



# MUNICIPALITY OF PONCE HOME ARP ALLOCATION PLAN



Hon. Luis Irizarry Pabón, Mayor

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## I- Introduction

As a part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARP”), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) allocated \$4.925 billion in supplemental ARP funds through the HOME Investment Partnership Program (“HOME”) to support communities throughout the country to address homelessness. This newly created funding source is called the HOME-ARP program. The funds were allocated to HOME program Participant Jurisdictions. The Municipality of Ponce is a participant jurisdiction and was allocated \$3,624,819. HOME ARP funds must be used to benefit the four eligible qualifying populations:

- Homeless
- At-risk of homelessness
- Fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking
- Other populations where providing supportive services or assistance would prevent the family's homelessness or would serve those at greater risk of homelessness.

HOME-ARP funds can be used towards funding the following eligible activities to reduce homelessness and increase housing stability across the country:

- Production or Preservation of Affordable Housing
- Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)
- Supportive Services, including services defined at 24 CFR 578.53(e), homeless prevention services, and housing counseling
- Development of Non-Congregate Shelter

All PJs eligible to receive HOME-ARP funding are required to submit a HOME-ARP Allocation Plan to HUD for review. The requirements for the preparation of the HOME ARP Allocation Plan are included in CPD Notice 21-10. The HOME-ARP Allocation Plan must provide a description of how the PJ intends to utilize its funding on proposed activities, and how it will address the needs of qualifying populations. In accordance with Section V of the Final Home-ARP Implementation Notice, PJs must:

- Consult with agencies and service providers whose clientele include the HOME-ARP qualifying populations to identify unmet needs and gaps in housing or service delivery systems

- Provide for and encourage citizen participation in the development of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

To complete a HOME-ARP Allocation Plan, a PJ must also:

- Conduct a needs assessment and gap analysis
- Describe proposed HOME-ARP activities
- Describe the PJs production housing goals
- Identify whether the PJ intends to give preferences to one or more qualifying populations or a subpopulation within one or more qualifying populations for any eligible activity or project
- Identify if the PJ intends to use HOME-ARP funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily rental housing that is being rehabilitated with HOME-ARP funds, and state its HOME-ARP refinancing guidelines (if applicable)
- Implement a public comment period of at least 15 calendar days
- Hold at least one public hearing during the development of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan and before submission.

Upon the culmination of the Municipality's consultation and public participation processes, along with the completion of its needs assessment and gap analysis, the Municipality of Ponce has prepared the following HOME-ARP Allocation Plan for review, consideration, and acceptance by HUD.

## II- Consultation

In accordance with Section V.A of the Notice (page 13), before developing its HOME-ARP allocation plan, at a minimum, a PJ must consult with:

- CoC(s) serving the jurisdiction's geographic area,
- homeless service providers,
- domestic violence service providers,
- veterans' groups,
- public housing agencies (PHAs),
- public agencies that address the needs of the qualifying populations, and
- public or private organizations that address fair housing, civil rights, and the needs of persons with disabilities.

State PJs are not required to consult with every PHA or CoC within the state's boundaries; however, local PJs must consult with all PHAs (including statewide or regional PHAs) and CoCs serving the jurisdiction.

**Template:**

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

Prior to development of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan, the Municipality consulted with the CoC 503, homeless and domestic violence service providers, veterans' groups, public housing agencies, public agencies that address the needs of the qualifying populations, and public/private organizations that address fair housing, civil rights, and the needs of persons with disabilities. In compliance with 2 CFR 200.317-326 the Municipality completed a competitive process and awarded Harrison Consulting Group a contract to complete HOME-ARP Allocation Plan consulting services on behalf of the Municipality. As required by CPD Notice 21-10 the Municipality undertook a consultation process that included a wide variety of stakeholders that serves qualifying populations. Letters were sent to the required entities with a description of the grant and funding amount, the qualifying populations, and the range of eligible activities for the use of the funds of the HOME ARP Funds. The consultation letters provided more than 15 days to obtain the requested responses. Also, the letters included a list of the eligible program activities, who the beneficiaries were to be (qualified populations as defined in CPD Circular 2021-10), and information on special conditions of receiving the funds. Finally, the letters also included a link (QR Code and Direct permalink) to online survey.

