

PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA

HOME-ARP ALLOCATION PLAN

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Prepared By

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HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

Summary:

On March 11, 2021, The American Rescue Plan Act was signed into law by President Joe Biden. The American Rescue Plan (ARP) appropriated \$5 billion across the country to provide immediate economic relief to persons and communities across the country that are being ravaged by the COVID-19 pandemic. Included in this legislation is funding for communities to use through the HOME Investment Partnership Program. As a HOME entitlement community, Pasco County has been allocated \$4,455,673 of HOME-ARP funds. Pasco County will use these funds to address needs and provide resources for the homeless population. This funding can be used for affordable housing, non-congregate shelter units, tenant-based rental assistance, or supportive services for the homeless.

In the fall of 2021, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) published Notice CPD-21-10. This notice outlines the requirements for the use of HOME-ARP funds. One of the requirements is that participating jurisdictions develop a HOME-ARP Allocation Plan. This document outlines the requirements, activities, and funding that Pasco County will undertake with its HOME-ARP Plans.

Consultation

Summarize the consultation process:

Pasco County Community Development (PCCD) manages the HOME program funds for Pasco County, Florida. PCCD will administer the HOME-ARP program for the County. As part of the planning process for HOME-ARP, PCCD consulted with local service providers and Continuum of Care (CoC) member agencies which included the following categories and organizations:

1. Local Continuum of Care: Lead Agency for jurisdiction - Coalition for the Homeless of Pasco County
2. Veteran's Groups: United States Department of Veterans Affairs – Pasco County Office, and Pasco County Housing Authority
3. Public Housing Agency: Pasco County Housing Authority
4. Law Enforcement: Pasco County Sheriff's Office
5. Organizations Addressing Fair Housing and Civil Rights: Bay Area Legal Services, Pasco County Housing Authority, and Disability Achievement Center
6. Homeless Service Providers: Coalition for Homeless of Pasco County, Salvation Army, Metropolitan Ministries, Catholic Charities, St. Vincent de Paul, and ACE Opportunities.
7. Domestic Violence Service providers: Sunrise Pasco, United Way of Pasco County, and Salvation Army

8. Organizations that Address Needs of Persons with Disabilities: Vincent House, BayCare, ACE Opportunities, Steps to Recovery, Gulf Coast Community Care, Disability Achievement Center, Sunrise of Pasco, Salvation Army, Pasco County Housing Authority, and St. Vincent de Paul
9. Organizations that address civil rights and fair housing: Bay Area Legal Services

The chart below outlines the series of meetings held with these local organizations and the feedback that was received. For the consultation meetings, the HOME-ARP program, guidelines, and eligible activities were presented, along with the qualifying populations. During these meetings, the unmet needs of the homeless, those at risk of homelessness, and those fleeing domestic violence were discussed. Emergency and transitional housing for these clients is very limited, often resulting in service providers utilizing motels to house these clients. There is currently a critical need for affordable housing for individuals and families in Pasco County. Due to ongoing population growth in the County, along with substantial increases in rent and economic hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the existing stock of affordable housing fails to meet the current demand. There are large scale developments being constructed in the County, but almost all of these are targeted at more affluent income brackets.

Pasco County has a homeless population in the western part of the county that generally consists of single adults. The majority of these individuals are white and male. There is a lack of affordable housing and supportive services to help these individuals locate and maintain suitable housing. Consultation meetings have resulted in a consensus that more affordable housing, along with wraparound supportive services, are needed. Permanent supportive housing for the chronically homeless is critical to reducing the high percentage of chronic homelessness. Providers have had to use motel rooms to house clients that are unable to use (or ineligible for) local shelters. Available rental properties are frequently on the market for a few days at the most, and many of the clients who are homeless or at risk of homelessness have no means to contact landlords quickly. With an increase in supportive services, these clients may be able to locate and move in much quicker. In addition, research has shown that supportive services lead to higher rates of success in maintaining housing. PCCD continues to work towards more affordable housing in the county and provides federal and state funding to developers of affordable housing. PCCD staff met with seven organizations in formal meetings. PCCD staff continues to have conversations with affordable housing providers and developers in an effort to provide more housing.

List the organizations consulted, and summarize the feedback received from these entities.

