

Essex County HOME American Rescue Plan - Citizens Participation Survey

Description: Essex County has been awarded \$4,527,082.00 for housing, shelter, and services under a new federal program, called the HOME-American Rescue Plan (HOME ARP). These funds are intended to address homelessness and housing instability.

Your input about how these funds will be utilized and made part of our allocation plan is needed to make sure the funds have the greatest possible impact. We encourage everyone to participate by communicating your thoughts on local priorities and sharing this survey with other interested parties.

Please submit your answers to this survey no later than:

5pm on February 14, 2023. (Later extended to February 21, 2023)

Proposed HOME-ARP services must by regulation service the following **Qualifying Populations (QPs)**, including

1. People experiencing homelessness as defined in 24CFR 91.5;
2. People at risk of homelessness as defined in 24CFR 91.5;
3. People who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking; and
4. Other populations for whom supportive services or assistance would prevent homelessness or face the greatest risk of housing instability (including but not limited to veterans, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and persons from communities that are underserved or impacted by unfair housing practices).

Eligible activities include the Development of Affordable Rental Housing, Tenant-Based Rental Assistance, Supportive Services (additional support to assist households to remain stably housed), Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelters (private sleeping spaces shelter rather than the communal room shelter model), Non-Profit Operations, Non-Profit Capacity Building, and Administrative Planning expenditures.

Based on these eligible populations and activities, please complete this survey to share your thoughts on the needs and gaps that this funding could help to support.

Thank you so much for your time and input!

1. Name (optional)

2. What is your age range

Mark only one oval.

☐ 18-24

☐ 25-39

☐ 40-64

☐ 65 or older

3. Agency/Municipality

4. In which County(ies) do you currently reside (if completing survey as an individual) or work (if representing an organization)?

5. Which of the following describes your role in the community (Check all that apply)

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Continuum of Care Staff/Leadership
- ☐ Homeless Services Provider
- ☐ Domestic Violence or Sexual Trafficking Service Provider and or Victim /Survivor Advocate
- ☐ Tribal Organization
- ☐ Person with Lived Experience of Homelessness or Housing Instability
- ☐ Public Housing Authority or Housing
- ☐ Fair Housing or Civil Rights Organization
- ☐ Veterans Group/Service Organization
- ☐ Youth Group/Service Organization
- ☐ Organization Serving People with Disabilities
- ☐ Other Public Agency Servicing One or more of HOME-ARP Qualifying Populations
- ☐ Housing Developer
- ☐ Interested Community Member
- ☐ Elected official
- ☐ Emergency/Temporary Shelter Provider
- ☐ Supportive Services Provider
- ☐ Landlord/Property Manager
- ☐ Other: _____

Section 2: Needs and Characteristics of each Qualifying Population

For each of the Qualifying Populations, please tell us what you know about the housing and related needs and characteristics of each population. Information you provide may include the size/scale of need among this population, demographics, household composition, housing and service needs, barriers to accessing services, etc.

6. What is the most significant unmet need individuals and families experiencing homelessness?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Access to affordable housing
- ☐ Access to supportive services for housing stability
- ☐ Access to rental assistance
- ☐ Access to immediate emergency shelter

7. What is the most significant unmet need of individuals and families AT RISK of homelessness?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Access to supportive services for housing stability
- ☐ Access to rental assistance
- ☐ Access to immediate emergency shelter
- ☐ Access to affordable housing

8. What is the most significant unmet needs of those who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Access to supportive services
- ☐ Access to safe and affordable housing
- ☐ Access to rental assistance
- ☐ Access to immediate emergency shelter

9. Which other populations face the greatest risk of housing instability?
(Choose 3).

- ☐ Households with physical disability and/or mental illness
- ☐ Unaccompanied youth
- ☐ Veterans
- ☐ Seniors 55-62
- ☐ Seniors 62+
- ☐ Individuals exiting foster care
- ☐ Individuals exiting the correctional system
- ☐ Large family households (equal to or more than 6 household members)
- ☐ Undocumented individuals