The online survey consisted of several questions (21) specific to qualifying populations and how responders provided services to those individuals. In addition, the survey requested the stakeholders to provide information related to:

- Qualifying populations which they serve.
- If they were members of CoC 502 or 503.
- Geographical areas where they provided services to qualifying populations.
- Identify and prioritize unmet housing and service
- Identify what they see as priority needs in the community and to narrow it down to the one greatest priority need within the HOME-ARP eligible scope of activities.
- Prioritize eligible used among each eligible activity.
- Possibility of funding request by the organization or stakeholder
- Identify and prioritize qualifying population with more need.

The survey proved to be a very valuable tool for the establishment of the proposed activities that are included in this document. A copy of the results of the survey is included in the attachment.

The municipality of consulted service providers to the homeless population and entities that provide services to victims of domestic violence, also requesting that they complete a HOME ARP funds need questionnaire form designed to obtain a detailed view of the need of the clientele they served. This mechanism provided for the establishment of priorities and the definition of activities that should be carried out with the HOME-ARP funds.

As required the municipality consulted with:

- PR 503 CoC, coalition that serves the Municipality of Ponce geographic area (requested them to provide the letter to all the members of the coalition and providers of the qualifying populations
- Homeless service providers.
- Domestic violence service providers
- Puerto Rico Public Housing Administration (Public housing agency)
- Municipality of Ponce Section 8 Program
- Municipality of San Juan HOPWA Program
- Organizations that address civil rights and fair housing
- Organizations that address the needs of persons with disabilities

The following table shows the consulted entities and the feedback received:

Agency/Org Consulted	Type of Agency/Org	Method of Consultation	Feedback	Qualifying population served <sup>1</sup>
<b>Puerto Rico Public Housing Administration</b>	State Public Housing Agency (PHA) serving the jurisdiction's geographic area.	Letter and questionnaire	<p>Mrs. Nesheree Soldevila Guzmán completed the questionnaire. In the response they indicated that the principal needs (1-3) were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Affordable Housing</li> <li>• TBRA</li> <li>• Development of non congregated shelters</li> </ul> <p>In addition, they indicated that population with more need are the single adults.</p>	1,2,3,4
<b>Puerto Rico Department of Housing (Secretaria Auxiliar Subsidio de Vivienda)</b>	State Public Agency that addresses the needs of qualifying populations.	Letter and questionnaire	No comments received	1,2,3,4
<b>Puerto Rico Housing Finance Authority</b>	State Public Agency that addresses the needs of qualifying populations.	Letter and questionnaire	<p>Mr. Javier Trogolo completed the questionnaire. In the response they indicated that the principal needs (1-3) were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Affordable Housing</li> <li>• Supportive services</li> <li>• Provision of TBRA</li> </ul> <p>In addition, they indicated that population with more need are the single adults.</p>	2 & 4
<b>U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, San Juan Regional Office</b>	Federal agency that addresses the needs of qualifying populations.	Letter and questionnaire	No comments received	1

<sup>1</sup> 1=Homeless, as defined in section 103(a), 2= At-risk of homelessness, as defined in section 401(1), 3=Fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, 4=other populations were providing supportive services or assistance under section 212(a) of the Act.