Agency/Org Consulted	Type of Agency/Org	Method of Consultation	Feedback
Pasco County Continuum of Care	Continuum of Care / Homeless Service Providers	Zoom	Discussed ARP planning process. Funding applications to occur during PCCD Grant Kick-Off. Member organizations include legal service organization for low-income residents, local police departments, Public Defender's Office, local officials from Congressman Gus Bilirakis office, and several churches.
United States Department of Veterans Administration	Veterans Service Organization	Zoom Meeting	Need for affordable housing for Veterans and families. They are seeing increase in elderly veterans who have never been homeless. Supportive Services are critical.
Pasco County Housing Authority	Public Housing Authority	Meeting in person and Zoom	Affordable housing. PCHA provides rental assistance, but the number of units available is insufficient. Supportive services are also needed.
Pasco County Sheriff's Office	Law Enforcement	Meeting in person	Need for permanent supportive housing for the Chronically Homeless.
Bay Area Legal	Organization Addressing Fair Housing and Civil Rights	Zoom Meeting	Need to ensure that all clients are treated equally without regard for race, sex, color, disability, religion, national origin, or familial status.
Sunrise Pasco	Domestic Violence Service Provider and Shelter	Zoom Meeting	Sunrise operates a congregate shelter and due to COVID have had to reduce capacity. Affordable housing and rental assistance to clients. West Pasco area needs non-congregate shelter. Supportive services are Needed.
United Way of Pasco County	Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking Service Provider	Meeting in person	Transitional and permanent supportive housing for human trafficking victims.

Salvation Army	Homeless Service Provider	Zoom Meeting	Transitional and permanent supportive housing for their clients who are fleeing domestic violence. They stressed need for wraparound services.
Catholic Charities	Homeless Service Provider	Zoom Meeting	Need for permanent supportive housing for the Chronically Homeless. Need for more affordable housing units.
Metropolitan Ministries	Homeless Service Provider	Zoom Meeting	Need for permanent supportive housing for the Chronically Homeless. Need for more affordable housing units.
St. Vincent de Paul	Homeless Service Provider	Zoom Meeting	Need for permanent supportive housing for the Chronically Homeless. Need for more affordable housing units.
Vincent House	Organization Addressing Needs of Persons with Disabilities	Meeting in person	Need for affordable supportive housing. Single adults with mental health diagnosis have difficult time finding housing.
BayCare	Organization Addressing Needs of Persons with Disabilities	Zoom Meeting	Needs for housing to provide support and services for clients with disabilities. Wrap around services to maintain stable housing.
ACE Opportunities	Organization Addressing Needs of Persons with Disabilities / Homeless Service Provider	Zoom Meeting	Need to create more affordable housing for those suffering from mental health or substance abuse issues. Need for housing and support services for those exiting institutional facilities.
Disability Achievement Center	Organization Addressing Needs of Persons with Disabilities / Organization Addressing Fair Housing	Zoom Meeting	Need for housing that can meet the needs of the client and include supportive services. Lack of affordable housing.

Steps to Recovery	Organization Addressing Needs of Persons with Disabilities	Zoom Meeting	Need for affordable housing for those with disabilities. Need for supportive services for these individuals and families.
Gulf Coast Community Care	Organization Addressing Needs of Persons with Disabilities	Zoom Meeting	Need for affordable housing for those with disabilities. Need for supportive services to maintain stable housing.

Public Participation

- *Public comment period: March 16, 2022, to April 15, 2022*
- *Public hearing: March 31, 2022, Board of County Commissioner’s Boardroom; West Pasco Government Center*
- *Public comment period: May 25, 2022, to June 23, 2022*

Community Development encouraged public participation and has provided ample opportunity for the public to comment on this HOME-ARP Allocation Plan. In addition to the multiple consultation meetings, the Department notified the public of the public comment period in multiple ways. Our “Notify Me” system broadcast the upcoming public comment period and public hearing to over 1,400 subscribers. Public notice was published in the Tampa Bay Times, a local newspaper of general circulation, on March 16, 2022. Public notice has also been published on the PCCD website. The plan is available for review in the PCCD office or on the PCCD website. Notification of funding availability has been provided.

