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# CITY OF JOHNSTOWN

*City Hall, 401 Main Street, Johnstown, PA 15901*

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## FY 2021 Annual Action Plan - **Substantial Amendment - HOME-ARP Allocation Plan**

*For Submission to HUD for the  
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG),  
HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME), and HOME  
Investment Partnership - American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP)*

March 28, 2023

**Mayor:**

Frank J. Janakovic



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## Introduction

The City of Johnstown, Pennsylvania is an entitlement community under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME).

Congress appropriated \$5 billion in funds under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021. These funds are to be used to assist the homeless and those persons and families who are at risk of becoming homeless. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is administering this program and the City of Johnstown was allocated \$881,979 in HOME-ARP funds.

The City of Johnstown, Department of Community and Economic Development is the lead entity and the administrator for the HOME-ARP funds.

The City of Johnstown prepared this HOME-ARP Allocation Plan to address its local needs and to establish priorities for the use of HOME-ARP funds. The City must submit its Allocation Plan to HUD by March 31, 2023. In order to determine the City's needs, interviews and video conferences were held with various housing providers, social service agencies, the Continuum of Care members, advocate agencies, etc. Agencies and organizations that serve all the qualifying populations were contacted and interviewed. In addition, the City of Johnstown prepared and distributed a survey for agencies/organizations to fill out if they were not able to participate in the virtual stakeholders' meetings nor telephone interviews.

The City of Johnstown is part of the Pennsylvania Balance of State. This is where rural counties in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have joined together to advance efforts to end homelessness under what is called the Balance of State. The Balance of State consists of two (2) Continuum of Cares, the Eastern CoC and the Western CoC. These CoC's are comprised of seven (7) Regional Homeless Advisory Boards (RHABs) that identify local homeless issues, coordinate planning for projects, identify needs, and develop strategies and priorities to end homelessness in the local area. The City of Johnstown is part of the Eastern CoC and the South Central RHAB. The Eastern CoC is made up of thirty-three (33) counties, which are the following: Adams, Bedford, Blair, **Cambria**, Centre, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Somerset Lehigh, Northampton, Columbia, Cumberland, Juniata, Lebanon, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Schuylkill, Snyder, Union, Bradford, Clinton, Lycoming, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wyoming, Carbon, Monroe, Pike, and Wayne counties.

**HOME-ARP Eligible Projects/Activities:**

The following projects/activities are eligible with the HOME-ARP funds:

**1. Production or Preservation of Affordable Rental Housing**

- Acquisition, construction of affordable rental housing for individuals and families that are part of the Qualifying Populations.
- Can include single family or multifamily housing, transitional or permanent housing, group homes, single room occupancy (SRO) units, and manufactured housing.

**2. Tenant Based Rental Assistance**

- Providing payments to a tenant to cover housing and housing-related costs, including rental assistance, security deposit assistance, utility deposits, and utility payments to households that are part of the Qualifying Populations.

**3. Supportive Services**

- Providing supportive services to members of the Qualifying Populations under three categories:
  - McKinney-Vento Supportive Services
  - Homelessness Prevention Services
  - Housing Counseling Services

**4. Purchase and Development of Non-Congregate Shelter**

- Acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of non-congregate shelter units to service individuals and families that are part of the Qualifying populations.

**HOME-ARP Qualifying Populations:**

The HOME-ARP Program has the following four (4) Qualifying Populations for this program:

**1. Homeless**

- An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:
  - i. An 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;
  - ii. An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for

- by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals); or
- iii. An individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution
- An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:
  - i. The primary nighttime residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;
  - ii. No subsequent residence has been identified; and
  - iii. The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks needed to obtain other permanent housing
- Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who:
  - i. Are defined as homeless under section 387 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5732a), section 637 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832), section 41403 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e-2), section 330(h) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(h)), section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012), section 17(b) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(b)), or section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a);
  - ii. Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing at any time during the 60 days immediately preceding the date of application for homeless assistance;
  - iii. Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during the 60-day period immediately preceding the date of applying for homeless assistance; and
  - iv. Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time because of chronic disabilities, chronic physical health or mental health conditions, substance addiction, histories of domestic violence or childhood abuse (including neglect), the presence of a child or youth with a disability, or two or more barriers to employment, which include the lack of a high school degree or General Education Development (GED), illiteracy, low English proficiency, a history of incarceration or detention for criminal activity, and a history of unstable employment

**2. At Risk of Homelessness**

- An individual or family who is extremely low income (<30% AMI), does not have support networks, and meets at least one of the conditions for homelessness (24 CFR 91.5).

**3. Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking****4. Other populations who do not qualify under any of the populations above but meet one of the following criteria:**

- Those who are currently housed due to temporary or emergency assistance or need additional assistance or services to avoid a return to homelessness.
- Populations at Greatest Risk of Housing Instability
  - Households whose income is <30% AMI and are experiencing severe cost burden.
  - Households whose income is <50% AMI and meet one of the criteria for being At Risk of Homelessness.

In compliance with the HUD regulations, the City of Johnstown has prepared a substantial amendment to its FY 2021 Annual Action Plan in order to submit the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan to HUD.

A “draft” of the FY 2021 Annual Action Plan - Substantial Amendment - HOME-ARP Allocation Plan was placed on public display on the City’s website at <http://cityofjohnstownpa.net>. The display period started on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 through Tuesday, March 7, 2023 for a 15-day display period. A Public Hearing was held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 to present the proposed HOME-ARP Allocation Plan and solicit resident comments. Upon completion of the 15-day comment period, the City of Johnstown submitted the FY 2021 Annual Action Plan - Substantial Amendment - HOME-ARP Allocation Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through IDIS on or before Friday, March 31, 2023.

## Consultation

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

During the consultation process, the City of Johnstown aimed to meet with many stakeholders, agencies/organizations, and housing providers that are part of the following categories:

- The CoC serving the City'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;
- public or private organizations that address fair housing and civil rights; and
- Public or private organizations that address the needs of persons with disabilities.

The City of Johnstown's HOME-ARP Consultation Milestones are the following:

HOME-ARP Consultation Milestones	
Consultation	November 2022 through March 2023
Newspaper Notice	February 20, 2023
On Display	February 21, 2023
Public Hearing	March 7, 2023 at 12:00 PM
Off Display	March 7, 2023

The City of Johnstown held virtual meetings with stakeholder agencies and organizations between the months of November through December 2022. The City followed up with agencies/organizations through a survey to be able to gather as much additional information as possible.

The City ran a newspaper notice in the "The Tribune-Democrat" on Monday, February 20, 2023 that the notice of the "Draft" HOME-ARP Allocation Plan was on public display for fifteen (15) days on the City's website.

The Public Hearing was held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 12:00 PM to discuss the proposed HOME-ARP Allocation Plan and solicit resident and agencies/organizations comments on the Plan.

The chart below references the Qualifying Population that each agency/organization that was consulted with serves. The following are the Qualifying Populations:

- **QP 1** - Homeless
- **QP 2** - At Risk of Homelessness
- **QP 3** - Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking
- **QP 4** - Other populations who do not qualify under any of the populations above but meet one of the following criteria



**List the organizations consulted:**

Agency/Organization Consulted	Type of Agency/Organization	Qualifying Population's Served	Method of Consultation	Feedback
City of Johnstown	Government	QP1/QP2/QP3/QP4	Virtual Meetings	The City of Johnstown was involved in all meetings and was responsible for gathering a list of contacts and participated in asking questions and communicating with local stakeholders.
The Women's Help Center, Inc.	Homeless service providers  Domestic violence service providers  Public agencies that address the needs of the qualifying populations  Public or private organizations that address the needs of persons with disabilities	QP1/QP2/QP3	Virtual Meeting (11/30/2022)	Identified the following needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth aged 18-24 need housing because many are couch surfing</li> <li>Large need for affordable housing - market rate is around \$850/month, which is high for the area</li> <li>Case management services are needed to keep households in their homes</li> <li>Need low-barrier resources</li> <li>Currently working on developing transitional housing units</li> <li>Johnstown area has a large opioid problem and therefore needs more substance abuse prevention/treatment services</li> <li>Food, financial education, healthcare, behavioral health, opioid/drug addiction services are needed</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing stock in the city is low-quality</li> </ul>
<b>Salvation Army</b>	Public agencies that address the needs of the qualifying populations	QP1/QP2	Virtual Meeting (11/30/2022)	<p>Identified the following needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Salvation Army-run shelter closed a few years ago due to accessibility issues</li> <li>Bad subsidized, expensive rental properties in Johnstown</li> <li>Cheaper to buy property than to rent</li> <li>Has seen big increase in soup kitchen attendance recently (went from 35 visitors per night to over 100)</li> <li>Emergency shelter requests are the most common referral</li> <li>Many disability issues in area, especially with veterans and elderly</li> <li>Observed need for low-barrier shelter</li> </ul>
<b>Johnstown Housing Authority (JHA)</b>	Public Housing Agencies (PHAs)	QP1/QP2/QP3/QP4	Virtual Meeting (12/1/2022)	<p>Identified the following needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sees need for emergency housing</li> <li>Long waiting list for JHA public housing and vouchers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can take between 30 days and 2 years to serve applicants</li> </ul> </li> <li>Public Housing waiting list: 974 as of 11/1/2022</li> <li>Section 8 waiting list: 845 as of 11/1/2022</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public housing occupancy is over 97%</li> <li>• Lack of affordable housing, landlords willing to rent to low-income tenants, and proper bedroom sizing</li> <li>• Eviction moratorium has led to more people using ERAP and not paying rent</li> <li>• Lots of poor quality, aging housing in the County</li> <li>• Women with children have the most calls they receive. They need help as soon as possible.</li> <li>• Evictions mostly happen due to lack of payment, not using resources, and financial irresponsibility</li> <li>• Many unmet mental health needs</li> </ul>
<b>Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown</b>	<p>Homeless service providers</p> <p>Public agencies that address the needs of the qualifying populations</p>	QP1/QP2/QP4	Virtual Meeting (12/1/2022)	<p>Identified the following needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gives 200-250 referrals per quarter</li> <li>• 15 beds in shelter more than meets the need <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Recently experienced a 5-day period where there were no homeless in the shelter</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Observes biggest need for transitional shelter (not transitional housing) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Non-congregate, step after emergency shelter, with</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

				wraparound services and case management
<b>Northern Cambria Community Development Corporation</b>	<p>Veterans' groups</p> <p>Public agencies that address the needs of the qualifying populations</p> <p>Public or private organizations that address the needs of persons with disabilities</p>	QP2/QP4	Phone Interview (12/2/2022)	<p>Identified the following needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High need for affordable housing for the elderly</li> <li>• Observes greater need for affordable housing for the working poor (80-100% AMI)</li> <li>• Has not observed too many homeless on the streets in Johnstown</li> </ul>
<b>Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Aid</b>	Public or private organizations that address fair housing and civil rights	QP1/QP2/QP3/QP4	Virtual Meeting (12/8/2022)	<p>Identified the following needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criminal history is a big issue that prevents people from finding housing</li> <li>• Those with a criminal history are not a protected class but it can be linked to racial discrimination</li> <li>• Sees need for shelters to screen clients for discrimination and offer more fair housing education</li> <li>• Lack of affordable housing in the area</li> <li>• Mental health is the biggest issue in the area that contributes to being at risk of homelessness</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aging population means more people have disabilities</li> <li>• Disability-related removal from lease is necessary but sometimes doesn't happen, leading to Fair Housing violations</li> </ul>
<b>Cambria County Behavioral Health</b>	<p>Public agencies that address the needs of the qualifying populations</p> <p>Public or private organizations that address the needs of persons with disabilities</p>	QP1/QP2 /QP4	Virtual Meeting (12/9/2022)	<p>Identified the following needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ERAP was controversial and a staff headache for this organization</li> <li>• Believes landlords have been raising rents because of ERAP</li> <li>• Need for low-barrier shelter and services</li> <li>• Men are disadvantaged when finding shelter compared to available women's and family shelters</li> </ul>
<b>Eastern PA Continuum of Care</b>	The CoC serving the City's geographic area	QP1/QP3	Email consultation	Provided the City with homelessness data and housing inventory information for Cambria County.
<b>Cambria County Veterans Service Office</b>	Veterans groups	QP2/QP3	Phone meeting (3/29/2023)	<p>Identified the following needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation is the biggest issue for veterans in need</li> <li>• Doesn't see many issues with housing in the area</li> <li>• VA is difficult to work with</li> <li>• Staffing problems</li> </ul>
<b>Public Hearing (The Women's Help Center; Cambria County Drug Coalition; Community</b>	Homeless service providers	QP1/QP2/QP3/QP4	Public Hearing (03/7/2023)	<p>The following comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for low barrier shelter</li> <li>• Need for non-congregate shelter</li> </ul>

<b><i>Action Partnership; 1889 Foundation; Cambria County Behavioral Health; Community Action Partnership; and Alternative Community Resources Program)</i></b>	Domestic violence service providers  public agencies that address the needs of the qualifying populations  Public or private organizations that address the needs of persons with disabilities			
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***Summarize feedback received and results of upfront consultation with these entities:***

The reoccurring needs mentioned by stakeholder agencies during the consultation process were:

- Need for a non-congregate shelter
- Need for a low-barrier shelters and services
- Need for affordable housing
- Need for supportive services and life skills training
- Need for accessible housing units
- Need for repair/rehabilitation of existing housing stock
- Need for treatment and services for mental health and substance abuse

## 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:*** 2/20/2023
- ***Public comment period:*** start date - 2/21/2023 end date - 3/7/2023
- ***Date(s) of public hearing:*** 3/7/2023

***Describe the public participation process:***

The City of Johnstown held one (1) public hearing for consultation with City residents, non-profit agencies and/or organizations, public housing authority, housing providers, Continuum of Care members, etc. on the “Draft” HOME-ARP Allocation Plan. During the public hearing, the City staff and the City consultants discussed the process followed in the development of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan. This includes stakeholders interviews, agency/organization surveys, and public hearing.