Agency/Org Consulted	Type of Agency/Org	Method of Consultation	Feedback	Qualifying population served <sup>1</sup>
<b>Puerto Rico Department of Health</b>	State Public Agency that addresses the needs of qualifying populations.	Letter and questionnaire	No comments received	1,2,3,4
<b>Puerto Rico Department of Housing Rental Assistance CoC</b>	State Public Agency that addresses the needs of qualifying populations.	Letter and questionnaire	No comments received	1,2,3,4
<b>HOPWA Program, at the Municipality of San Juan</b>	Municipality administering a Federal Program that addresses the needs of qualifying populations.	Letter and questionnaire	No comments received	1,2,3,4
<b>Programa Ryan White Parte B/ADAP - Departamento de Salud</b>	Federal Program that addresses the needs of qualifying populations	Letter and questionnaire	<p>Mrs. Norma I. Delgado Mercado completed the questionnaire. In the response indicated that the principal needs (1-3) were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Affordable Housing</li> <li>• Development of non congregated shelters</li> <li>• TBRA</li> </ul> <p>In addition, they indicated that population with more need are the elderly.</p>	1
<b>Office of the Ombudsman for People with Disabilities</b>	State Public Agency organizations that address civil rights and fair housing.	Letter and questionnaire	No comments received	4
<b>Office of the Women's Advocate ("Oficina de la Procuradora de las Mujeres")</b>	State Public Agency organizations that address civil rights and fair housing for women.	Letter and questionnaire	<p>Mrs. Mildred Oyola completed the questionnaire. In the response they indicated that the principal needs (1-3) were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supportive services</li> <li>• Administrative funds</li> <li>• TBRA</li> </ul>	3



Agency/Org Consulted	Type of Agency/Org	Method of Consultation	Feedback	Qualifying population served <sup>1</sup>
			In addition, they indicated that population with more need are the domestic violence victims.	
<b>Puerto Rico Office for Socioeconomic and Community Development</b>	State Public Agency that addresses the needs of qualifying populations.	Letter and questionnaire	<p>Mrs. Thais M. Reyes Serrano completed the questionnaire. In the response indicated that the principal needs (1-3) were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Affordable Housing</li> <li>• Administrative funds</li> <li>• Supportive Services</li> </ul> <p>In addition, they indicated that population with more need are the families.</p>	1,2,3,4
<b>First Bank de Puerto Rico</b>	Private Bank and Mortgage lender that addresses the needs of qualifying populations	Letter and questionnaire	No comments received	N/A
<b>Banco Popular de Puerto Rico</b>	Private Bank and Mortgage lender that addresses the needs of qualifying populations	Letter and questionnaire	No comments received	N/A
<b>Puerto Rico Landlords Association</b>	Professional Association that addresses the needs of qualifying populations	Letter and questionnaire	No comments received	N/A
<b>Mortgage Bankers Association of PR</b>	Private Bank and Mortgage lender that addresses the needs of qualifying populations	Letter and questionnaire	No comments received	N/A
<b>“Acción Social de Puerto Rico”</b>	Non-Profit that addresses the needs	Letter and questionnaire	No comments received	1,2,3,4

Agency/Org Consulted	Type of Agency/Org	Method of Consultation	Feedback	Qualifying population served <sup>1</sup>
	of qualifying populations			
<b>Puerto Rico Family and Child Administration</b>	State Public Agency that addresses the needs of qualifying populations.	Letter and questionnaire	No comments received	3
<b>Puerto Rico Administration for the Socio-Economic Development of the Family</b>	State Public Agency that addresses the needs of qualifying populations.	Letter and questionnaire	No comments received	1,2,3,4
<b>Puerto Rico Administration on Addiction and Mental Health Services (ASSMCA)</b>	State Public Agency that addresses the needs of qualifying populations.	Letter and questionnaire	No comments received	1
<b>Child Support Administration (“Administración para el Sustento de Menores”)</b>	State Public Agency that addresses the needs of qualifying populations.	Letter and questionnaire	No comments received	3
<b>Oficina del Procurador del Paciente (“Oficina del Procurador del Paciente”)</b>	State Public Agency that addresses the needs of qualifying populations.	Letter and questionnaire	No comments received	1,4
<b>Puerto Rico Department of Education</b>	State Public Agency that addresses the needs of qualifying populations.	Letter and questionnaire	<p>Mrs. Norma L. Rivera Ortiz completed the questionnaire. In the response they indicated that the principal needs (1-3) were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supportive Services</li> <li>• Administrative funds</li> <li>• TBRA</li> </ul> <p>In addition, they indicated that population with more need are the youth.</p> <p>She also indicated that homeless persons need follow-up and direct support, so that they can obtain the required services. Likewise,</p>	2,3,4