10. Which racial or ethnic disparities related to housing needs to be addressed in your community?

(Choose 3)

- ☐ Lack of affordable housing development in neighborhoods with accessible amenities
- ☐ Long wait times for affordable housing for non-white population
- ☐ Lack of supportive services for housing stability for non-English speaking households
- ☐ Lack of supportive services for non-white populations for housing stability
- ☐ Lack of supportive services for communities not seen or counted
- ☐ Language barriers
- ☐ Spreading information to the communities

11. Which of the Qualifying Populations in your community would you prioritize based on the needs you've described above?

Select 2.

- ☐ People experiencing homelessness
- ☐ People at risk of homelessness
- ☐ People who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking
- ☐ Other populations for whom supportive services or assistance would prevent homelessness or help face the greatest risk of housing instability

12. Based on your understanding of the gaps in affordable housing and services in the community, which of the following issues would you prioritize? (Select up to two activities)

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Zoning or land use requirements
- ☐ Lack of affordable housing stock or inventory
- ☐ Local government approval process
- ☐ Cost of availability of land
- ☐ Lack of gap financing
- ☐ Lack of Developers/Developer Capacity
- ☐ Development Costs (ie. labor shortage, materials cost, etc.
- ☐ Community Opposition ("NIMBYism")
- ☐ Lack of accessible amenities in areas (transportation, grocery stores, etc
- ☐ Other

13. In your opinion, do Housing Counseling services such as housing search, landlord/tenant rights, budgeting, credit education/repair have a significant impact in your community

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ No impact
- ☐ Little Impact
- ☐ Some impact
- ☐ Large impact
- ☐ Not sure

14. In your opinion, do Job Readiness and/or Life Skills Training have a significant impact in your community?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ No impact
- ☐ Little Impact
- ☐ Some impact
- ☐ Large impact
- ☐ Not sure

15. Rank the following activities based on your assessment as to which activities should be the highest priority when allocating HOME ARP funds to address affordable housing instability (Rank 1 as highest and 6 as lowest, only one per row)

Check all that apply.

[illegible]

16. Which target population do you believe is in most need of additional assistance to secure permanent housing?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ People experiencing homeless
- ☐ People at risk of homelessness
- ☐ People who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking
- ☐ Veterans
- ☐ Senior Citizens
- ☐ Persons with disabilities
- ☐ LGBTQ persons
- ☐ Persons from communities that are underserved or impacted by unfair housing practices
- ☐ Other populations for whom supportive services or assistance would prevent homelessness or face the greatest risk of housing stability

17. Of the following choices which populations do you believe have the greatest need for additional assistance and supportive services?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ People experiencing homeless
- ☐ People at risk of homelessness
- ☐ People who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking
- ☐ Veterans
- ☐ Senior Citizens
- ☐ Persons with disabilities
- ☐ LGBTQ persons
- ☐ Persons from communities that are underserved or impacted by unfair housing practices
- ☐ Other populations for whom supportive services or assistance would prevent homelessness or face the greatest risk of housing stability

18. Please include any additional comments you have in the space below:

If you need to email survey, please scan and send to Jsoares@hcd.essexcountynj.org.

APPENDIX B

PUBLIC NOTICES AND PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

RESOLUTION FROM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Date	Position	Description	P.O. Number	Costs
02/24/2023	Notices NJ	PUBLIC HEARING ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF HOUSING &	PUBLIC NOTICE HEARING home arp 3.6.23.	
			Ad Size	
			2 x 77 L	
			Affidavit Fee - 02/24/2023	\$100.00
			Basic Ad Charge - 02/24/2023	\$137.06
			Total	\$237.06

CLAIMANTS CERTIFICATION AND DECLARATION

I do solemnly declare and certify under the penalties of law that this bill or invoice is correct in all its particulars, that the goods have been furnished or services have been rendered as stated herein, that no bonus has been given or received by any person or persons within the knowledge of this claimant in connection with the above claim, that the amount herein stated is justly due and owing, and that the amount charged is a reasonable one.