The public hearing notice for the City of Johnstown HOME-ARP Allocation Plan was published in the “The Tribune-Democrat” on Monday, February 20, 2023.

The fifteen (15) day public comment period on the “Draft” HOME-ARP Allocation Plan was from Tuesday, February 21, 2023 through Tuesday, March 7, 2023. The City of Johnstown placed the “Draft” HOME-ARP Allocation Plan on the City of Johnstown’s website (<http://cityofjohnstownpa.net>) and at the following locations:

- **City Hall** - 401 Main Street, Room 200, Johnstown, PA 15901
- **Cambria County Public Library** - 248 Main Street, Johnstown, PA 15901
- **Johnstown Housing Authority** - 501 Chestnut Street, Johnstown, PA 15906

The public was able to provide additional comments, via email at [kpurelliwebb@cojtn.com](mailto:kpurelliwebb@cojtn.com) or via phone at (814) 539-2504, Ext 113. Written comments were addressed to the City of Johnstown, Department of Community and Economic Development, Attention Ms. Katherine Purelli-Webb, Community Development Fiscal Officer, 401 Main Street, Johnstown, PA 15901.



***Describe efforts to broaden public participation:***

To broaden public participation, the City of Johnstown sent out an email blast to all agencies, organizations, and individuals on its email list exchange that the “Draft” HOME-ARP Allocation Plan was on public display and date, time, and place of the public hearing. This list consists of email addresses of names and organizations that have previously submitted funding requests or requested to be added to this list so they can be notified of future emails on funding options, proposed plans, and public hearings.

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

The City of Johnstown received the following comments at its Public Hearing on March 7, 2023:

- **Ms. Roxanne Tyger - The Women’s Help Center** - in favor of a low barrier shelter. Ms. Tyger submitted her comments in writing before the meeting. Her comments are included in the Citizen Participation appendix section of this plan.
- **Ms. Natalie Kauffman - Drug Coalition of Cambria County** - in support for a low barrier shelter.
- **Ms. Helen Robinson - Community Action Partnership** - in support of low barrier shelter.
- **Ms. Katie Kinka - Board member of The Women’s Help Center** - in support of low barrier shelter.
- **Ms. Sue Mann - 1889 Foundation** - in support of low barrier shelter.
- **Ms. Tracy Selak - Cambria County Behavior Health** - in support of low barrier shelter.
- **Ms. Jennifer Yahner - Alternative Community Resource Program** - in support of low barrier shelter.

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

The City of Johnstown at its public hearing on the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan received comments that there is a need for a low barrier shelter. Based off these comments the City decided to revise the Draft HOME-ARP Allocation Plan to allocate the HOME-ARP funds for this need. All other comments were accepted by the City of Johnstown.

## Needs Assessment and Gaps Analysis

*In accordance with Section V.C.1 of the Notice (page 14), a PJ must evaluate the size and demographic composition of **all four** of the qualifying populations within its boundaries and assess the unmet needs of each of those populations. If the PJ does not evaluate the needs of one of the qualifying populations, then the PJ has not completed their Needs Assessment and Gaps Analysis. In addition, a PJ must identify any gaps within its current shelter and housing inventory as well as the service delivery system. A PJ should use current data, including point in time count, housing inventory count, or other data available through CoCs, and consultations with service providers to quantify the individuals and families in the qualifying populations and their need for additional housing, shelter, or services.*

**OPTIONAL Homeless Needs Inventory and Gap Analysis Table**

Homeless													
	Current Inventory					Homeless Population				Gap Analysis			
	Family		Adults Only		Vets	Family HH (at least 1 child)	Adult HH (w/o child)	Vets	Victims of DV	Family		Adults Only	
	# of Beds	# of Units	# of Beds	# of Units	# of Beds					# of Beds	# of Units	# of Beds	# of Units
Emergency Shelter	30	9	11	1	0								
Transitional Housing	3	1	4	4	0								
Permanent Supportive Housing	12	4	43	43	1								
Other Permanent Housing	3	1	5	5	0								
Sheltered Homeless						4	8	1	7				
Unsheltered Homeless						0	0	0	0				
<b>Current Gap</b>										0	0	0	0

**Suggested Data Sources:** 1. 2022 Point-In-Time Count (PIT); 2. 2022 Continuum of Care Housing Inventory Count (HIC); 3. Consultation

**OPTIONAL Housing Needs Inventory and Gap Analysis Table**

	Non-Homeless		
	Current Inventory	Level of Need	Gap Analysis
	# of Units	# of Households	# of Households
Total Rental Units	4,895		
Rental Units Affordable to HH at 30% AMI (At-Risk of Homelessness)	2,275		
Rental Units Affordable to HH at 50% AMI (Other Populations)	1,290		
0%-30% AMI Renter HH w/ 1 or more severe housing problems (At-Risk of Homelessness)		1,295	
30%-50% AMI Renter HH w/ 1 or more severe housing problems (Other Populations)		740	
<b>Current Gaps</b>			2,035

**Data Sources:** 1. 2017-2021 American Community Survey (ACS); 2. 2015-2019 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS)

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

***Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.5***

Based on the 2022 Point-In-Time Count, there were 16 homeless individuals and 12 households identified in Cambria County. Only 8 households were without children, while 4 households had at least one adult and one child.

Among the population of those experiencing homelessness, there was a large portion that were identified as severely mentally ill (5 individuals, or 31% of the surveyed population). Only one person surveyed in the Point-In-Time Count was identified as having chronic substance abuse issues. 8 people surveyed in the Point-In-Time Count were identified as having a disability.

***At Risk of Homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 91.5***

24 CFR 91.5 defines At Risk of Homelessness as an individual or family that has an annual income below 30% of the HUD area median family income, does not have sufficient resources or support networks and meets one of several other conditions. According to the most recently available CHAS data, 2,995 households (or 31.7% of the total number of households)

live at 30% or below the HUD Area Median Income and of those 2,995 households: 1,765 have one or more housing problems, which includes either incomplete kitchen facilities, incomplete plumbing facilities, more than one person per room, or have a cost burden greater than 30%. As of November 2022, there are also 974 households on the public housing waiting list and 845 on the Housing Choice Vouchers waiting list.

According to Catholic Charities, they received between 150 and 250 calls on their helpline for requests for aid from Cambria County residents involving eviction, rent, and housing stability needs.

Community Action Partnership of Cambria County has 8 beds through rapid re-housing assistance. These beds/units are 100% utilized.

A large number of households in the region have also received payments for rental assistance. According to Cambria County Behavioral Health, the agency managing Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) for Cambria County, there were 991 referrals for rental assistance in 2022 and 668 households received payment assistance during that same period. These households are not separated for the City. The average amount of rental assistance given out was \$4,994.65 per applicant.

In the most recent data available as of November 2022, there were 974 households on the public housing waiting list and 845 households on the Section 8 Voucher waiting list for the Johnstown Housing Authority. 97% of Johnstown Housing Authority public housing units are occupied.

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

During the 2022 Point-In-Time Count, there were 7 homeless individuals who were identified as victims of domestic violence in Cambria County.

Additionally, according to data from Women's Help Center, the primary women's shelter in Cambria County, 34 households were denied shelter between December 1, 2021 and December 1, 2022 because of the Center being at capacity or the persons had prior criminal convictions that did not allow them to be in the shared shelter space.

According to the Human Trafficking Institute, in the Western District of Pennsylvania which includes the City of Johnstown, there were 13 criminal sex trafficking cases between 2000 and 2021 (the year with the most recent data available). This shows that there is a human

trafficking presence close to the Johnstown region and that victims may be in need of help or assistance.

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

Other populations include those with disabilities who are at greatest risk of housing instability. According to the most recent American Community Survey (ACS) data from 2021, there were 5,248 residents (28.2% of the total civilian non-institutionalized population) of the City of Johnstown who have a disability. 1,949 disabled individuals in the City of Johnstown have difficulty living independently. This shows that a significant portion of the City's population is at a high risk of housing instability.

There is also a prevalent issue with substance abuse and overdose in Johnstown. According to Overdose Free PA, an organization measuring drug overdoses in the state of Pennsylvania, there were at least 59 overdose deaths in the city of Johnstown in 2020 and 2021. Many stakeholder organizations in Johnstown have commented that the homeless are at greater risk of having substance abuse issues.

Others that are at greatest risk of housing instability, include those who are at or below 30% of the HUD Area Median Income who, are burdened by their monthly housing costs, and are at a higher risk of becoming homeless. According to the most recent CHAS data, 2,995 (31.7%) households in the City have incomes at or below 30% of the HUD AMI. 3,069 (32.5%) households in the City have a housing cost burden of greater than 30% of their income.

The City of Johnstown also has a significant population of ALICE families. ALICE is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed and represents families that are employed and earn more than the Federal Poverty Level but cannot otherwise keep up with the basic costs of living. According to the most recent ALICE Report data from 2018, 28% of households in Cambria County have incomes that fall below the ALICE threshold but above the Federal Poverty Level.

A large number of households in the region have also received payments for rental assistance. According to Cambria County Behavioral Health, the agency managing ERAP for Cambria County, there were 991 referrals for rental assistance in 2022 and 668 households received payment assistance during that same period. These households are not separated for the City. The average amount of rental assistance given out was \$4,994.65 per applicant.

In the most recent data available as of November 2022, there were 974 households on the public housing waiting list and 845 households on the Section 8 Voucher waiting list for the

Johnstown Housing Authority. 97% of Johnstown Housing Authority public housing units are occupied.

***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):***

The City of Johnstown has a variety of resources to assist households experiencing homelessness and at-risk of becoming homeless through Federal, State, and local programs. These programs range from emergency shelters for households experiencing homelessness, through the development of affordable rental housing for extremely low-income and low-income households. Below is a summary of the resources available through the City of Johnstown:

- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program:**

The City of Johnstown is a federal entitlement grantee and in FY 2022 the City received \$1,275,537 of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. These funds are used for public service activities, demolition/clearance, non-profit capital improvements, economic development activities, and administration and planning. During FY 2022 program year the City funded Catholic Charities - Martha & Mary House, which is an emergency shelter, with \$10,000 in CDBG funds.

HUD has released the FY 2023 allocations and the City of Johnstown will receive \$1,268,362 in CDBG funds.

- **HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Program:**

The City of Johnstown as a federal entitlement grantee, received \$274,745 in FY 2022 of HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) funds. These funds are used for owner occupied housing rehabilitation and for acquisition and rehabilitation of single-family homes to be sold to low-income households. Funds support the development of affordable housing to the very low-income to combat those households who are at risk of becoming homeless.

HUD has released the FY 2023 allocations and the City of Johnstown will receive \$237,876 in HOME funds.

- **Housing Inventory Count (HIC):**

The chart below is the Continuum of Care Housing Inventory Count (HIC) for 2022.

	Family Units	Family Beds	Adult Only Beds	Child Only Beds	Total Year Round Beds	Seasonal	Overflow/ Vouchers	Subset of Total Bed Inventory		
								Chronic Beds	Veteran Beds	Youth Beds
<b>Emergency, Safe Haven and Transitional Housing:</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Emergency Shelter	9	30	11	0	41	0	0	N/A	0	0
Transitional Housing	1	3	4	0	7	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0
<b>Permanent Housing:</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
Permanent Supportive Housing	4	12	43	0	55	N/A	N/A	42	1	0
Rapid Re-Housing	1	3	3	0	8	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

Cambria County has a total of 10 emergency, safe haven, and transitional housing beds and 5 units of permanent housing. There are 42 permanent supportive housing beds for the chronically homeless.

Based off the 2022 Continuum of Care Housing Inventory Count (HIC), there are 48 year-round, emergency shelter beds; 7 year-round, transitional housing beds; 63 year-round permanent housing beds; and 8 year-round, rapid re-housing beds. These resources and supportive services are as follows:

- **Emergency Shelter:**
  - **Catholic Charities - Martha and Mary House** - 15 beds
  - **Women's Help Center Inc. - Women's Help Center (Cambria)** - 26 beds
- **Transitional Housing:**
  - **Cambria County - Cambria County Bridge Housing** - 7 beds
- **Permanent Supportive Housing:**
  - **Blair County PHA - VASH - Cambria (Johnstown)** - 1 bed
  - **County of Cambria - PA0578 Cambria County Comprehensive** - 30 beds
  - **Northern Cambria Community Development - NCCDC Independence Gardens PSH Program** - 16 beds
  - **Northern Cambria Community Development - NCCDC Schoolhouse Gardens PSH Program** - 8 beds

- **Rapid Re-Housing:**
  - **Community Action Partnership of Cambria County - Cambria County CAP ESG RR Program - 5 beds**
  - **Community Action Partnership of Cambria County - CAP of Cambria RRH ESG-CV-19 - 3 beds**

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

***Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.5***

Based on the 2022 Point-In-Time Count there were 12 households that were currently experiencing homelessness, with all of them being sheltered. Based on consultations with homeless providers, the greatest unmet need is a low barrier shelter. Therefore, agencies are requesting the need for the development of a low barrier non-congregate shelter.

The supportive services that are needed, include the following: childcare, educational services, employment assistance and job training, food, housing searches and counseling services, legal services, life skills training, mental health services, outpatient health services, outreach services, substance abuse treatment services, transportation, case management, mediation, credit repair, services for special populations, and financial assistance. Supportive services are crucial to helping this qualifying population.