PCCD began our Annual Grant Kick-Off on Thursday March 10, 2022, with a public presentation for potential applicants to provide them with information about the applications, requirements, scoring process, and to answer any questions. Over 100 people representing 75 agencies and departments attended the Annual Grant Kick-Off either online or in person. Applications for HOME-ARP will be accepted through this process utilizing our Neighborly Software beginning on March 11, 2022, and closing on April 8, 2022. Applications will be reviewed and scored by an independent review committee based on the applicant’s responses to the required information. Applicants will be notified of recommended approval and the recommended funding amount pending approval from the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners in August of 2022. Grant agreements will be in place by October 1, 2022.

As part of the HOME-ARP Allocation process, a Substantial Amendment to the 2018-2022 Consolidated Plan will be submitted. Notice of the Substantial Amendment was published on March 16, 2022, in the Tampa Bay Times. A public comment period for the Substantial Amendment opened on March 16, 2022 and was open for 30 days as required by the PCCD Citizen Participation Plan.

PCCD held a public hearing on March 31, 2022, to outline the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan and activities that may be funded through the plan. PCCD discussed the qualifying populations and the feedback that has been received through our consultation meetings. PCCD staff outlined the need to prioritize the chronically homeless and house this population with wraparound supportive services. PCCD communicated to the participants that permanent supportive housing in Pasco County was only funded at 7% while chronically homeless are 42% of the population. PCCD has published plan on the PCCD website. Members of the CoC were invited to submit comments to PCCD. PCCD has notified affordable housing developers of the availability of this funding and invited them to participate in the planning and allocation process. Pasco County continues efforts to provide public awareness for this program through continuing conversations with members of the public, affordable housing providers and developers. PCCD will submit an Amendment to its 2021-2022 Annual Action Plan to the HUD field office in accordance with the requirements of HOME-ARP. PCCD advertised the Amendment in the Tampa Bay Times on May 25, 2022, and established a 30-day public comment period through June 23, 2022. Any comments received will be accepted and included in the plan.

Describe any efforts to broaden public participation:

PCCD increased public participation by offering both in-person and virtual events for the Kick-Off, consultations, and public hearing. PCCD placed the document on our website. In addition, PCCD utilized the County's social media platforms to include Facebook and Twitter.

Summarize the comments and recommendations received through the public participation process:

All comments have been accepted and are included in the plan. Comments received included:

Q: This is a lot of money and a long period of time. Can we parlay this into being utilized as seed money for affordable housing?

A: We want to commit money to projects that are ready to go. We don't want to tie up money for projects that may take 24 plus months. We have money committed to projects that are delayed due to rising construction cost.

Q: Are they shovel ready?

A: They have land and funding, but continuing price increases are stretching budget thin.

Q: Are we aware of a group coming to seek money for a shelter?

A: No, there is a need for a low barrier cold weather shelter. This could be done as a pilot project; however, it would need to be non-congregate for HOME-ARP.

The following comments were received during the public comment period and are included in the plan:

Families are being priced out of the current local housing market. The median sale price in January 2022 was \$327,750 (Realtor database). This is a record increase of 31.2% over the same period in 2021. To afford this, a homebuyer would need a pay rate of around \$50 an hour.

Homeownership is an evidence-based and permanent solution. Homeownership improves our children's mental and physical health; they perform better in school and are 100% more likely to attend higher education. Habitat homeowners paid over \$109,000 in property taxes in 2021. They are supporters of our schools, churches, businesses, and healthcare. The ripple effect of the pandemic has put us in a housing crisis in Pasco County and most of Florida. I urge the Commissioners to use money and resources of the American Rescue Plan for the production of affordable homeownership in our County. Help new homeowners who have been negatively affected by both COVID and price increases.

This comment was received from an affordable homeownership provider. It was echoed by two other comments.

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

All comments were accepted.

Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis

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

Demographics	2019	2020	2021
Total No. of Households	713	711	636
Total No. of Persons	894	898	857
Age			
Under 18	127	126	107
18-24	58	58	22
25+	709	714	728
Gender			
Female	307	327	320
Male	581	565	533
Transgender	2	2	1
Gender Non-conforming	4	4	3
Ethnicity			
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	822	831	757
Hispanic/Latino	72	67	100
Race			
White	748	772	722
Asian	3	3	2
Black	97	82	97
American Indian/Alaskan Native	6	6	1

Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	1	1
Multi-Racial	39	34	34
Veterans	92	92	90
Chronically Homeless	265	265	361
Sheltered	206	210	334
Unsheltered	688	688	523

In order to determine the size and demographic composition of persons experiencing homelessness in Pasco County, the analysis reviewed three years of Point-in-Time Count information.

The total number of persons experiencing homelessness remained consistent from 2019 and 2020 with a 5% decrease in 2021. The most recent total number of persons experiencing homelessness is 857.

Within the overall population, 85% are adults over age 25, and 12% represent children under 18. Males comprise 62% of the population, and over 84% are white and non-Hispanic. These numbers demonstrate that males and whites are over-represented as compared to the Census data which reflects a total of 74% white population. The number of blacks experiencing homelessness is at 11% compared to 6% of the black population.

Ninety-one percent of households experiencing homelessness are adults without children. Families with children comprise only 7% of the total households experiencing homelessness and 17.7% of all persons experiencing homelessness. The remaining 2% represent households of children without adults.

Describe the unmet housing and service needs of qualifying populations, including but not limited to:

- ***Sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations;***
- ***Those currently housed populations at risk of homelessness;***
- ***Other families requiring services or housing assistance or to prevent homelessness;and,***
- ***Those at greatest risk of housing instability or in unstable housing situations:***

Unsheltered Homelessness

Pasco County has a significant number of unsheltered households due to the lack of emergency shelter beds and the high barrier nature of existing beds. In 2021, 61% (523) of all persons experiencing homelessness were unsheltered. Without some type of financial assistance, supportive services, and affordable units, primarily efficiencies and one-bedrooms, the likelihood of these unsheltered homeless persons finding decent and safe housing is almost non-existent.

Sheltered Homelessness

2020 & 2021 Housing Inventory Count Information (Measure of Supply)

	2020			2021		
Project Type	Individuals	Families	Total	Individuals	Families	Total
Emergency Shelter	50 ¹	92	142	239 ²	40	279
Transitional Housing	48	80	128	95	80	175
Rapid Rehousing	60	44	104	68	37	105
Permanent Supportive Housing	126	149	275	180	332	512
Percent of Total Beds	44%	56%	100%	51%	49%	100%
Total Beds	284	365	649	582	489	1,071

According to the Housing Inventory Count (HIC) for Pasco County, 76 emergency shelter beds exist and 20 of those beds are for children only. Other beds are for survivors of domestic violence, leaving a very small number of beds for the overall homeless population. This past year, 163 overflow beds were brought online using motel/hotel vouchers for a non-congregate shelter model. Most recently and not counted in the past year's HIC, 36 family shelter beds have been added.

At-Risk of Homelessness

According to the American Community Survey, over 54% of the households in Pasco County are cost-burdened and paying over 30% of their income on housing expenses. Additionally, there are households called ALICE by the United Way (Asset Limited, Income Challenged, Employed) and spend more than 30% of their monthly income on housing, often relying on other publicly funded services, such as SNAP benefits, to meet monthly expenses. These households may be just a paycheck or financial crisis away from homelessness. They may lack reliable transportation, health insurance, affordable housing, and food; and they have just enough income to be ineligible for most assistance programs. Many of the population at the poverty level and below lack sufficient skills and training necessary to obtain a job or earn a livable wage. These households are served with limited homeless prevention funding, utility assistance and other resources to stop the spiral into homelessness. It is estimated that over 42% of Pasco households fall within this category. With additional funding resulting from the Coronavirus pandemic, almost \$40 million has been deployed to Pasco residents earning less than 80% of the Area Median Income for rental and utility assistance. Unfortunately, Pasco County is experiencing a significant increase in rent throughout the county. Many of the multifamily complexes in Pasco County have a waiting list and no incentive to work with families who may have fallen behind on rent. Due to the increased cost of both renting and homeownership, those who are rent burdened, or mortgage burdened are at risk of losing their housing.