Date: 2/24/2023

Fed ID#: 13-4123607

Signature: Chris Tighe

Official Position: AR Manager

CERTIFICATION BY RECEIVING AGENCY

I, having knowledge of the facts, certify and declare that the goods have been received or the services rendered and are in compliance with the specifications or other requirements, and said certification is based on signed delivery slips or other reasonable procedures of verifiable information.

Signature: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

CERTIFICATION BY APPROVAL OFFICIAL

I certify and declare that this bill or invoice is correct, and that sufficient funds are available to satisfy this claim. The Payment shall be chargeable to:

Appropriation Account(s) and Amounts Charged: P.O.# _____

Signature: _____

THIS FORM APPROVED FOR USE BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BY THE LOCAL FINANCE BOARD

APPENDIX B

PUBLIC NOTICES AND PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

RESOLUTION FROM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

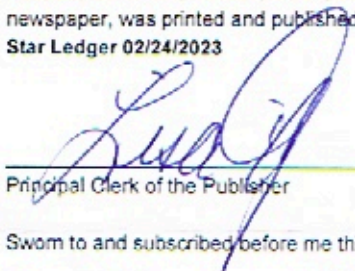


State of New Jersey,) ss

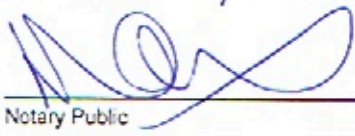
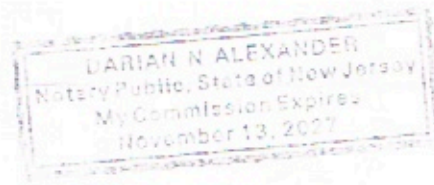
County of Middlesex)

Lisa Arrington being duly sworn, deposes that he/she is principal clerk of NJ Advance Media; that Star Ledger is a public newspaper, with general circulation in Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren Counties, and this notice is an accurate and true copy of this notice as printed in said newspaper, was printed and published in the regular edition and issue of said newspaper on the following date(s):

Star Ledger 02/24/2023


Principal Clerk of the Publisher

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24th day of February 2023


Notary Public

**PUBLIC HEARING
ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
HOME AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (HOME ARP)
ALLOCATION PLAN
OBJECTIVES & PROJECTED USE OF FUNDS**

Citizens of Essex County are invited to a public hearing on the HOME American Rescue Plan (HOME ARP) allocation plan. This hearing will offer citizens the opportunity to assist in the development of the HOME ARP allocation plan.

HOME ARP PROGRAM

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) has provided \$5 billion to assist 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. Funds were appropriated under Title II of Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 – HOME Program Statute and allocated via HOME Program Statute and allocated via HOME Program formula to jurisdictions that qualified for a HOME allocation in FY 2021. As a participating jurisdiction, the County of Essex received \$4,527,082 in HOME-ARP funds.

At this time, the County seeks public input on how the HOME ARP funds should be used. Eligible HOME ARP activities include:

1. Development of Affordable Rental Housing
 2. Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)
 3. Supportive Services
 4. Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelter
 5. Nonprofit Operating and Capacity Building Assistance
- The County will retain a maximum of 15% of the HOME ARP grant for Administration and Planning.

The Public Hearing is scheduled as follows:

Date: March 6, 2023

Time: 5:00 P.M.

Place: The Salvation Army

13 Trinity Place, Montclair, NJ, 07042

The hearing is scheduled to entertain citizen comments on the objectives and utilization of the HOME ARP funds. The Division will accept and use all verbal and written comments to develop the HOME ARP allocation plan. A draft version of the plan will be made available for public comment at a later date.