***At Risk of Homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 91.5***

The unmet housing needs of the at risk of homeless population is the lack of affordable housing units in the City. This refers to that qualifying population who live at 30% or below the HUD Area Median Income and have one or more housing problems. This qualifying population needs short- and long-term rental and utility assistance, along with affordable permanent housing options. Developing affordable permanent supportive housing units will keep households that are cost burden from becoming homeless.

The supportive services that are needed include the following: childcare, educational services, employment assistance and job training, food, housing searches, counseling services, legal services, life skills training, mental health services, outpatient health services, outreach services, substance abuse treatment services, transportation, case management, mediation, credit repair, landlord/tenant liaison, services for special populations, and financial assistance. Supportive services are crucial to keeping this qualifying population housed.



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

Based on the 2022 Point-In-Time Count, there were 7 homeless individuals who were identified as being victims of domestic violence. The unmet housing need for this qualified population is to increase the number of domestic violence shelter beds and permanent supportive housing units.

The supportive services that are needed are the following: childcare, education services, employment assistance and job training, food, housing searches, counseling services, legal services, life skills training, mental health services, outpatient health services, outreach services, substance abuse treatment services, transportation, case management, mediation, credit repair, landlord/tenant liaison, services for special populations, and financial assistance. Supportive services are crucial to keeping this qualifying population housed.

***Other populations requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness and other populations at greatest risk of housing instability as defined by HUD in the Notice***

The unmet housing and service needs for other populations who are at greatest risk of housing instability's supportive services to help decrease their risk of housing instability by providing wrap-around services. These individuals may have a substance abuse, mental health issues, and physical disabilities. To prevent housing instability, they need long term permanent housing assistance with case management and wrap-around support services. In addition, another population that is experiencing instability is the physically disabled and the developmentally challenged. There is a need for long-term permanent housing that is accessible for these persons with disabilities.

The supportive services that are needed are the following: childcare, education services, employment assistance and job training, food, housing searches, counseling services, legal services, life skills training, mental health services, outpatient health services, outreach services, substance abuse treatment services, transportation, case management, mediation, credit repair, landlord/tenant liaison, services for special populations, and financial assistance. Supportive services are crucial to keeping this qualifying population housed.

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

Based on stakeholders' consultation, there is a great need for a low barrier shelter. There is no low barrier shelter located in the City of Johnstown nor in Cambria County to serve this need.

Based on the 2022 Point-In-Time Count (PIT), Cambria County has 16 sheltered homeless. In addition, the CoC has its permanent supportive housing beds near a 100% utilization rate. There is also no low-barrier 24/7 emergency shelter in Cambria County. Women's Help Center, a local women's shelter denied shelter for 34 individuals due to inability to accommodate them in the congregate setting with women and children. Since January 2023, Women's Help Center has had unrelated women staying in the same rooms originally meant for families as a response to the high demand.

Another gap in the system is the supply of affordable housing in the City of Johnstown. This gap is much larger than the available resources that the City has available to meet this need.

To assist in meeting the need to provide permanent housing, the CoC works with the Johnstown Housing Authority for housing assistance through either public housing units or through the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program. The Johnstown Housing Authority (JHA) has eleven (11) public housing developments in Cambria County consisting of a total of 1,504 public housing assisted units. Nine (9) of these developments are in the City of Johnstown. The JHA has a public housing waiting list of 974 persons. The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher waiting list has 845 persons on it and is still open. Public Housing is at over 97% capacity.

The Johnstown Housing Authority Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers applicants have a success rate of 47% finding a housing unit within 60 days. The reason given for such a low success rate is the lack of affordable units that will meet the HQS inspection standards and/or the landlords willingness to accept Section 8 Vouchers.

***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:***

The City of Johnstown is not providing additional characteristics associated with instability and increase risk of homelessness in the City's HOME-ARP Allocation Plan.

***Identify priority needs for qualifying populations:***

The reoccurring needs mentioned by stakeholder agencies during the consultation process were:

- Need for a non-congregate shelter
- Need for a low-barrier shelters and services

- Need for affordable housing
- Need for supportive services and life skills training
- Need for accessible housing units
- Need for repair/rehabilitation of existing housing stock
- Need for treatment and services for mental health and substance abuse

***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:***

The City of Johnstown determined the level of need and gaps in the shelter inventory, housing inventory, and service delivery system from the following sources:

- Stakeholders' Consultations
- 2022 Point-In-Time Count (PIT)
- 2022 Housing Inventory Count (HIC)
- Pennsylvania Eastern CoC - Statistics
- The Women's Help Center, Inc. - Statistics
- Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE)
- 2017-2021 American Community Survey Data (ACS Data)
- 2015-2019 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS)
- Cambria County Behavioral Health - Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) Statistics
- Johnstown Housing Authority (JHA) - Statistics

Based on the above sources the City of Johnstown determined the level of need and gaps in its shelter inventory, housing inventory, and service delivery systems.

## 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:***

The City of Johnstown proposes to solicit HOME-ARP applications from non-profits and for-profit agencies, private developers and/or social service providers to undertake eligible HOME-ARP projects/activities. The City's Department of Community and Economic Development will release a Notice of the Funding Available under the HOME-ARP Program in "The Tribune-Democrat." Potential applicants will be forward to the City's Department of Community and Economic Development to contact to obtain an application package. In addition, the City's Department of Community and Economic Development staff will send out an email to its list of agencies/organizations that have previously submitted funding requests and also participated in the HOME-ARP stakeholder consultations. This email will notify agencies, organizations, and interested parties of the availability of the HOME-ARP funds.

The funding request will have the following items: Information on the HOME-ARP Programs and Guidelines, Application Review Process, and instructions on how to complete the Funding Request Application.

The City will review the HOME-ARP Funding Request Applications and rank them to see which applications address the needs identified in the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan. The City will evaluate if the applicant will leverage the HOME-ARP funds with private and other public funding sources.

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

The City of Johnstown, Department of Community and Economic Development will manage the HOME-ARP program's administration, monitoring, and planning components. The projects/activities will be carried out by subrecipients which are awarded the HOME-ARP funds.

***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:***

Not Applicable. The City of Johnstown has not provided any HOME-ARP funds to subrecipient(s) nor contractors prior to HUD's acceptance of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan.

## Use of HOME-ARP Funding

*In accordance with Section V.C.2. of the Notice (page 4), PJs must indicate the amount of HOME-ARP funding that is planned for each eligible HOME-ARP activity type and demonstrate that any planned funding for nonprofit organization operating assistance, nonprofit capacity building, and administrative costs is within HOME-ARP limits.*

	Funding Amount	Percent of the Grant	Statutory Limit
Supportive Services	\$ 0.00		
Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelters	\$ 749,683.00		
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	\$ 0.00		
Development of Affordable Rental Housing	\$ 0.00		
Non-Profit Operating	\$ 0.00	0 %	5%
Non-Profit Capacity Building	\$ 0.00	0 %	5%
Administration and Planning	\$ 132,296.00	15 %	15%
<b>Total HOME ARP Allocation:</b>	<b>\$ 881,979.00</b>		

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

The City of Johnstown, Department of Community and Economic Development developed the HOME-ARP Budget based on the identified needs from consultation with community stakeholders, agency/organization surveys, the assessment of the data obtained from the Point-In-Time Count (PIT), Continuum of Care Housing Inventory Count (HIC), American Community Survey Data (ACS), HUD Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS), and other statistical data provide from the Pennsylvania Eastern CoC.

The City of Johnstown will allocate 85% of the funds for the Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelters and 15% of the funds for Administration and Planning.

The following is a breakdown of what each category covers:

- **Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelters** - is for the development of private units or rooms for temporary shelter for persons and/or households that meet one or more of the definitions of qualifying populations. Funds can be used for the acquisition, new construction, rehabilitation of an existing structure, development costs, and replacement reserves.

- **Administration and Planning** - will set aside 15% of the allocation to cover the cost to administer the HOME-ARP program by the City of Johnstown, Department of Community and Economic Development.

These allocations were derived from the data analysis and the key points that were articulated in the community stakeholders' meetings and interviews. It was also overwhelmingly mentioned in the public hearing the need for a low barrier shelter.

The City of Johnstown is not allocating HOME-ARP funds to Supportive Services, Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA), Development of Affordable Rental Housing Social Services, Non-Profit Operating, and Non-Profit Capacity Building based on the analysis of the needs for the City.

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

The 2022 Point-In-Time Count has 9 persons or 7 households in Emergency Shelters. The City of Johnstown's housing market is seeing housing options being reduced because of the increase in housing sales prices, increase in monthly rents, low vacancy rates, and increases in utility costs. These trends are leading to the lack of affordable housing options and the potential increase in persons and households becoming homeless. Additionally, according to data from Women's Help Center, the primary women's shelter in Cambria County, 34 households were denied shelter between December 1, 2021 and December 1, 2022 because of the Center being at capacity or the persons had prior criminal convictions that did not allow them to be in the shared shelter space.

The goal of the City is to use the HOME-ARP funds to assist the extremely low-income City residents who are homeless by developing non-congregate shelter units.

## 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:***

The City of Johnstown will set aside funds for the development of non-congregate shelter beds using the HOME-ARP funds. The City is estimating that fifteen (15) new non-congregate shelter units will be developed based off a cost of \$50,000 per bed. Funds will be used for the acquisition and development of non-congregate shelters for the development of private units or rooms for temporary shelter for persons and/or households that meet one or more of the definitions of qualifying populations. Funds can be used for the acquisition, new construction, rehabilitation of an existing structure, development costs, and replacement reserves.

The new non-congregate shelter beds will be available to all four (4) HOME-ARP qualifying populations.

***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:***

The City of Johnstown is looking to leverage the HOME-ARP funds with other Federal, State, local, Foundation, private, etc. funding sources. The goal is to use these other funding sources to develop at least fifteen (15) new non-congregate shelter units or more. If other leveraged funds are not available, the City will look to just fund projects with HOME-ARP funds only.

## 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:***

The City of Johnstown does not intend to give preference to one qualifying population versus another because there is a need to assist all four (4) qualifying populations. The needs for all four (4) qualifying populations is greater than the amount of HOME-ARP funds the City of Johnstown has been allocated. Not Applicable.

***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:***

Not Applicable.



## 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 City of Johnstown intends to use the Coordinated Entry System (CE) for its HOME-ARP projects and activities. Coordinated Entry System is a consistent, streamlined process for accessing the resources available from the Eastern Pennsylvania Continuum of Care to ensure that the highest need, most vulnerable households in the community are prioritized for services and that the housing and supportive services in the system are used as efficiently and effectively as possible. The Coordinated Entry System of Eastern Pennsylvania coordinates and manages access, assessment, prioritization, referral to emergency services, and enrollment into permanent housing from the "By Name List" in the Pennsylvania Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Five (5) dedicated Regional Managers, a 211 Call Center Manager, and a Domestic Violence Coordinated Entry Specialist provide support and guidance to the CES across the Eastern Pennsylvania Continuum of Care's regions (RHABs).

***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):***

All four (4) qualifying populations that are eligible for a project or activity will be included in the CoC Coordinated Entry (CE) process. All households seeking service are provided fair and equal access regardless of their location or method by which they access the system.

***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):***

The City of Johnstown will follow the Eastern PA Continuum of Care Coordinated Entry (CE) method of prioritization. The Eastern PA CoC has adopted its own Homelessness Prevention assessment tool to prioritize households eligible for services based on severity of need, including factors related to health, safety, income, ability, and veteran status, among others. The CoC will use data collected through the CE process to prioritize homeless persons within the CoC's geography.

The CoC has established a community-wide list of all known homeless persons who are seeking or may need CoC housing and services to resolve their housing crisis. The prioritization list will

be organized according to participant need, vulnerability, and risk. The prioritization list provides an effective way to manage an accountable and transparent prioritization process.

***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. The City of Johnstown intends to only use the Coordinated Entry System (CE) Process for the HOME-ARP funded projects.

## Limitations in a HOME-ARP rental housing or NCS project

***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:***

The City of Johnstown is not intending to limit eligibility for a HOME-ARP non-congregate shelter project to a particular qualifying population or specific subpopulation. The need for non-congregate shelter affects all qualifying populations. The City of Johnstown Department of Community and Economic Development will solicit proposals for non-congregate projects in general. Evaluations of applications will be made, and selection will be based on the best proposal submitted.

***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. The City of Johnstown does not intend to implement a limitation on the HOME-ARP Program.

***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.

## HOME-ARP Refinancing Guidelines

The City of Johnstown does not intend to use HOME-ARP funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily rental housing that is being rehabilitated with HOME-ARP funds. Not Applicable.

- ***Establish a minimum level of rehabilitation per unit or a required ratio between rehabilitation and refinancing to demonstrate that rehabilitation of HOME-ARP rental housing is the primary eligible activity.***

Not Applicable.

- ***Require a review of management practices to demonstrate that disinvestment in the property has not occurred; that the long-term needs of the project can be met; and that the feasibility of serving qualified populations for the minimum compliance period can be demonstrated.***

Not Applicable.

- ***State whether the new investment is being made to maintain current affordable units, create additional affordable units, or both.***

Not Applicable.

- ***Specify the required compliance period, whether it is the minimum 15 years or longer.***

Not Applicable.

- ***State that HOME-ARP funds cannot be used to refinance multifamily loans made or insured by any federal program, including CDBG.***

Not Applicable.

- ***Other requirements in the PJ's guidelines, if applicable:***

Not Applicable.