¹ Includes 20 child-only beds

² Includes 26 child-only beds and 163 overflow beds

Homeless Prevention for Families

Several of our agencies serve at-risk families in Pasco County. The Gap Analysis revealed that while families represented 17.7 % of the homeless population, 49% of the total bed inventory is dedicated for families. Families with children are supported in the new Family Services Shelter. Families experiencing homelessness are assessed through Coordinated Entry System and rehoused as quickly as possible – the goal is to rehouse these families within 60 days. The shelter has room for nine families at a time. In addition, Metropolitan Ministries offers an emergency shelter and affordable housing program for families and has recently announced a planned expansion of resources/housing for families. One Community Now was awarded ESG funds to house families in motels while working to rehouse them.

Pasco County Community Development offers two programs designed to help people remain in their homes. The first is the Tax Assistance Program. This program will assist the homeowner by paying three years of property taxes for very low-income households, thereby preventing these very low-income property owners from losing their homes through tax auction. The second program is the Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program. This program can assist an income-eligible homeowner with critical repairs or handicap modifications that will enable the homeowner to remain in their housing.

Those who are experiencing mental illness or substance abuse remain a vulnerable population. Those exiting institutions or jails are at an increased risk of homelessness or housing instability. The Pasco County Sheriff's Office is instituting a new program where sentenced inmates meeting guidelines will be released approximately two months prior to the end of their sentence. The Sheriff's Office has a dedicated staff person who will coordinate employment and life skills for these inmates. They will be housed in a halfway house type setting. It is hoped this will help alleviate overcrowding while also giving this population a greater opportunity to be successful. PCCD is working with the Sheriff's Office to locate a suitable location for this housing.

Those individuals or families fleeing domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking have trouble locating suitable housing. Due to the recent COVID-19 Pandemic, providers of shelter services have had to severely reduce and restrict those that they serve. Families with children struggle to find safe places to stay. Often these families may end up relocated to areas that cause a hardship and where they have no support. Providers indicated the need for affordable rental housing and supportive services for this population. There is also a need for a non-congregate shelter on the west side of Pasco County.

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:

Currently, the availability of congregate and non-congregate shelter beds is extremely limited due to the number of beds available and the number of clients in need. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, motel rooms were brought online to shelter homeless in a non-congregate shelter. There are only a limited number of shelter beds available for individuals. Due to the pandemic, motel rooms were used as shelter beds in 2021, thereby indicating a higher number in the count. This is not a sustainable plan for the future. Many of the beds dedicated for families or other special populations remain underutilized. An increase in bed capacity for permanent supportive housing was reported in 2021 counts. This was a result of the Pasco County Housing Authority

categorizing these beds as Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH). However, these beds are not dedicated solely to those experiencing chronic homelessness. These beds are available under the Mainstream Section 811 program and as Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers. Affordable rental housing is extremely limited due to the sheer number of persons in need and the lack of affordable housing stock. Supportive services are limited in scope due to lack of funding and lack of outreach resulting from the pandemic. The Pasco County Housing Authority operates the Housing Choice Voucher program in Pasco County, but the number of vouchers is insufficient to support the need. Current market rents are continually climbing and show no signs of leveling off. The 2021 PIT counted 857 persons as homeless and included 152 family members. The bed supply, according to the 2021 HIC, was at 1,071 for the area. Of those beds, 489 were designated for families. This leaves a substantial gap for individuals.

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

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, congregate shelters have had to significantly reduce capacity. This has led to a decrease of bed capacity which remains a gap. Some of the qualifying populations are utilizing motel or other non-congregate shelter options. The available stock of this type of sheltering is limited and does not provide for housing stability. The current HIC has a total bed count of 1,071. Of these, 51% are dedicated for individuals and 49% for families. Families represent less than 18% of the homeless in the area.

Permanent Supportive Housing is only funded at 7%, while the chronically homeless represent 42% of the homeless population. There is a critical need for dedicated permanent supportive housing with supportive services included. There is a significant need for affordable rental housing. The service delivery system has been impacted due to COVID-19 by limited outreach activities.