Comments may be presented at the March 6, 2023 public hearing or sent to 20 Crestmont Road, Verona, NJ 07044 Attn: Toni Rodriguez or via email to trodriguez@hcd.essexcountynj.org

All program and project records are available for inspection at the Division of Housing & Community Development, 20 Crestmont Road, Verona, New Jersey during the office hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Interested citizens should contact the Division at (973) 655-0200. For non-English speaking persons requiring a translation of this notice, or persons who require special modifications when attending the hearing, or persons with disabilities that require an alternative presentation format, please contact Toni Rodriguez at (973) 655-0200 or via email at trodriguez@hcd.essexcountynj.org. Requests must be submitted at least 72 hours prior to the meeting to make the appropriate arrangements.

JOSEPH N. DIVINCENZO, JR.
County Executive
2/24/23

JOHN M. SOARES
Division Director
\$137.06

**PUBLIC HEARING
ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
HOME AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (HOME ARP) ALLOCATION PLAN
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JOSEPH N. DI VINCENZO, JR.
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

JOHN M. SOARES
DIVISION DIRECTOR

PUBLIC HEARING

ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PY 2021 ALLOCATION OF HOME AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS

March 6, 2023

5:00 PM

**The Salvation Army of Montclair
13 Trinity Place, Montclair, NJ 07042**

ATTENDEES

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
John Soares	Essex County
Craig Lombardi	Essex County
Michele Kroeze	The Salvation Army of Montclair
Brenda Myrick	YMCA of Newark

MINUTES

Mr. John Soares, Division Director for the Essex County Division of Housing and Community Development, called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Craig Lombardi, Housing Coordinator for the Division of Housing & Community Development explained that the County of Essex had been awarded \$4,527,082 in HOME American Rescue Plan (HOME ARP) funds, and that the purpose of this hearing is to allow the public to comment on the allocation plan for these funds. Craig indicated that eligible HOME ARP activities include:

1. Development of Affordable Rental Housing
2. Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)
3. Supportive Services
4. Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelter
5. Nonprofit Operating and Capacity Building Assistance

In addition, the County can allocate up to 15% of the HOME ARP grant for Administration and Planning

Craig noted that the Division had been meeting with various agencies and organizations to discuss the needs and opportunities for addressing homelessness and affordable housing in the County.

Brenda Myrick commented that there is a significant need for funding to help create more affordable housing and emphasized that the targeted populations need supportive services to sustain housing stability for the long term. Michele Kroeze also noted the availability of affordable housing in Essex County is not matching the need.

ADJOURNMENT

John Soares asked if there were any other questions or comments. As none were received, John Soares declared the Public Hearing closed at 5:35 PM.

Prepared by: Craig Lombardi

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3 x 41 L

Affidavit Fee - 03/09/2023	\$100.00
Basic Ad Charge - 03/09/2023	\$110.70
Total	\$210.70

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Date: 3/13/2023	Fed ID#: 13-4123607
Signature: <u>Chris Tighe</u>	Official Position: AR Manager
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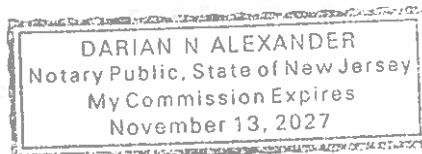
County of Middlesex)

Lisa Arrington being duly sworn, deposes that he/she is principal clerk of NJ Advance Media; that Star Ledger is a public newspaper, with general circulation in Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren Counties, and this notice is an accurate and true copy of this notice as printed in said newspaper, was printed and published in the regular edition and issue of said newspaper on the following date(s):

Star Ledger 03/09/2023


Principal Clerk of the Publisher

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 13th day of March 2023


Notary Public

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
HOME AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (HOME ARP)
ALLOCATION PLAN**

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As a participating jurisdiction, the County of Essex received \$4,527,082 in HOME ARP funds, and intends to utilize this award for the following activities:

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

Beginning March 9, 2023, copies of the draft allocation plan will be made available at the Office of the Division of Housing & Community Development, 20 Crestmont Road, Verona, NJ 07044 and on the Essex County Website at www.essexcountynj.org. The Division of Housing & Community Development will be accepting written public comments on the draft HOME ARP allocation plan for a period of fifteen (15) days beginning March 9, 2023 and concluding March 24, 2023. Written public comments should be sent to 20 Crestmont Road, Verona, NJ 07044 Attn: Toni Rodriguez or via email to trodriguez@hcd.essexcountynj.org. All program and project records are available for inspection at the Division of Housing & Community Development, 20 Crestmont Road, Verona, New Jersey during the office hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Interested citizens should contact the Division at (973) 655-0200. Anyone who needs translation assistance, or requires this information in an alternative format because of a disability should contact Toni Rodriguez at 973-655-0200 or at trodriguez@hcd.essexcountynj.org.