## Appendix

Attached are the following items:

- SF 424 Form
- SF 424-B Form
- SF 424-D Form
- Certifications
- Resolution
- Citizen Participation Documentation
  - Public Hearing
  - Surveys and Consultations



# HUD SF 424 Form

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### 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:**

**4. Applicant Identifier:**

**5a. Federal Entity Identifier:**

**5b. Federal Award Identifier:**

M-21-MP-42-0508

**State Use Only:**

**6. Date Received by State:**

**7. State Application Identifier:**

**8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:**

**\* a. Legal Name:** City of Johnstown

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

25-6000865

**\* c. UEI:**

XBNQXGRF1YJ9

**d. Address:**

**\* Street1:** 401 Main Street

**Street2:**

**\* City:** Johnstown

**County/Parish:** Cambria County

**\* State:** PA: Pennsylvania

**Province:**

**\* Country:** USA: UNITED STATES

**\* Zip / Postal Code:** 15901-1334

**e. Organizational Unit:**

**Department Name:**

Community and Economic Develop

**Division Name:**

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

**Prefix:**

Mr.

**\* First Name:**

John

**Middle Name:**

**\* Last Name:** Dubnansky

**Suffix:**

**Title:** Director

**Organizational Affiliation:**

Community and Economic Development Department

**\* Telephone Number:** (814) 539-2504 Ext: 110

**Fax Number:** (814) 410-0991

**\* Email:** jdubnansky@cojtn.com

## Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

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

C: City or Township 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 (HUD)

### 11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

14.239

CFDA Title:

HOME Investment Partnership - American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) Program

### \* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:

Not Applicable.

\* Title:

Not Applicable.

### 13. Competition Identification Number:

Not Applicable.

Title:

Not Applicable.

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

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

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

HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

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

12

\* b. Program/Project

12

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

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

**17. Proposed Project:**

\* a. Start Date: 09/20/2021

\* b. End Date: 09/30/2030

**18. Estimated Funding (\$):**

* a. Federal	881,979.00
* b. Applicant	0.00
* c. State	0.00
* d. Local	0.00
* e. Other	0.00
* f. Program Income	0.00
* g. TOTAL	881,979.00

**\* 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

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

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 218, 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: Mr. \* First Name: Frank

Middle Name:

\* Last Name: Janakovic

Suffix:

\* Title: Mayor

\* Telephone Number: (814) 539-2504

Fax Number: (814) 410-0991

\* Email: mayorfrank@gmail.com

\* Signature of Authorized Representative:

\* Date Signed: 03/28/2023



# HUD SF 424-B Form

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## 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.

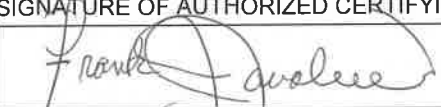
**PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.**

**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).
6. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. 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.
7. 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 or federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
8. Will comply, as applicable, with 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.

9. 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.
10. Will comply, if applicable, 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.
11. 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).
12. 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.
13. 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.).
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 Mayor
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION City of Johnstown, PA	DATE SUBMITTED 03/28/2023



# HUD SF 424-D Form

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## 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.

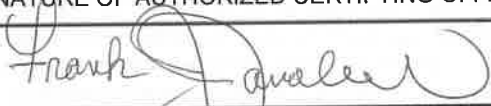
As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

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).
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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).

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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
	Mayor
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	DATE SUBMITTED
City of Johnstown, PA	03/28/2023



# Certifications

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## 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.

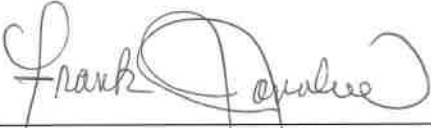
**Anti-Lobbying** --To the best of the jurisdiction's knowledge and belief:

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

03/28/2023  
Date

Mayor  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title



# Resolution

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**CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA**

**RESOLUTION NO. 10561**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF THE FY 2021 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN - SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE THE HOME-ARP ALLOCATION PLAN TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)**

**WHEREAS**, Congress appropriated \$5 billion in funds under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, these funds are to be used to assist the homeless and those persons and families who are at risk of becoming homeless; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is administering this program and the City of Johnstown was allocated \$881,979 in HOME-ARP funds; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Johnstown prepared a HOME-ARP Allocation Plan which is included as a Substantial Amendment to the FY 2021 Annual Action Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, a draft of the FY 2021 Annual Action Plan - Substantial Amendment containing the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan was on public display from February 21, 2023 through March 7, 2023 and the City held a public hearing on March 7, 2023 concerning said amendment, and the comments of various agencies, groups, and citizens were taken into consideration in the preparation of the final document.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Johnstown, Cambria County, Pennsylvania, and it is hereby resolved by the authority of the same, as follows:

**SECTION 1.** That the Annual Action Plan – Substantial Amendment which includes the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan for the FY 2021 is hereby in all respects APPROVED.

**SECTION 2.** That the City is COGNIZANT of the conditions that are imposed in the undertaking and carrying out of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Programs with Federal financial assistance, including those relating to (a) the relocation of site occupants, (b) the prohibition of discrimination because of race, color, age, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin, and (c) other assurances as set forth under the certifications.

**SECTION 3.** That the Mayor or his designee, on behalf of the City of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, is AUTHORIZED to file an Application for financial assistance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which has indicated its willingness to make available funds to carry out the HOME-ARP Program in the amount of \$881,979 and is further AUTHORIZED to

act as the representative of the City of Johnstown to sign any and all documents in regard to these programs.

**SECTION 4.** That the Mayor or his designee, on behalf of the City of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, is AUTHORIZED to provide assurances and/or certifications as required by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended; and any other supplemental or revised data which the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development may request in review of the City's Application.

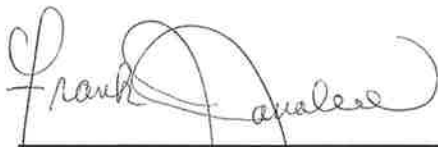
**ADOPTED:** March 28, 2023

By the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor Janakovic, Ms. Huchel, Mr. Capriotti, Rev. King, Mr. Britt

Nays:

Absent: Mrs. Mock, Mr. Arnone



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Frank J. Janakovic, Mayor  
Michael Capriotti, Deputy Mayor

**ATTEST:**

I do hereby certify that the preceding is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. **10561** as the same adopted by the City Council of the City of Johnstown, Pennsylvania.



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Ethan Imhoff, City Manager



## Citizen Participation Documentation

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# Public Hearing

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**CITY OF JOHNSTOWN  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
THE HOME-ARP ALLOCATION PLAN  
FOR HOME-AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN PROGRAM  
FY 2021 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN – SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT**

This notice is hereby given by the City of Johnstown, Cambria County, PA that it will conduct a public hearing on **Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 12:00 PM**, prevailing time, in the Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 401 Main Street, Johnstown, PA. Persons requiring assistance due to hearing, speech, vision impairments, or limited English proficiency should contact the City's Community and Economic Development Department, Ms. Katherine Purelli-Webb, Community Development Fiscal Officer at: [kpurelliwebb@cojtwm.com](mailto:kpurelliwebb@cojtwm.com) or via phone at (814) 539-2504 Ext. 113 or 711 (TDD). Persons with hearing and/or speech impediments may contact the City through the "Pennsylvania Relay Service" by dialing "711" or going online to [www.parelay.net](http://www.parelay.net).

The propose of the public hearing is to present the City of Johnstown's HOME-ARP Allocation Plan for the HOME-American Rescue Plan funds. The City intends to submit its HOME-ARP Allocation Plan in the amount of \$881,979 to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on or before Friday, March 31, 2023.

The HOME-ARP Allocation Plan is required by HUD in order for the City of Johnstown to receive federal HOME-ARP grant funds. The HOME-ARP Allocation Plan is a strategic plan detailing the process the City will use to allocate funds to assist individuals or households who are experiencing homelessness, at risk of becoming homeless, and other vulnerable populations, by providing affordable housing, rental assistance, supportive services, and non-congregate shelter, to reduce homelessness and increase housing stability.

In order to obtain the views of residents, public agencies, and other interested parties, the City of Johnstown has placed its FY 2021 Annual Action Plan – Substantial Amendment - HOME-ARP Allocation Plan on public display starting Tuesday, February 21, 2023 and ending on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at which time the Substantial Amendment will be presented to the Johnstown City Council for approval at its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, March 8, 2023. The Draft FY 2021 Annual Action Plan – Substantial Amendment - HOME-ARP Allocation Plan may be examined at the City's website [www.cityofjohnstownpa.net](http://www.cityofjohnstownpa.net) and at the following locations:

**City Hall**

401 Main Street, Johnstown, PA 15901

**Cambria County Public Library**

248 Main Street, Johnstown, PA 15901

**The Johnstown Housing Authority**

501 Chestnut Street, Johnstown, PA 15906



All interested residents are encouraged to attend this public hearing and they will be given the opportunity to present oral or written testimony concerning the draft FY 2021 Annual Action Plan – Substantial Amendment - HOME-ARP Allocation Plan. Written comments may be addressed to the attention of Ms. Katherine Purelli-Webb, Community Development Fiscal Officer, City Hall, 401 Main Street, Johnstown, PA 15901 or via email at: [kpurelliwebb@cojtn.com](mailto:kpurelliwebb@cojtn.com) or via phone at (814) 539-2504 Ext. 113 or 711 (TDD) by Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA }  
County of Cambria } SS

CITY OF JOHNSTOWN  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
THE HOME-ARP ALLOCATION PLAN  
FOR HOME-AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN PROGRAM  
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On this 20th day of February A.D. 2023, before me, the subscriber, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared Christine Marhefka, who being duly sworn according to law, deposes and says as Sales Manager / Major Accounts of the Tribune-Democrat, Johnstown, PA, a newspaper of general circulation as defined by the "Newspaper Advertising Act", a merger September 8, 1952, of the Johnstown Tribune, established December 7, 1853; and of the Johnstown Democrat, established March 5, 1863,

a, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and published in said publication in the regular issues of February 20, 2023; and that the Affiant is not aware of all of the allegations as to time, place and

*Christine Marhefka*

STATEMENT OF ADVERTISING COSTS

Lines @	\$2.70 per line	0.00
Lines @	\$27.00 per inch	384.75
Fee		5.00
Subtotal Fee		2.50
<b>Total Cost</b>		<b>392.25</b>

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal  
Vivian Ohs, Notary Public  
Cambria County  
My commission expires December 6, 2024  
Commission number 1123017  
Member, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries

To The Tribune-Democrat, Johnstown, PA  
For publishing the notice or publication  
attached hereto on the above stated dates.

PUBLISHER'S RECEIPT FOR ADVERTISING COSTS

\_\_\_\_\_ for publisher of \_\_\_\_\_  
a newspaper of general circulation, hereby acknowledges receipt of the aforesaid  
and publication costs and certifies that the same has been duly paid.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Newspaper)

By \_\_\_\_\_

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA }  
County of Cambria } SS



On this 20th day of February A.D. 2023, before me, the subscriber, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared Christine Marhefka, who being duly sworn according to law, deposes and says as Sales Manager / Major Accounts of the Tribune-Democrat, Johnstown, PA, a newspaper of general circulation as defined by the "Newspaper Advertising Act", a merger September 8, 1952, of the Johnstown Tribune, established December 7, 1853; and of the Johnstown Democrat, established March 5, 1863,

published continuously at Johnstown Pa. in the County of Cambria, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and that the annexed is a true copy of a notice in the above matter published in said publication in the regular issues of The Johnstown Tribune-Democrat, Johnstown, PA, on February 20, 2023; and that the Affiant is not interested in the subject matter of said notice or advertising and that all of the allegations as to time, place and character of said publication are true.

Christine Marhefka  
**STATEMENT OF ADVERTISING COSTS**

Signed and sworn to before me on  
20th day of February, 2023,  
by Christine Marhefka making the statement.

Vivian Ohs

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal  
Vivian Ohs, Notary Public  
Cambria County  
My commission expires December 6, 2024  
Commission number 1123017  
Member, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries

0.00 Lines @	\$2.70 per line	0.00
14.25 Inches @	\$27.00 per inch	384.75
Notary Fee		5.00
Clerical Fee		2.50
<b>Total Cost</b>		<b>392.25</b>

To The Tribune-Democrat, Johnstown, PA  
For publishing the notice or publication  
attached hereto on the above stated dates.

**PUBLISHER'S RECEIPT FOR ADVERTISING COSTS**

\_\_\_\_\_ for publisher of \_\_\_\_\_  
a newspaper of general circulation, hereby acknowledges receipt of the aforesaid  
and publication costs and certifies that the same has been duly paid.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Newspaper)

By \_\_\_\_\_

**From:** Katherine Purelli-Webb <kpurelliwebb@cojtnw.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2023 10:58 AM  
**To:** Sylvia King; coconner@dioceseaj.org; leigh@dma-housing.com; dwilson@womenshelpcenter.org; taybush@atlanticbb.net; erin.smullen@use.salvationarmy.org; mgeorge@pendropincenter.org; jaime@splas.org; Mickie@uwlaurel.org; malberts@jhaonline.org; helpinghandsofcambriacounty@gmail.com; mkomar@jrpa.org; agranec@bww.com  
**Cc:** mayorfrankj@gmail.com; John Dubnansky; Karl Haglund; Michael Long  
**Subject:** HOME ARP Allocation Plan

Hello,

FY 2021 Annual Action Plan – Substantial Amendment - HOME-ARP Allocation Plan is on public display starting Tuesday, February 21, 2023 and ending on Tuesday, March 7, 2023. After that time the Substantial Amendment will be presented to the Johnstown City Council for approval at its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, ~~March 22, 2023~~ **March 23, 2023**. The Draft FY 2021 Annual Action Plan – Substantial Amendment - HOME-ARP Allocation Plan may be examined at the City's website [www.cityofjohnstownpa.net](http://www.cityofjohnstownpa.net) and at the following locations in the City:

- **City Hall** - 401 Main Street, Johnstown, PA 15901
- **Cambria County Public Library** - 248 Main Street, Johnstown, PA 15901
- **The Johnstown Housing Authority** - 501 Chestnut Street, Johnstown, PA 15906

The City will be holding a public hearing on this plan on **Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 12:00 PM**, prevailing time, in the Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 401 Main Street, Johnstown, PA. Persons requiring assistance due to hearing, speech, vision impairments, or limited English proficiency should contact the City's Community and Economic Development Department, Ms. Katherine Purelli-Webb, Community Development Fiscal Officer at: [kpurelliwebb@cojtnw.com](mailto:kpurelliwebb@cojtnw.com) or via phone at (814) 539-2504 Ext. 113 or 711 (TDD).