Identify the characteristics of housing associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness if the PJ will include such conditions in its definition of “other populations” as established in the HOME-ARP Notice:

Housing for the “other populations” that are associated with increased risk of homelessness include those who are rent burdened, those with severe and persistent mental illness, those facing unemployment or underemployment, and those experiencing substance abuse. These populations struggle to maintain stable housing and they may become delinquent in rent or mortgage. They may be forced to move in with family or friends or end up living in substandard housing. Due to the current increases in the costs of goods due to inflation, this is likely to become a serious concern for these vulnerable populations.

Identify priority needs for qualifying populations:

The priority need for Pasco County includes housing for single individuals who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Creating new affordable housing efficiency and one-bedroom units will be our first priority. Permanent supportive housing for our chronically homeless population will be an additional focus of PCCD during the implementation of this plan. Identifying suitable

housing and ongoing supportive services will be the focus of the HOME-ARP funds. PCCD will work with its affordable housing providers and work to forge new partnerships. PCCD currently supports new construction in affordable housing developments through our strategies in our Local Housing Assistance Plan (LHAP), which outline activities that may be undertaken with State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) funds. PCCD also supports rental acquisition and rehabilitation activities through another strategy with its SHIP funds. At the current time, there is one new multi-family development designated for low-income households preparing for construction in New Port Richey. The Pasco County Housing Authority is in the process of beginning a 77-unit development for homeless veterans and those transitioning out of institutions. Along with the production of new units, PCCD will also support the delivery of services for newly-housed populations and capacity building for organizations to bring on additional units.

Explain how the level of need – and gaps in its shelter and housing inventory – and service delivery systems, based on the data presented in the plan, were determined:

The CoC developed the Gap Analysis as part of their annual responsibilities for the CoC. With the distribution of HOME- ARP, the County reviewed the Gap Analysis report which included the Point in Time Count data, By Name List data, and the availability of the housing stock in Pasco County. The HIC provides an inventory of beds and units that are available within the CoC geographical area. The Coordinated Entry System is the system developed to ensure all households experiencing a housing crisis have fair and equitable access to housing resources and can be quickly identified, assessed, and referred to resources based on the household's need. Surveys were used to provide information about the current system and experiences. One survey was for providers to complete about their experiences with the housing crisis response system. The other survey was for people who have lived the experience, either currently or in the past, to provide feedback on their experiences with the housing crisis response system.

The Shimberg Center for Housing Studies at the University of Florida prepared a rental market study in 2019. The State of Florida has had a steady growth of renters over the last 20 years, and this trend has been mirrored in Pasco County as well. There are a little over 50,000 renter households in Pasco County, and of these, 29% of those with income less than 60% of the Area Median Income are considered cost burdened. Data shows that smaller households of 1-2 persons are most often cost burdened. Many of the rental units that are dedicated for lower income populations and that receive public subsidies are aging. The physical structures are in need of ongoing repair and suffer from a lack of investment by the funders. It is critical that Pasco County explore all available options to increase the supply of affordable housing.

The needs assessment revealed that although families represent 17.7% of the homeless population, 49% of the total bed inventory is dedicated to families. Additionally, Permanent Supportive Housing is only funded at 7%, while chronic homelessness represents 42% of the homeless population. It is clear that the majority of the homeless population in the County are single adults, many of which are chronically homeless. The need in Pasco County is for one-bedroom or efficiency units to accommodate these individuals and accompanying services to assist these individuals to remain stably housed.

HOME-ARP Activities

Describe the method for soliciting applications for funding and/or selecting developers, service providers, subrecipients and/or contractors, and whether the PJ will administer eligible activities directly:

PCCD will not directly administer any eligible activities. HOME-ARP rental development and rental rehabilitation funds will be made available to qualifying non-profits who wish to develop affordable housing through a Notice of Funding Availability.

Pasco County holds its annual “Grant Kick-Off” in mid-March and accepts applications for projects and activities for a period of four weeks. Applications are scored by an independent review committee, after which the committee meets with PCCD staff to finalize recommendations for funding. These recommendations for funding are forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners for their approval. Applicants are scored on the following criteria:

- experience and capacity of the applicant
- project design
- project marketing
- project performance measures
- expected outcomes
- budget
- overall impression of project impact

PCCD encourages organizations who have never applied before to submit applications.

If any portion of the PJ’s HOME-ARP administrative funds were 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:

No funds were provided prior to acceptance.