JOSEPH N. DI VINCENZO, JR.
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

JOHN M. SOARES
DIVISION DIRECTOR

3/2/23

\$110.70

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
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JOSEPH N. DI VINCENZO, JR.
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

JOHN M. SOARES
DIVISION DIRECTOR

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RES-2023 COUNTY OF ESSEX

RESOLUTION NO. 00255 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

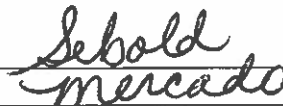

3/1/23

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				X	Mercado	X			
Gill				X	Pomares, V.P.	X			
Graham	X				Richardson, Pres.	X			
Johnson				X	Sebold	X			
Luciano	X								

It is hereby certified that the foregoing Resolution was ☒ adopted () defeated () tabled by roll call vote at a Regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Essex, New Jersey held on 3.15.2023.

Is Publication Required () Yes () No

Date Published


Wayne L. Richardson, President

HOME ARP Agreement
2/28/2023

2023 MAR -9 PM 1:13

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CLERK OF BOARD

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%

APPENDIX C

ESSEX COUNTY POINT IN TIME COUNT 1.25.22

Following is an excerpt from the Point In Time report prepared for Essex County by Monarch Housing based on the Point In Time count conducted on January 25, 2022. Data from this report has been referenced in the HOME ARP allocation plan. This excerpt describes how the report was prepared. The full report with all the data is available should it be necessary.

NJ COUNTS

ESSEX COUNTY

Point-in-Time Count of the Homeless
January 25, 2022

Acknowledgements

The New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency and its partner in the annual Point in Time Count, Monarch Housing Associates, would like to thank all Point-In-Time Coordinators, homeless service providers, agencies, and volunteers who participated in NJ Counts 2022, with specific recognition of Bergen County, which graciously provided a Spanish translation of the 2022 paper survey tool.

A special acknowledgement is given to all the respondents, who were willing to share personal information about themselves and their households' experiences in order to help our communities better understand and assist the homeless.

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I. Introduction

NJ Counts 2022

NJ Counts 2022, New Jersey's annual Point-In-Time (PIT) Count of the Homeless, provides a statewide snapshot of households experiencing homelessness in our communities; where they find shelter, what their needs are, and what factors contribute to making them homeless. The 2022 Count reveals important demographic and other information about families and individuals experiencing homelessness on the night of Tuesday, January 25th, 2022. These findings help stakeholders understand how to better allocate housing resources and services to prevent and end homelessness.

The 2022 Count was greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Homeless service systems and planning bodies have had to substantially alter the way they have traditionally operated for the health and safety of their clients and staff. Across NJ, communities had to alter their methodology for interviewing persons experiencing homelessness during the PIT count. Many communities have traditionally relied on Project Homeless Connect (PHC) events, along with street outreach efforts, to engage with persons experiencing homelessness, especially those experiencing unsheltered homelessness, in their communities. PHC events traditionally have had a number of service providers available to engage and enroll clients in programs, distribute donated gift cards, clothing, food, and other essentials, as well as provide access to services such as haircuts and showers in a one-stop service fair model. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many communities altered or canceled these events. Previous PIT counts have also relied heavily on volunteers to assist in completing interviews with persons experiencing homelessness. Communities altered their practices in 2022 to rely less on volunteers and more heavily on homeless service agency and outreach staff. Methodologies were altered so that more strategic outreach could be done while relying on fewer volunteers to conduct surveys.