All interested residents are encouraged to attend this public hearing and they will be given the opportunity to present oral or written testimony concerning the draft FY 2021 Annual Action Plan – Substantial Amendment - HOME-ARP Allocation Plan. Written comments may be addressed to the attention of Ms. Katherine Purelli-Webb, Community Development Fiscal Officer, City Hall, 401 Main Street, Johnstown, PA 15901 or via email at: [kpurelliwebb@cojtnw.com](mailto:kpurelliwebb@cojtnw.com) or via phone at (814) 539-2504 Ext. 113 or 711 (TDD) by Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

Thank you for your participation in the process.

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**CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA**  
**FY 2021 Annual Action Plan – Substantial Amendment –**  
**HOME-ARP Allocation Plan**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Conference Room 202, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Hall, 401 Main Street, Johnstown, PA**  
**Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.**

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**Opening Remarks:** Mr. John Dubnansky, Economic Development Director, Community & Economic Development

**Purpose:**

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The propose of the public hearing is to present the City of Johnstown’s HOME-ARP Allocation Plan for the HOME-American Rescue Plan funds. The City intends to submit its HOME-ARP Allocation Plan in the amount of **\$881,979** to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on or before Friday, March 31, 2023.

The HOME-ARP Allocation Plan is a strategic plan detailing the process the City will use to allocate funds to assist individuals or households who are experiencing homelessness, at risk of becoming homeless, and other vulnerable populations, by providing affordable housing, rental assistance, supportive services, and non-congregate shelter, to reduce homelessness and increase housing stability.

**Schedule:**

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Consultation ..... November 2022 through March 2023  
Substantial Amendment went on Public Display ..... February 21, 2023  
Substantial Amendment Public Hearing ..... March 7, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.  
End of Substantial Amendment Public Display ..... March 7, 2023

City Council Adoption of Substantial Amendment ..... March 8, 2023  
Substantial Amendment submitted to HUD via IDIS on or before ..... March 31, 2023

#### **HOME-ARP Qualifying Populations:**

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The HOME-ARP Program has the following four (4) Qualifying Populations for this program:

- 1. Homeless**
- 2. At Risk of Homelessness**
  - An individual or family who is extremely low income (<30% AMI), does not have support networks, and meets at least one of the conditions for homelessness (24 CFR 91.5).
- 3. Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking**
- 4. Other populations who do not qualify under any of the populations above but meet one of the following criteria:**
  - Those who are currently housed due to temporary or emergency assistance or need additional assistance or services to avoid a return to homelessness.
  - Populations at Greatest Risk of Housing Instability
    - Households whose income is <30% AMI and are experiencing severe cost burden.
    - Households whose income is <50% AMI and meet one of the criteria for being At Risk of Homelessness.

#### **HOME-ARP Eligible Projects/Activities:**

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The following projects/activities are eligible with the HOME-ARP funds:

- 1. Production or Preservation of Affordable Rental Housing**
  - Acquisition, construction of affordable rental housing for individuals and families that are part of the Qualifying Populations.
  - Can include single family or multifamily housing, transitional or permanent housing, group homes, single room occupancy (SRO) units, and manufactured housing.
- 2. Tenant Based Rental Assistance**
  - Providing payments to a tenant to cover housing and housing-related costs, including rental assistance, security deposit assistance, utility deposits, and utility payments to households that are part of the Qualifying Populations.

### 3. Supportive Services

- Providing supportive services to members of the Qualifying Populations under three categories:
  - McKinney-Vento Supportive Services
  - Homelessness Prevention Services
  - Housing Counseling Services

### 4. Purchase and Development of Non-Congregate Shelter

- Acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of non-congregate shelter units to service individuals and families that are part of the Qualifying populations.

## HOME-ARP Data:

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Based of the 2022 Point In Time Count for Cambria County, which includes the City of Johnstown:

- 16 homeless individuals and 12 households identified in Cambria County
  - 8 households were without children
  - 4 households had at least one adult and one child
  - 5 individuals were identified as severely mentally ill
  - 1 individual identified as chronic substance abuse issues
  - 7 homeless individuals who were identified as victims of domestic violence

Based of the CHAS Data for the City of Johnstown:

- 2,995 households (or 31.7% of the total number of households) live at 30% or below the HUD Area Median Income and of those 2,995 households
  - 1,765 have one or more housing problems, which includes either incomplete kitchen facilities, incomplete plumbing facilities, more than one person per room, or have a cost burden greater than 30%.

Based off Data form the Johnstown Housing Authority:

- As of November 2022, there were 974 households on the public housing waiting list and 845 households on the Section 8 Voucher waiting list for the Johnstown Housing Authority.
- 97% of Johnstown Housing Authority public housing units are occupied.

## Use of HOME-ARP Funding:

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	Funding Amount	Percent of the Grant	Statutory Limit
Supportive Services	\$ 50,000.00		
Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelters	\$ 0.00		
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	\$ 0.00		

Development of Affordable Rental Housing	\$ 699,683.00		
Non-Profit Operating	\$ 0.00	0%	5%
Non-Profit Capacity Building	\$ 0.00	0%	5%
Administration and Planning	\$ 132,296.00	15 %	15%
<b>Total HOME ARP Allocation:</b>	<b>\$ 881,979.00</b>		

**Public Comments:**

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**Closing Remarks and Adjournment:** Mr. John Dubnansky, Economic Development Director, Community & Economic Development.



# **HOME-ARP Allocation Public Hearing**

**March 7, 2023 12:00**

## **City Hall Training Room**

Attendance: See attached sign in sheet

12:00 John Dubnansky, Director of DCED City of Johnstown made the opening remarks and read the attached agenda.

12:10 John opened the floor for comments:

Roxanne Tyger-Women's Help Center- in favor of a low barrier shelter

Roxanne submitted her comments in writing before the meeting (see attached)

Natalie Kauffman- Drug Coalition of Cambria County

- To show support for a low barrier shelter

Helen Robinson- Community Action Partnership

- In support of low barrier shelter

Katie Kinka- Board member WAC

- In support of low barrier shelter

Sue Mann- 1889 Foundation

- In support of low barrier shelter

Tracy Selak- Cambria County Behavior Health

- In support of low barrier shelter

Jennifer Yahner-ACRP

- In support of low barrier shelter

12:45 John asked if there any other comments.

12:46 Adjournment

Submitted by Katherine Purelli-Webb, Fiscal Officer



# CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

FY 2021 Annual Action Plan – Substantial Amendment – HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

## PUBLIC HEARING

Conference Room 202, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Hall, 401 Main Street, Johnstown, PA

Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.

Name	Organization	Phone Number	Email Address
Roxanne Trice	Women's Help Center	814-536-5361	nygro.womenshelpcenter.org
Susan Angelelli	Women's Help Center	814 533 5117	sangelelli@amenserv.com
Natalie Kauffman	Cambria County Drug Coalition	814-241-9999	Natalie.Kauffman@Drugcoalition.org
Katherine Furman	CCS		
Helen Robinson	UAPCC	814 361 6320	hrobinson@capcc.us
Katie Kinka	WHC	(919) 995-1150	KatieKinka@gmail.com
Susan Mann	1889 Foundation	814-532-0100	smann@1889foundation.org



**CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA**  
**FY 2021 Annual Action Plan – Substantial Amendment – HOME-ARP Allocation Plan**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Conference Room 202, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Hall, 401 Main Street, Johnstown, PA**  
**Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.**

Name	Organization	Phone Number	Email Address
Tom Simmons	ASA	814-242-6948	tsimmons@ksagovaffairs.com
Alexis Miller	Magellan	814-915-4555	nmiller@magellanmtn.com
Tracy Selack	County Bldg	814-634-2721	tselack@co.cambria.pa.us
Michael Kane	Women's Help Center	814-254-2044	mkane@womenshelpcenter.org
Jennifer Yahner	ACRP	814-535-2277 ext 3009	jyahner@acrpkids.org
John Dobransky	City	814-288-9181	jdobransky@cojstwn.com
Kari Haglund	Urban Design	via Teams	



Administrative Offices  
809 Napoleon Street  
Johnstown, PA 15901-2817  
814-536-5361

WomensHelpCenter.org

## **Comments Pertaining to FY 2021 Annual Action Plan – Substantial Amendment – HOME-ARP Allocation Plan**

The Women's Help Center (WHC) presents the following written comments and recommendations regarding the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan for the City of Johnstown and requests their acceptance in consideration of the final version of the plan for submission to HUD.

### **Primary Recommendation**

Change the plan allocation to "Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelters".

### **Current Homeless Situation**

Cambria County does not have a low-barrier 24/7 emergency shelter. There is the WHC and Martha & Mary. The WHC has an emergency shelter with eight (8) family bedrooms sheltering women and children. Martha & Mary is a program that can provide shelter for up to 15 individuals, is not low-barrier, and has program entry requirements. This leaves many individuals unserved without shelter.

A low-barrier shelter is one that accepts individuals experiencing homelessness and requirements for entry are limited or minimal. Individuals may have issues with sobriety, substance use, criminal history, or lack of proof of identity and can still enter shelter in a low-barrier model.

Since January 2023, almost daily, the WHC shelter has been full with periods where unrelated women are housed together (doubled up) in a bedroom intended for a family unit. The agency has recently sheltered individuals in hotels due to lack of shelter capacity. This past weekend illustrates the volume as three (3) women moved out of the WHC shelter on Saturday and Sunday and on Monday, the eight (8) shelter rooms were again full.

From July 2022 through February 2023, the WHC has provided 2,719 nights of shelter to women and children experiencing homelessness, the large majority of whom were residents. The agency continues to receive calls on a daily basis from individuals seeking shelter. Local agencies including the United Way and churches like Our Mother of Sorrows (OMOS) receive requests and provide resources and assistance to individuals in need of shelter. In January and February, OMOS worked with 18 individuals who were homeless. The church paid for hotels or had the individual contact WHC for shelter. In 2022, OMOS paid for 63 individuals to have shelter in local hotels.

The United Way of the Laurel Highlands received 147 calls in January for shelter and housing, and 146 calls in February. In calendar year 2022, the United Way received 251 requests for community shelter services.

Hotels have been helping to fill the need for shelter, with various programs paying for the hotel rooms for their participants. This is often at the EconoLodge and the Super 8. The Towne Manor had been utilized until its recent closure. These are not ideal for those who are homeless and in need of specialized supports.

In January of 2023, the WHC received limited county funding to create the Shelter Contingency Program to assist the unsheltered homeless who were unable to be sheltered at Martha & Mary or the WHC shelter. This program provides emergency lodging at alternative sites including hotels and motels or transportation to return individuals to their originating county for shelter, along with basic food and intensive case management services. The program opened on January 3rd and received its first referral on January 4th. In the nine (9) weeks of the service being available, the agency has served 32 unsheltered individuals, 21 of whom were males, without ANY publicity or outreach regarding the service.

With the City of Johnstown having key transportation hubs such as Amtrak and Greyhound, it is along the travel route for many who are in search of housing. When these individuals arrive in Johnstown, they need support and direction to identify their next steps, along with assistance in returning them to their home or their next destination. This is where an emergency shelter with case management can come in to assist.

We often hear that the Point in Time count indicated there were no unsheltered homeless in the county. President Biden's 2022 December spending plan noted that homeless living outside of large cities are "historically undercounted". Rural homeless are largely hidden and historically and significantly undercounted. In a county such as Cambria without a low-barrier 24/7 shelter, the Point in Time count is largely inaccurate.

The individuals experiencing homelessness in the City of Johnstown are no exception to be undercounted and hidden. They sleep in their vehicles, parking garages, abandoned buildings, on benches, and “couch surf”. These are our hidden homeless. They are not seen sleeping under bridges or in tent cities, but they most certainly do exist.

In one week in February 2023, the WHC had two (2) individuals who had been sleeping outside on benches in the central park and another two (2) who had been sleeping in their car for several months. These individuals reported finding groups of “homeless” individuals in some abandoned buildings downtown and sleeping with them. Many others move from couch to couch in the homes of friends or family but find fewer places to go and fewer people to help them.

### **WHC Statistics**

The WHC fiscal year-to-date statistics that support the need for a low-barrier 24/7 emergency shelter are below. Callers and those served by the WHC are predominantly female.

- Callers requesting shelter: 296
- Shelter intakes: 185
- Number of women and children housed at the WHC shelter: 83 women; 50 children
- Number of shelter nights provided: 2,719
- Number of unsheltered homeless served in 9 weeks of the Shelter Contingency Program: 32 (21 males, 11 females)
- Number of individuals denied shelter: 34, due to inability to accommodate them in the congregate setting with women and children at the current WHC shelter.

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, men represent the majority of those experiencing homelessness, at 70%, with women representing 29%. Based upon these percentages and data, it can be extrapolated that there is a significantly higher total number of individuals experiencing homelessness when men are factored into the statistics.