Agency/Org Consulted	Type of Agency/Org	Method of Consultation	Feedback	Qualifying population served <sup>1</sup>
			people with mental health needs should be taken into consideration and this need should be addressed.	
<b>Puerto Rico Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation</b>	State Public Agency that addresses the needs of qualifying populations.	Letter and questionnaire	No comments received	1,4
<b>ProBono Inc.</b>	Non-profit organization that provides free and accessible legal education and support to individuals and communities	Letter and questionnaire	No comments received	1,2,3,4
<b>Community Legal Office (Legal Assistance Clinic of the Interamerican University School of Law)</b>	A non-profit organization that provides free and accessible legal education and support to individuals and communities	Letter and questionnaire	No comments received	1,2,3,4
<b>Servicios legales de Puerto Rico</b>	A private, not-for-profit corporation that provides free civil legal advice, representation, and education to qualified individuals and underprivileged groups.	Letter and questionnaire	No comments received	1,2,3,4
Coordinadora Morivivi	This organization acts as a Collaborative Applicant to provide support overseeing the Puerto Rico Continuum of Care	Letter and questionnaire	<p>Mrs. Teresa Carrero Giraldo completed the questionnaire. In the response they indicated that the principal needs (1-3) were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of Affordable Housing</li> </ul>	1,2,3,4

Agency/Org Consulted	Type of Agency/Org	Method of Consultation	Feedback	Qualifying population served <sup>1</sup>
	South-Southeast Puerto Rico (CoC-PR503) that serves 54 Municipalities across the island		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrative Funds</li> <li>• Supportive services</li> </ul> <p>In addition, they indicated that population with more need are the single adults.</p> <p>Mrs. Carrero also participated of an online meeting held on March 8, 2023. The CoC concurred with the gap and need analysis and the proposed distribution.</p>	
Ayuda Legal Puerto Rico	Non-profit organization that provides free and accessible legal education and support to low income individuals and communities.	Letter and questionnaire	No comments received	1,2,3,4
<b>Coalicion de Coaliciones</b>	CoC 503	Letter and questionnaire and meeting	<p>Mr. Francisco J. Rodriguez completed the questionnaire. In the response they indicated that the principal needs (1-3) were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Affordable Housing</li> <li>• Provision of TBRA</li> <li>• Administrative Funds</li> </ul> <p>In addition, they indicated that population with more need are the single adults.</p> <p>It is important to consider allocating funds for pre-development expenses for affordable housing development proposals and homeless support services given the difficulty of having capital funds to define the parameters of the projects to be proposed, such as expenses for feasibility studies, identification of properties subject to rehabilitation, land for development, title studies,</p>	1,2,3,4

Agency/Org Consulted	Type of Agency/Org	Method of Consultation	Feedback	Qualifying population served <sup>1</sup>
			<p>environmental studies, preliminary designs for cost estimates, legal costs, renewable energy engineering, among others.</p> <p>Mr. Rodriguez also participated of an online meeting held on March 8, 2023. The CoC concurred with the gap and need analysis and the proposed distribution.</p>	
<b>Guara-BI</b>	Homeless Service Provider	Letter and questionnaire	<p>Mrs. Irisbel Nuñez completed the questionnaire. In the response they indicated that the principal needs (1-3) were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of non congregated shelters</li> <li>• Development of Affordable Housing</li> <li>• Provision of TBRA</li> </ul> <p>In addition, they indicated that population with more need are the single adults.</p>	1
<b>Municipality of Mayaguez</b>	Municipality member of 503 CoC	Letter and questionnaire	<p>Mr. Jaime Rosario Brugos completed the questionnaire. In the response they indicated that the principal needs (1-3) were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrative funds</li> <li>• Development of Affordable Housing</li> <li>• Supportive services</li> </ul> <p>In addition, they indicated that population with more need are the elderly.</p>	1,2,3,4
<b>Corporación Milagros de Amor</b>	Homeless Service Provider	Letter and questionnaire	<p>Mrs. Hilda Yiseidi Martinez completed the questionnaire. In the response they indicated that the principal needs (1-3) were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Affordable Housing</li> <li>• Supportive Services</li> </ul>	1