This Report

The structure of this report is intended to provide not only an overall snapshot of the homeless population counted in the Point-In-Time, but also to focus attention on the homeless subpopulations that are the most in need, and those that represent federal funding priorities set forth by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The findings in this report are presented in the following sections:

1. Racial Disparities among the Total Homeless Population;
2. Total homeless population;
3. Subpopulations
 - a. Unsheltered
 - b. Chronically Homeless
 - c. Veterans
 - d. Victims of Domestic Violence
 - e. Youth

In addition to the main findings presented in the body of this report, Appendix B includes charts illustrating the responses to all survey questions that were part of the 2022 Point-In-Time Count. Appendix A contains information on data collection and methodology.

Definition of Terms

Household - any group of persons who, if they were able to attain permanent housing, would choose to live together; and, shared the same sleeping arrangements on the night of the count.” Three different types of households are discussed below: households with adults and children under 18 (‘families’), households without children (‘individuals’), and households with only children under 18 (‘unaccompanied youth’).

Unsheltered homeless - applies to any individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.

Emergency Shelter - any facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide a temporary shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless and which does not require occupants to sign leases or occupancy agreements.

Transitional Housing - a project that is designed to provide housing and appropriate supportive services to homeless persons to facilitate movement to independent living within 24 months.

Safe Haven - a form of supportive housing that serves hard-to-reach homeless persons with severe mental illness who come primarily from the streets and have been unable or unwilling to participate in housing or supportive services. Safe Haven programs offer low barriers to program entry and low-demand services and referrals in a 24-hour residential setting to no more than 25 persons.

Changes affecting the 2022 Point-in-Time Count

Communities significantly altered their PIT count practices in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The following safety measures were recommended by the CDC and HUD for all communities’ 2022 PIT procedures:

- decrease face-to-face interactions with clients;
- decrease the number of volunteers who would need to work in physical proximity;
- provide of PPE to all volunteers; and
- design a process that minimizes close contact.

Within New Jersey, the specific methodology implemented for the PIT count is determined on a County-by-County basis within broad parameters defined by HUD. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, communities adjusted their PIT count methodology in the following ways:

- Elimination or changes to Project Homeless Connect events
- 7-day outreach and service-based count
- Reduction in use of volunteers to support the unsheltered count
- Increased connection with community-based services providers such as day-centers, soup kitchens and medical facilities to identify and connect with unsheltered persons

The 7-day service-based count targeted feeding programs, drop-in centers and other services for persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness. All persons identified during the 7-day service count were asked about their housing status the night of the count (January 25th). The use of the 7-day service-based count enabled the community to improve their connection to people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, helping to identify people that may have been missed during the “blitz” street count.

The following report only reflects data from the 2022 PIT count due to the significant differences between this count and the 2021 PIT count. In January 2021, vaccines were not widely distributed, communities had restrictions around staff conducting outreach and federal regulations allowed for a 14-day count. These differences have rendered the data non-comparable.

The impact of COVID-19 is seen in the methodology of the PIT count and the community-captured data. As a result of the pandemic, persons experiencing homelessness interacted with the system (outreach teams, emergency shelters, and transitional housing) in ways much different than in the past. Homeless systems also adjusted to the pandemic. This change in interaction varied County-by-County and can be seen in the number of persons identified as experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness.

When reviewing data included in this report, it is important to keep in mind that the Point-in-Time data includes a census of all persons in sheltering programs (emergency shelter, transitional housing, and safe haven programs) as well as the unsheltered population identified on the night of the count. While there is uniformity and complete coverage in data collection for those utilizing the sheltering system within communities, each county develops a local methodology to identify and engage unsheltered persons within the community. As such, the strength of the unsheltered count varies from community to community. In addition, it is generally accepted that while communities work to identify and engage all persons living unsheltered within their geographic region, the count of persons unsheltered in the community may not reflect the full population experiencing homelessness.