### **Economic Impact**

We want to see a prosperous Johnstown that is a destination for tourism and has a thriving population. Several programs in the county utilize hotels to help meet the needs of their participants who are homeless. The area hotels and motels serve as makeshift homeless shelters – a role they were not designed to serve. By utilizing these accommodations in this way, the general public may be deterred from lodging in these facilities, and this may negatively impact tourism.

There were two large events in February where local hotels contacted us to have our participants relocated as they had patrons renting the rooms for the weekend and there were no additional rooms in the hotel. Having unsheltered individuals in areas such as parking garages, central park, and on the streets is a significant deterrent for tourism and sparks concern for personal safety.

According to HUD, the cost to have individuals experiencing homelessness on the street is between \$30,000-\$50,000 a year with the cost of behavioral health crisis services, law enforcement, emergency room services, jail, and drug and alcohol treatment.

Through the creation and provision of low-barrier 24/7 shelter services, individuals experiencing homelessness can begin to stabilize, access needed care, obtain income or employment, secure stable housing, and make a positive contribution to the community.

#### **Priority of Housing Service Needs**

Housing insecurity is a significant issue throughout the City of Johnstown and there is a severe need for a low-barrier non-congregate emergency shelter, as well as affordable rental housing. The matter at hand is the prioritization of the two.

The WHC wishes to see services in place that can address the root issues of housing insecurity and have the biggest impact. Creating a shelter that can serve up to 40 individuals at any time, provide essential services, case management, and put individuals on a path to housing security and self-sufficiency has greater impact than the four (4) proposed affordable rental units.

The WHC has created The Way Home program and is finalizing its creation of ten (10) affordable housing units with supportive services. These units are projected to be fully available by the end of April, 2023. This is a significant and positive contribution towards the creation of affordable rental housing and more than fulfills what the draft HOME-ARP Plan proposes.

With this additional affordable housing in place, we hope the City of Johnstown will reconsider its priorities and reallocate funds to the acquisition or development of non-congregate shelter.

Respectfully submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roxann Tyger', written over a horizontal line.

Roxann Tyger, MPA  
Executive Director

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## Legals

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### **City of Johnstown Public Notice**

The City of Johnstown will hold a special Council meeting on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. on the 4th Floor of the Johnstown Public Safety Building, 401 Washington Street. The purpose of the meeting is to consider an amendment to the City's 2021 Annual Action Plan to include the HOME-ARP allocation. Plans for the City's anticipated exit from Act 47 will also be discussed at the meeting. For questions about disability accommodations, please contact City Hall at (814) 539-2504 ext. 102. Persons with hearing and/or speech impairments may contact the City through the "Pennsylvania Relay Service" by dialing "711" or going online to [www.parelay.net](http://www.parelay.net).

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**City of Johnstown  
Public Notice**

The City of Johnstown will hold a special Council meeting on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Johnstown Public Safety Building, 401 Washington Street. The purpose of the meeting is to consider an amendment to the City's 2021 HOME-American Rescue Plan Allocation Plan, and Annual Action Plan. Plans for the City's anticipated exit from Act 47 will also be discussed at the meeting. For questions about disability accommodations, please contact City Hall at (814) 539-2504 ext. 102. Persons with hearing and/or speech impairments may contact the City through the "Pennsylvania Relay Service" by dialing "711" or going online to [www.parelay.net](http://www.parelay.net).



**CITY OF JOHNSTOWN**  
**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**ANTHONY C. TRUSCELLO**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2023**  
**5:00 P.M.**

**City Council**

Frank Janakovic, Mayor  
Michael Capriotti, Deputy Mayor  
Charles Arnone  
Ricky Britt  
Laura Huchel  
Rev. Sylvia King  
Marie Mock

CALL TO ORDER:

INVOCATION:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

PUBLIC COMMENT (Limit 3 minutes):

RESOLUTIONS:

**Approving an Amendment to the 2021 HOME-ARP Allocation Plan and Annual Action**

**Plan** - The City is requesting HUD approve an amendment to its 2021 HOME-ARP allocation plan and annual action plan. The purpose of these funds is to assist the homeless and families at risk of becoming homeless. The majority of the funds in the amount of \$881,979 will be used to construct a homeless shelter. The plans were on public display from February 21, 2023 through March 7, 2023. The City held a public hearing on the plan amendment on March 7, 2023.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN,  
CAMBRIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF THE  
FY 2021 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN - SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE  
THE HOME-ARP ALLOCATION PLAN TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT  
OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)

Recommended Action - Make a motion to approve the resolution amending the City's 2021 HOME-ARP Allocation Plan and Annual Action Plan.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Act 47 Exit Ceremonies on April 28th

ADJOURNMENT



# Surveys and Consultations

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**HOME – AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN  
AGENCIES/PROVIDERS/ADVOCATES SURVEY**

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**Name of Agency/Provider/Advocate:** Catholic Charities

**Address:** 321 Main Street, Suite 5G, Johnstown, PA 15901

**Contact Person:** Cindy O'Connor

**Phone:** 814-317-2621

**Title:** Executive Director

**E-Mail:** coconnor@dioceseaj.org

**Describe the size and demographics of the clients you serve:**

Catholic Charities serves between 1,500 and 2,500 residents of Cambria County. More than half of calls are from Johnstown. The clients we serve are individuals and families who are in need of financial support to meet basic human needs. Prior to COVID, the demographics of the clients skewed slightly older than the median age of the Johnstown area, 45 years old. However, COVID has significantly impacted everyone, especially those who were economically vulnerable. Catholic Charities experienced a higher number of calls for support from persons who had never sought help from the organization before. These clients experienced housing and food insecurity. While the number of calls for emergent needs has slowed down between 2021-2022, a different concern for the clients has been presented. In the wake of recovery dollars provided to support housing stability, ERAP, and local and private funds, clients have called Catholic Charities many months behind in rent and all utilities. As we approach the frigid winter months, we anticipate more calls for heating assistance as well as for housing-related needs.

**Describe the range of programs and services you provide:**

Catholic Charities provides basic needs to those who are facing an immediate crisis, for example: assisting with the prevention of termination of water, electricity, or gas; as well as connecting with resources for food and housing insecurities. Trained caseworkers work with clients to find solutions to their crises through advocacy and intensive case management.

The Martha and Mary House is operated by Catholic Charities since 2015 and has provided emergency shelter, safety, and support to the housing-compromised individuals and families of Cambria County since 2015. Individuals must be actively homeless\* on the street (HUD Category 1 Homelessness) with all other options of permanent or temporary housing having been explored and exhausted prior to admissions. All clients must be current residents of Cambria County with proof of 90-day Cambria County Residency from each party applying and able to take care of themselves, the shelter is a non-medical hands-off facility. Once a resident of the shelter, the residents will work with a case manager to find transitional or permanent housing.

*\*HUD Definition: actively street homeless without alternative options for safe overnight accommodations.*

**What are the unmet housing and service needs of the clients you serve:**

- **Sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons:**  
On average, 10% of requests to Catholic Charities involve eviction, rent, or other housing stability needs. This would mean between 150-250 persons experiencing housing insecurity.
- **Households who are at risk of homelessness.**  
Catholic Charities also sees clients who are at risk for homelessness due to two factors. First, is the high cost of energy. Fuel to heat a home, oil, coal, etc., sit between 25-28% higher this winter over last winter. This means that families and persons cannot afford to heat their homes, and therefore, may miss rent or mortgage payments. Additionally, the programs with funding for

homeowners and rental assistance, which are being managed by Cambria County Mental Health, are 6-9 months behind on the processing of applications. In some cases, families have waited a year with still no support. These represent households that are at high risk of homelessness.

- **Other persons requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness.**

The dynamics of the in-need populations that we encounter tend to align closely with the identified primary factors of homelessness across the country. This includes the Elderly, Financially Under-resourced, Generational Poverty (two or more generations not able to meet basic needs), persons with mental health or addiction disorders, veterans, and those coming out of the prison/jail system. According to census data, 34% of persons in Johnstown live below the poverty line. The median household income for Johnstown is \$29,171.<sup>1</sup> A living wage for Johnstown, one that meets all basic needs, is a median household income (for a family of one adult and one child) is more than twice that at \$59,571.<sup>2</sup> 8% of the population are veterans.<sup>3</sup> All are at a higher risk of housing disruption, and the need for homeless services and prevention.

- **Persons who are at greatest risk of housing instability**

The persons at the highest risk for housing instability are those who are experiencing more than one of the challenges. For example, a senior citizen with a mental health disorder who is on a fixed income will encounter housing instability when their financial situation is not being handled properly on their behalf. A veteran, with a mental health disorder (PTSD, etc.) who medicates with alcohol or other illegal substance is at high risk of housing instability. Persons transitioning from incarceration back into the community not only face discrimination when securing employment but also housing. Single parents, who are economically disadvantaged, may only be able to afford housing in neighborhoods that are not family friendly.

- **Persons living in unsuitable housing situations.**

The most common situations we run into where referred clients residing in unsuitable housing options such as living in cars, abandoned infrastructure, hotels, or “couching surfing” between family and friend support. There are families, classified as A.L.I.C.E. (**A**sset **L**imited **I**ncome **C**onstrained **E**mployed) who are both working but do not have the resources to move from unsuitable housing situations or to remedy the defects of the home they own.

- **Any other Populations**

Catholic Charities receives a number of calls from senior citizens who have housing needs not being met by county-specific elder and aging care services or other providers. One recent example related to a woman with a hearing impairment who suffered from dementia. She was previously housed with a sibling, however, that arrangement was coming to an end. There was nowhere to take her and Catholic Charities was contacted to care for her. The Martha and Mary House, the transitional living program and facility, is not adequate to meet her unique needs. This is just one example of the needs.

### **Do you know of any gaps in the current shelter system?**

There are currently no transitional shelter options in Johnstown. The closest is the Mary and Martha House which is temporary housing for up to 30 days. The Martha and Mary housing primarily focuses on

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<sup>1</sup> [Johnstown, PA | Data USA](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Living Wage Calculator - Living Wage Calculation for Johnstown, PA \(mit.edu\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> [U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Johnstown city, Pennsylvania](#)

emergency and short-term shelter needs. Some individuals within the population do require a longer time to stabilize their situations due to the complicated needs they face. Transitional shelters allow for a “step down” option for clients to go to after stabilizing in the emergency shelter where they can spend the 3-6 months they need to locate and secure an independent permanent supportive housing option.

#### **Are there gaps in the current housing inventory?**

Cambria County has two primary types of supported housing. Subsidized housing and Section 8 Units, and privately owned rental properties. Given the very high usage of the subsidized options and the high rent of private options with the socioeconomics of the area, this often leads to a lack of affordable housing options for individuals trying to transition back into permanent supportive housing and out of a shelter.

#### **Are there gaps in the current service delivery system?**

There is no system whereby an individual or family can have supported housing while they do the work to build their economic and social capital toward self-sufficiency. There are many programs with very narrow scopes for service delivery and outcomes relating to a specific need, such as mental health or early childhood. The service delivery systems do not cooperate to provide a supported pathway for persons who want to emerge from instability into an economically mobile future.

#### **What factors would contribute to households becoming homeless?**

The high cost of energy, in conjunction with the slowing economic recovery of the region post-COVID, contributes to households becoming homeless. Additionally, there are families that become homeless in the region because they do not have the skills to earn a family-sustaining wage. Johnstown also has a high number of section 8 vouchers allotted to the city. This was based, in small part, on a much higher tax base and population. With a declining population and challenging economic conditions, caused by the closing of manufacturing, mining, and steel mills, the area cannot sustain the needs of the community that has historically lived here. With 400-600 children and families coming in and out of the area over the course of weeks, housing becomes unavailable to those who wish to make a life here.<sup>4</sup> Additionally, the social safety net, tenuous at best, is straining to meet the needs. The challenges, demands, and resource needs of a much larger metropolitan area have a disproportionately devastating impact on our much smaller community.

#### **What is the level of priority for each population listed below?**

	High	Medium	Low	Any specific sub-population that needs more assistance?
Homeless			X	Senior Citizens, Veterans and Children
At Risk of Homelessness		X		Families who have migrated to the area from more resourced areas with more opportunities. If they choose to make a life here, they will need help, and a supported pathway to economic mobility.
Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking	X			

<sup>4</sup> [Remedy for transient residents sought; hearing on Section 8, public housing held in Johnstown | News | tribdem.com](#)

Other populations who do not qualify under any of the populations above but meet one of the following criteria: A. Other Families Requiring Services or Housing Assistance to Prevent Homelessness B. Those At Greatest Risk of Housing Instability	X			These would include Senior Citizens and those Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed families. Both have a certain level of income; however, it is insufficient to cover housing as well as all the associated costs of living.
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**Identify current resources available to assist qualifying populations, including congregate and non-congregate shelter units, supportive services, TBRA and affordable and permanent supportive rental housing.**

The constants within the local housing resources are the Martha and Mary Emergency Shelter, Johnstown Housing Authority (HUD), and the County Assistance Office of Cambria County. Throughout the area, there are a variety of different non-profits and faith-based providers that offer intermittent service options that change over time. This could be assistance with hotel stays, rental stipends, and case management services. However, these services are inconsistent and primarily funding driven, thus are not always an option for the homeless population.

**Identify the characteristics of housing associated with instability and any which may contribute to the risk of homelessness:**

Households that are experiencing a public or physical health-related morbidity are often also at an increased risk of homelessness or general housing instability. This can include addiction within the household, domestic violence, lack of income/fiscal instability, lack of support, cognitive/mental impairment, and a level of care requirement that is beyond what they can independently meet for themselves. These all put a higher level of stress upon the household, tie up income resources, and create situations that can lead to the individual or family being evicted or removed from their home without a sustainable re-housing plan.