Use of HOME-ARP Funding

	Funding Amount	Percentage of the Grant	Statutory Limit
Supportive Services	\$ 222,780.00	5%	
Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelters	\$		
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)			
Development of Affordable Rental Housing	\$3,118,982.05	70%	
Non-Profit Operating	\$ 222,780.00	5 %	5%
Non-Profit Capacity Building	\$ 222,780.00	5 %	5%
Administration and Planning	\$ 668,350.95	15%	15%
Total HOME-ARP Allocation	\$ 4,455,673.00		

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

PCCD is soliciting requests for funds through a competitive process. Applications will be reviewed and prioritized based on the proposed project and its services for Chronically Homeless Individuals. Projects that develop affordable housing through new construction, acquisition and rehabilitation will be prioritized. Projects that serve other eligible populations will be reviewed, and if available funding remains, will be considered. Approved projects will be recommended for funding and presented to the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners for final approval.

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:

Pasco County Community Development utilized results from the Point in Time Count and the Housing Inventory Count to develop this plan. A review of these numbers shows that there is a strong need for beds/units for single individuals. A review of the available stock of affordable housing indicates there is a significant need for dedicated permanent (supportive) housing for our unsheltered homeless population.

The need is most significant for individuals who are chronically homeless.

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:

PCCD estimates that 25 units of affordable housing will be produced. Along with these units, supportive services will be provided to clients. PCCD expects to partner with affordable housing providers to leverage this funding to create more units.

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

PCCD plans to bring affordable units into service for those experiencing chronic homelessness. PCCD will work with partner agencies to identify properties that can be acquired and rehabilitated for use as single room occupancy or efficiency units. PCCD will prioritize projects that can be done with the quickest turnaround time. Potential options include old motels, shopping centers, churches, or schools. PCCD expects to work with providers to leverage state and federal dollars to fund additional units.

Preferences

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

Pasco County will prioritize single adults who are literally and chronically homeless as having the greatest need for housing and supportive services. Those fleeing domestic violence or human

trafficking will also be considered in this plan. Other qualifying populations include those who may be exiting institutions, including jails, prisons, and hospitals. Local prioritization will comply with all requirements of 24 CFR 5.105(a). The Homeless Coalition of Pasco County operates the Coordinated Entry System and the By Name list for Pasco County. Potential clients will be referred to the Homeless Coalition for the standardized assessment tool through the coordinated entry process. These clients will be provided with supportive services to help them remain stably housed. Clients fleeing domestic violence or human trafficking can be referred directly to housing providers and may also be provided supportive services.

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 category of qualifying population, consistent with the PJ's needs assessment and Gap Analysis:

The Gap Analysis revealed that the greatest need and the least number of resources were dedicated to single adults and especially to those who are considered chronically homeless. By prioritizing those with the highest acuity and creating housing for them, HOME-ARP will address the unmet need for single adults experiencing homelessness. This qualifying population will be served through the Coordinated Entry System administered locally by the Coalition for the Homeless of Pasco County. Those fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence or human trafficking may receive direct referrals to housing partners and would be considered a second highest priority.

If a preference was identified, describe how the PJ will use HOME-ARP funds to address the unmet needs or gaps in benefits and services of the other qualifying populations that are not included in the preference:

PCCD will utilize the coordinated entry for all clients who are identified as homeless. Clients fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence or human trafficking can be assessed outside the Coordinated Entry System by the providers. The local service providers will be kept apprised of the availability of housing by PCCD. Should the chronically homeless or those fleeing domestic violence or human trafficking not utilize all of PCCD's funding, other qualifying populations will be served. This would include those at risk of homelessness or those exiting jails, prisons, or institutions. The Coordinated Entry System operated through the Pasco County Coalition for the Homeless will be utilized for referrals to HOME-ARP projects. The Coordinated Entry System covers the entire geographical area of Pasco County and accepts referrals for all of the HOME-ARP qualifying populations with the exception of domestic violence or human trafficking. Those clients can be assessed directly by the provider. PCCD will ensure compliance with Section IV.C.2 of CPD-21-10.

HOME-ARP Refinancing Guidelines

Pasco County does not intend to use HOME-ARP funds to refinance existing debt.