**Identify priority needs for qualifying populations:**

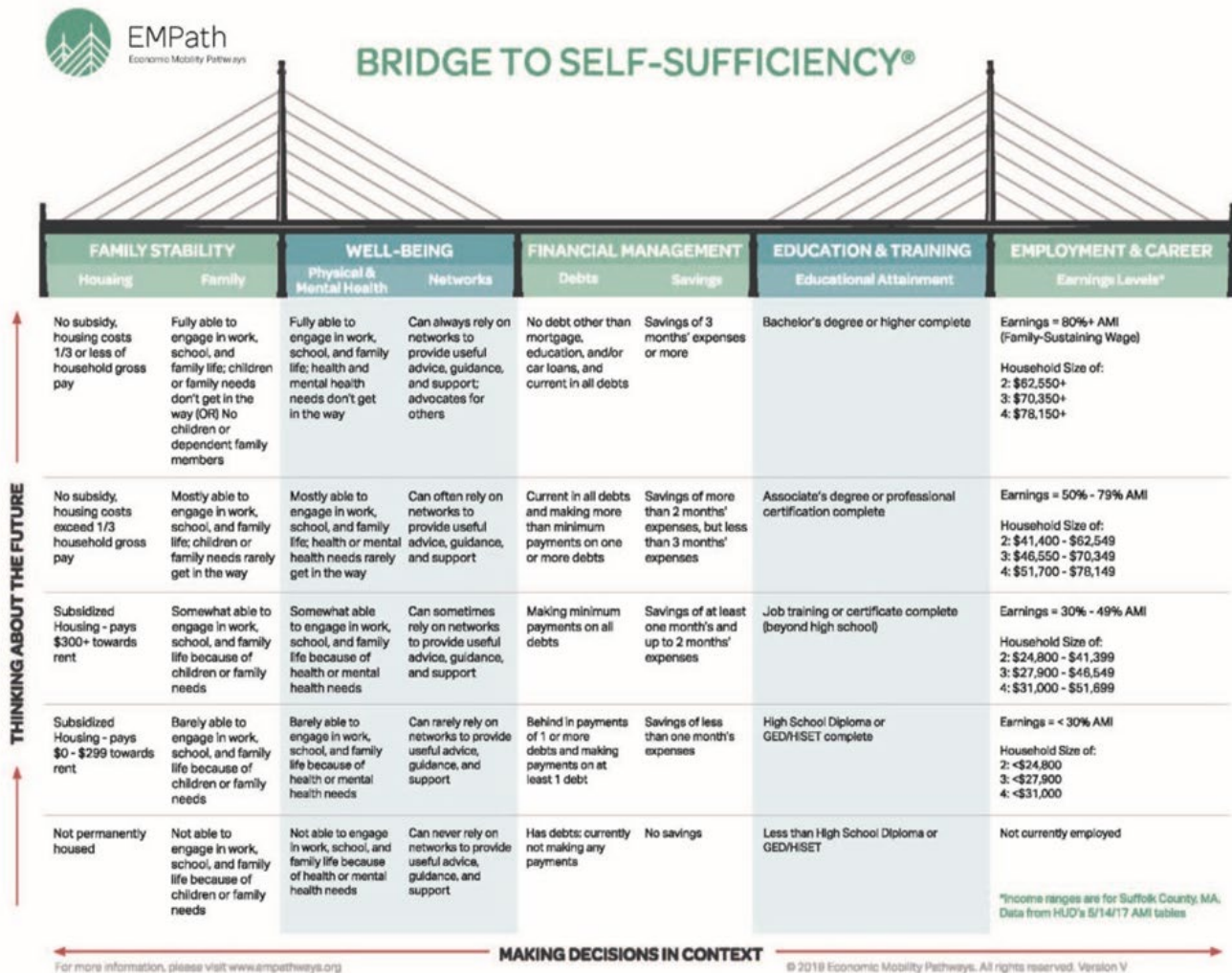
Priority needs are for a pathway for economic mobility which would result in housing stability. There is a need for coordination of all medical, social, and mental health services for stabilizing the most at risk. The MPower portal is a portal that captures all services within a community and the accompanying data relating to each client. This would create a circle of support around each client that follows them on their journey to stability. Additionally, a comprehensive program that includes case management, mentoring, employment, and supported housing takes time and needs a robust set of programming and resources to accomplish stability. EmPath or the Economic Mobility model has four essential elements: Coaching for Economic Mobility, the Bridge to Self-Sufficiency®, Goal Setting, and Recognition.

Coaching for Economic Mobility: EMPath approaches coaching as a participant-directed one-on-one partnership. Coaches work with participants to strengthen their decision-making, persistence, and resilience over time. Coaching staff (known as Mobility Mentors at EMPath) act as “human scaffolding” for building the skills and mindsets necessary for the complex task of moving out of poverty.

The Bridge to Self-Sufficiency®: The Bridge to Self-Sufficiency is a visual tool used to help a program participant chart a path to economic self-sufficiency. It acts as both a framework for the participant and an assessment tool for the mentor. The Bridge was developed by EMPath based on the brain science of how toxic stress impacts decision-making and sense of self.

**Goal Setting:** The Bridge to Self-Sufficiency acts as a blueprint for participants to set goals. Participants determine their own goals, and mentors support participants in prioritizing what they'd like to work on, strategizing around potential barriers and challenges, and thinking through options for additional resources and support. Mentors offer encouragement, facilitate reflection, and help refocus if necessary. As participants achieve goals, they move up the Bridge closer to economic self-sufficiency.

**Recognition:** Recognition acknowledges and celebrates a participant when they are working toward and when they accomplish a goal. Types of recognition may include celebrations of success, certificates, supportive messages, or earned incentives.

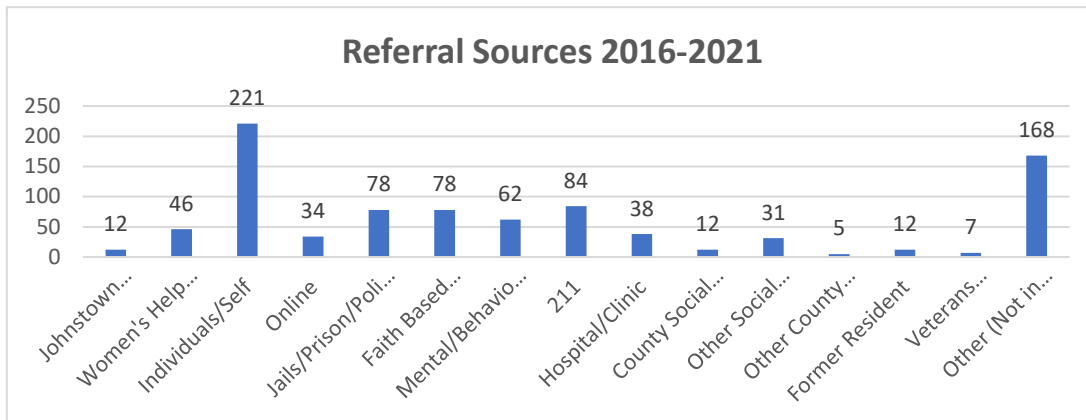




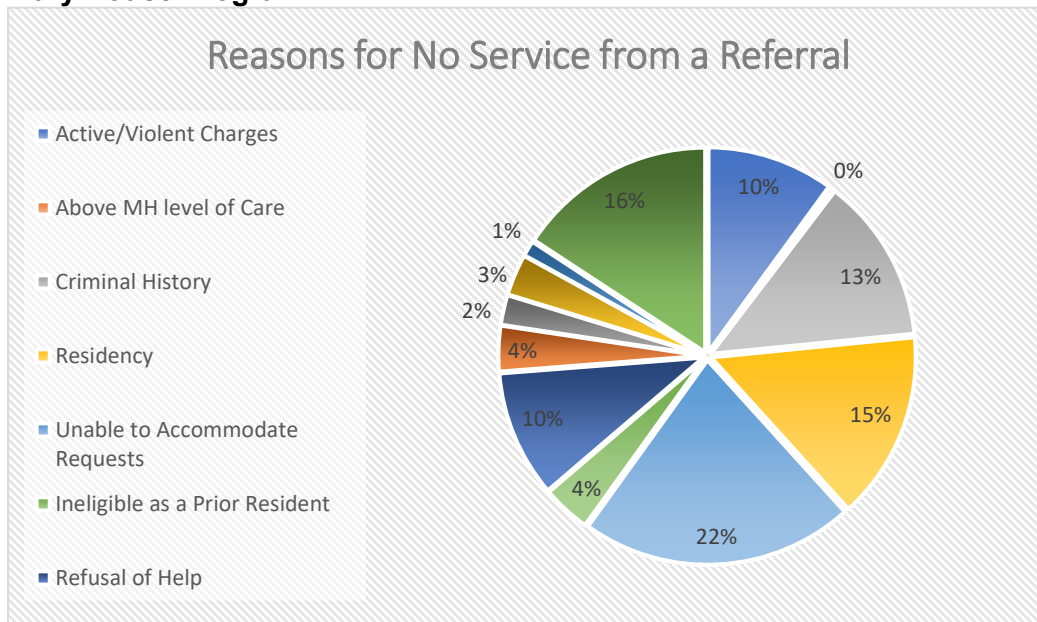
**Other Comments/Suggestions:**

When examining five years of data provided by Catholic Charities relating to the program at the Martha and Mary House, there were several trends and numbers which inform this housing discussion. More than 888 persons were referred for homeless programming between 2017-2022. It is evident that individuals or family members are aware that there are homeless-related services provided by the Martha and Mary House. The next highest referral source is the 211 system. Law enforcement and the local jail/prison are tied with faith-based organizations for the next highest source of referrals. This demonstrates both needs from across the community.

**Table 1: Referral Sources**



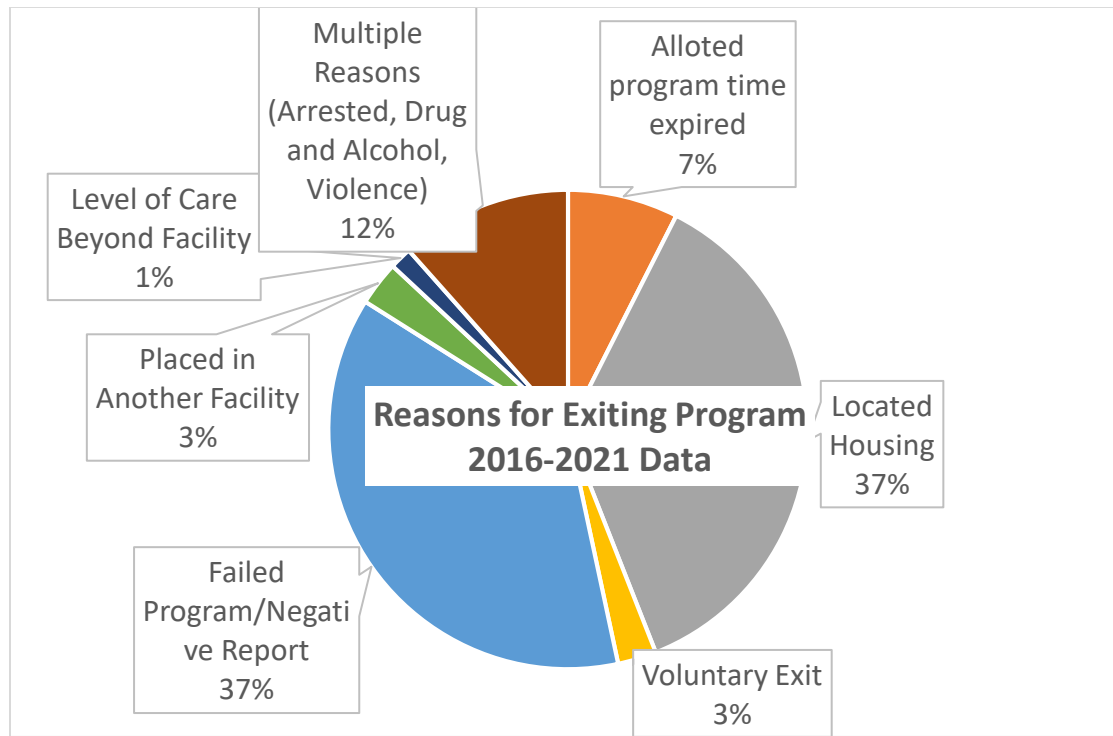
**Table 2: Represents Reasons for No Service Being Provided to a Referral to the Martha and Mary House Program**



Fully 22% of persons who were referred but not served through the MMH program were Individuals approved for shelter, but never physically admitted. Categorically, we reference and document these clients as "UTA" meaning they were service eligible, but "Unable To be Accommodated" due a variety of factors. These reasons primarily being the

applicant's choice to not accept services when offered/never arriving to the shelter for their scheduled admission, inability to locate or contact the individual after first contact and them applying, or the applicant locating an alternative option. Other reasons include a referred client's need for mental health intervention services that are beyond the safe care capabilities for this kind of program. Additionally, 15% of persons were not able to be served because their formally established county or state of residency could not be confirmed.

**Table 2: Reasons for Exiting the Martha and Mary House Program**



The Martha and Mary House has a very prescriptive program for a specific set of circumstances. Table 3 demonstrates the preponderance of clients who exit the program do so because they have located housing. Unfortunately, the same percentage exited by violating one or more of the requirements. This represents a population at high risk for continued housing instability or homelessness. It also provides an opportunity to develop programming that has greater flexibility or other program approaches.



## Data for Community Help Center Project Development

Data collection via the current tracking system began at WHC on 1/31/22.

From December 1, 2021 to December 1, 2022 regarding clients served from the City of Johnstown:

33 households were provided with emergency shelter (women or women with children)

- 16 of the households consisted of only single, adult women
- 17 of the households consisted of single woman with child(ren)
- Total of 28 children sheltered
- Total of 61 people provided shelter at the current Women's Help Center location

34 households (women or women with children) were denied shelter

- 26 of the households denied shelter consisted of only single, adult women
- 8 of the households denied shelter consisted of single woman with child(ren)
- Total of 17 children unsheltered
- Total of 51 people denied shelter / unsheltered

127 shelter assessments were completed during this time frame by WHC staff. 67 were City of Johnstown Residents with demographic information noted above. 60 of those requests for shelter were from residents of Cambria County from outside the City of Johnstown or from other counties.

The 34 households denied shelter from the City of Johnstown were denied due to the Women's Help Center being at capacity or the adult female having criminal convictions/charges that did not allow them to be in a shared shelter setting with children. In those cases, individuals were referred to and connected with other community resources.

We receive approximately an average of 100 calls per week with roughly half of the calls being housing insecurity related. Some are eviction prevention, requests for financial assistance, requests for legal advocacy and the eviction process, identifying landlords, domestic violence and eviction, and requests for emergency shelter.

These numbers only reflect data as it pertains to female population of the City of Johnstown and their families. Male members of the community experience homelessness also and neither men or women have a low barrier shelter option.

If a low barrier, adult shelter option was operational during the timeframe listed, the single adult women would have been sheltered at the adult shelter and that would have allowed adequate space for the women with children to be sheltered onsite at the existing WHC.



**CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA**  
**FY 2021 Annual Action Plan – Substantial Amendment –**  
**HOME-ARP Allocation Plan**  
***CONSULTATION MEETING MINUTES***

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**Women's Help Center - 11/30/22 at 11:00 am**

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- Domestic Violence Shelter/Case Management/Housing
  - Was historically a DV shelter but expanded services to emergency shelter
- Assist women and children shelter
- Looking to develop a low barrier shelter
- Looking more for the emergency housing
- Need to develop a low barrier shelter
- Youth 18-24 couch surfing - need housing
- Demographics of population they see - young women with children
- Need affordable housing. The rents have gone up in the past couple of years.
  - Underemployed are having issues staying housed because of high rents
  - More evicted public housing tenants
  - Market rate around \$850/month
- Currently has 27 beds and 8 rooms
- Need case management dollars to assist households from being evicted
- Need low-barrier beds for males
- Need 30 single male beds
- Need 30 single female beds
- Need non-congregate shelter - separate rooms
- Victim services - 4 units
- Do not see need for additional domestic violence beds because a new shelter could cover the need
- Currently working on developing transitional housing with other funds

- 9 units
    - Currently have 7 units (one building ADA accessible)
    - 2 more are being rehabbed next to current shelter
- Just received 2021 CoC funds to carry out a rapid rehousing and homeless prevention program.
- The City of Johnstown and Cambria County has a high opioid problem
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> highest overdose rate per capita behind Philadelphia
- What services are needed?
  - Case management
  - Food
  - Financial education services
  - Health care (free medical services) (FQHC)
  - Behavioral health
  - Opioid/drug addiction
- Want the low barrier shelter to help get the individuals in the door and then provide the services listed above
  - One stop shop is the goal
  - Community Help Center concept
- Working on getting staff certified as HUD certified housing counselors
- Had 1 human trafficking victim last year. This victim told them of 3 other victims.
- The housing stock in the City is bad
- Lack of decent, affordable units
- Claims Housing Authority has 57% rental units in default
  - Primarily women, women with children
- Not seeing the vets
- 24-7 is the shelter they are proposing
  - Will accept drop-ins
- Recommends talking to Tracy Selack with Cambria County Behavioral Health

**In Attendance:**

- Chris Fletcher (Urban Design Ventures)
- Mike Long (Urban Design Ventures)
- Karl Haglund (Urban Design Ventures)
- Kathy Purelli-Webb (City of Johnstown)
- Roxann Tyger (Exec. Director, Women's Help Center)
- Theresa Tommarello (Program Coordinator, Women's Help Center)

## **Salvation Army - 11/30/22 at 2:00 pm**

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- SA has spent 135 years in Johnstown
- Activities:
  - Refers people to services, caseload
  - Feeding program - soup kitchen
  - Food pantry
  - Heat/rental assistance
  - Seasonal assistance for Christmas
- Previously operated a homeless shelter, but closed the shelter because of accessibility complaints
  - Wants to reopen shelter but wary of the costs and effort
- Don admits that he has a different definition of “emergency shelter
- Pathway of Hope - new SA program Don is enthusiastic about
- Bad subsidized, expensive rental properties in Johnstown
  - Cheap to buy, expensive to rent
- Big increase in soup kitchen attendance recently
  - Went from 35 per night to 100 per night
- Emergency sheltering is most common referral
- Many disability issues in area
- Many vets in the area in need
  - Recommended talking to Tom Caulfield
- High population of senior citizens
- Observes need for low-barrier shelter
- Observes need for “senior day care”

### **In Attendance:**

- Chris Fletcher (Urban Design Ventures)
- Mike Long (Urban Design Ventures)
- Kathy Purelli-Webb (City of Johnstown)
- Don Sanderson (Major, Salvation Army)

## **Johnstown Housing Authority - 12/1/2022 at 9:00 am**

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- 2 main programs
  - Public housing - rent based on income
  - Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8)
- Sees need for homeless shelter

- Emergency housing
- Waiting list is long
  - Can take 30 days to 2 years to serve applicants
  - Public housing - 974 as of 11/1
    - Still open
    - Approximately 20 move-ins/move-outs per month
  - Section 8 - 845
    - About 300 have Cambria County address (CC residents are given higher priority; JHA has never given out vouchers to non-County residents)
- Public housing is at over 97% occupancy
- Lack of affordable housing, landlords, bedroom sizing
- People are not paying rent and utilities because they are waiting for other assistance to pay for it.
- 47% success rate in finding unit on Section 8 within 60 days
- No set priority in housing for homeless/DV victims
- Steady applications - no noticed trends
- Eviction moratorium has lead to more people using ERP and not paying rent
- Diverse crowd, many different demographics represented
- Construction taxes hurt housing construction
- Lots of aging housing in the County
- Women with children have the most calls they receive that need help as soon as possible - big need for shelter
- Evictions
  - Mostly happens from lack of payment, not using resources, and irresponsibility
  - Crime, illegal boarders
- Mental health issues usually don't lead to evictions
- No Refugees in the JHA system
- 30-40% of billings are behind
- ERAP still going on in Cambria County
- Greatest risk of housing instability is households not making good financial decisions. Need guidance for budgeting
- Unmet housing need is that they need more landlords to participate with Section 8.
  - Need more houses that meet the Section 8 housing inspection
- Doesn't see cost or income as an issue with Section 8
- Many unmet mental health needs
- Local organizations have been working with JHA on offering job help and community fairs
- Drug use is an issue
- Has not noticed any change in domestic violence
- Will send stats on waiting list by household size

**In Attendance:**

- Chris Fletcher (Urban Design Ventures)
- Mike Long (Urban Design Ventures)
- Kathy Purelli-Webb (City of Johnstown)
- Michael Alberts (Johnstown Housing Authority)
- June Kohan (Johnstown Housing Authority)

**Catholic Charities - 12/1/22 at 11:00 am**

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- Martha and Mary House - Emergency shelter
  - 30 day program with extensions on a case-by-case basis
  - Cambria County Residents who pass a background check
  - Team of case managers
    - Link and refer to services
  - Admission and discharge instead of sending out and lining back up in the evening
  - Family accommodations
  - 15 beds
- Rampant transient homeless problem
- 200-250 referrals per quarter
  - Way higher than PIT count
  - 3 major categories
    - Approved
    - Denied
      - Doesn't qualify as emergency
      - Doesn't pass background check (criminal record)
      - Doesn't meet residency requirement - has gone way down
    - Unable to accommodate (UTA), no call no show
  - 70-80% are approved or UTA
  - Many of the referrals are consultations
- 15 beds more than meet the need
  - Not full occupancy
  - This year, there was 5 days with 0 occupancy
- Observes biggest need for transitional shelter (not transitional housing)
  - Non-congregate
  - Step after emergency shelter
  - Blended case management
- Should try to blend and work around ERAP for HOME-ARP



**In Attendance:**

- Chris Fletcher (Urban Design Ventures)
- Mike Long (Urban Design Ventures)
- Cindy O'Connor (Catholic Charities)
- Jesse Trentini (Catholic Charities, Martha and Mary House)
- Kimberly Robertson (consultant)

**Northern Cambria Community Development Corporation - 12/2/22 at 2:00 pm**

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- NCCDC has housing/works in 13 counties
- Affordable housing
  - Largely elderly, families, more people with disabilities
  - High occupancy (>90%)
- High need for affordable housing for the elderly
- Has used HOME funds and is familiar with the program
- Observes greater need for affordable housing for the working poor
- Old homes in region, lack of adequate housing
- Demand for housing rising for elderly as population ages
- Garfield School Project in Johnstown
  - Opportunity for elderly housing
- Mostly physical disabilities for residents - few observed mental health issues
- Apartment buildings - 1 and 2 bedrooms
- Doesn't observe too many homeless out and about in Johnstown
- Sees biggest need for 80-100% AMI "working poor" housing
  - Ineligible for HOME-ARP funding

**In Attendance:**

- Mike Long (Urban Design Ventures)
- Matt Barczak (NCCDC)

**Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Aid – 12/8/2022 at 2:00 pm**

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- SPLA serves in 28 counties performing Fair Housing education, outreach, and enforcement
  - Also contracts with Johnstown for Fair Housing testing
- Helps victims of housing discrimination
- Criminal history is big issue for housing
  - Wants to increase education for criminal history housing discrimination

- Not a protected class, but is linked to racial discrimination and can be a large obstacle to finding housing
- Shelters should screen clients for discrimination and offer more fair housing education
  - Sometimes gets referrals from Martha and Mary House
  - Made more difficult by shelter staffing issues – high turnover
- No reports of shelters receiving Fair Housing complaints
- Lack of affordable housing in the area
  - There are also habitability issues (housing stock in need of repair)
- Fair Housing lawsuit filed against Salvation Army shelter years ago
  - Amputee forced to go up 3 flights of stairs to stay at shelter
- Has observed complaints about outside homeless coming to Johnstown
  - Says it could be racially coded complaint
- Mental health is the biggest issue that contributes to being at risk of homelessness
  - Requires supportive services
  - Parole and probation officers should be better trained to recognize and help
- Magistrate system has issues, which makes it more difficult to deal with eviction proceedings
- Disability/mental health are big drivers of complaints
- Aging population means more people have disabilities
- Disability-related removal from lease is necessary but sometimes doesn't happen, leading to Fair Housing violations
- Sexual harassment in housing
  - Quid pro quo
  - Hostile environment
    - Both Quid pro quo and hostile environments happen at a roughly equal rate
- Recently started tracking LGBTQ discrimination
  - Pronouns/gender identity are divisive as seen in Facebook comments on SPLA page
  - People with different pronouns are sometimes discriminated against due to perceived disability discrimination (seen as mentally ill for using different pronouns)
- Cause of homelessness risk
  - Lack of income
  - Police – people turned away from housing because of evictions
    - There have been cases where calls to police were reported to landlords, who would then evict tenants because of call and not because of confirmed issue
- Johnstown is a segregated city

**In Attendance:**

- Mike Long (Urban Design Ventures)
- Chris Fletcher (Urban Design Ventures)
- Jaime Milligan (Deputy Director, SPLA)
- Keirstyn Marcucci (Project Manager, SPLA)

**Cambria County Behavioral Health – 12/9/22 at 10:00 am**

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- Oversees Human Services Block Grant in county
- Types of services:
  - Behavioral Health
  - Intellectual Disabilities
  - Early Intervention
- Provider for Emergency Rental Assistance Program
  - ERAP is controversial and a staff headache - “ERAP is a swear word”
- Believes landlords have been increasing rent because of ERAP
- Wants more low-barrier shelter and services
- Used reinvestment plan for transitional housing
  - Run by Breaking the Barriers – referred us to Paula Miller
- There are many homeless who are not from the Johnstown area but there’s even more people at risk than those known
- Affordable housing is needed and can be challenging to find
- Potential tenants with criminal records are excluded, leading to recidivism
- All sorts of supportive services are needed
  - More transfer of skills needed instead of just helping
- Low-barrier shelters – 20 more beds are ideal
  - IF services are being properly used
- Requires seeing the BS
- Human connection in service helps
- Men are disadvantaged when finding shelter compared to available women’s and family shelters

**In Attendance:**

- Chris Fletcher (Urban Design Ventures)
- Mike Long (Urban Design Ventures)

- Kathy Purelli-Webb (City of Johnstown)
- Tracy Selak (Administrator, Cambria County Behavioral Health)

### **Cambria County Veterans Service Office – 3/29/2023 at 11:30 am**

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- Connects veterans to local services
- Transportation is the #1 issue facing veterans in need
  - Rural county--tough to get people to the services they need
- VA is difficult to work with, leading to slowdowns in services
- Accessibility for veterans with disabilities is needed
- Staffing is big issue - there is money for aid but not always the staffing to run it

#### **In Attendance:**

- Mike Long (Urban Design Ventures)
- Terry Power (Cambria County Veterans Service Office)