Agency/Org Consulted	Type of Agency/Org	Method of Consultation	Feedback	Qualifying population served <sup>1</sup>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative funds</li> </ul> <p>In addition, they indicated that population with more need are the single adults.</p>	
<b>Municipality of Ponce</b>	Municipal Government Member of CoC / PJ	Letter and questionnaire	<p>Mr. Jorge L. Guaman Rivera, municipal secretary of Ponce, completed the questionnaire. In the response indicated that the principal needs (1-3) were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of Affordable Housing</li> <li>TBRA</li> <li>Development of non congregated shelters</li> </ul> <p>In addition, Mr. Guaman Rivera indicated that population with more need are the elderly.</p>	N/A
<b>IPVI</b>	Homeless Service Provider	Letter and questionnaire	<p>Mrs. Nilsa Lopez Rivera completed the questionnaire. In the response indicated that the principal needs (1-3) were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of non congregated shelter</li> <li>Administrative funds</li> <li>Supportive services</li> </ul> <p>In addition, they indicated that population with more need are the victims of domestic violence.</p>	3
<b>Casa Protegida Julia de Burgos</b>	Homeless Service Provider (Domestic Violence)	Letter and questionnaire	<p>Mrs. Ellie M. Rios Aviles completed the questionnaire. In the response indicated that the principal needs (1-3) were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative funds</li> <li>Supportive services</li> <li>Development of affordable housing</li> </ul> <p>In addition, they indicated that population with more need are the victims of domestic violence. They</p>	3

Agency/Org Consulted	Type of Agency/Org	Method of Consultation	Feedback	Qualifying population served <sup>1</sup>
			<p>also indicated that Domestic violence is a social problem that affects the physical and psychological well-being of the victims, as well as that of their children. It is an imminent threat to the lives of the victims, however, in most cases the lack of support resources, economic resources and decent housing does not allow them to break out of the cycle of violence, with economic violence being one of the most common manifestations. Having sufficient funds to address the need of this population and provide access to decent housing are the greatest challenges we face. They are available to build bridges of solidarity that allow us to accompany victims effectively and build solutions that bring us closer to a society of well-being.</p>	
<b>Conexion Laboral WIOA</b>	Jobs/Training service provided and Single point of entry for labor needs in the region	Letter and questionnaire	<p>Mrs. Martha Pi Cruz completed the questionnaire. In the response indicated that the principal needs (1-3) were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of non congregated shelters</li> <li>• Supportive Services</li> <li>• Development of affordable rental housing</li> </ul> <p>In addition, they indicated that population with more need are the single adults.</p>	2,3,4
<b>Municipality of Aguas Buenas</b>	Municipality member of 503 CoC	Letter and questionnaire	<p>Mrs. Yaitza Mendez Ortiz completed the questionnaire. In the response indicated that the principal needs (1-3) were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBRA</li> <li>• Supportive Services</li> </ul>	N/A

Agency/Org Consulted	Type of Agency/Org	Method of Consultation	Feedback	Qualifying population served <sup>1</sup>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative funds</li> </ul> <p>In addition, they indicated that population with more need are the domestic violence victims.</p>	
<b>Hogar Geriátrico Ernestina Rodríguez, Municipio Autónomo de Ponce</b>	Homeless services provider and shelter (Municipality of Ponce)	Letter and questionnaire	<p>Mr. Waldermar Rivera Casiano, Director of the Municipal Office of Citizen Services, completed the questionnaire. In the response indicated that the principal needs (1-3) were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supportive Services</li> <li>Development of non congregated shelters</li> <li>Development of Affordable Housing</li> </ul> <p>In addition, Mr. Rivera Casiano indicated that population with more need are the elderly.</p>	4
<b>Hogar Luz De Vida Inc</b>	Homeless Service Provider (shelter, Permanent Housing, Rapid rehousing, Supportive services and housing)	Letter and questionnaire	<p>Mr. Walter Perez Rodriguez completed the questionnaire. In the response indicated that the principal needs (1-3) were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of affordable housing</li> <li>TBRA</li> <li>Supportive Services</li> </ul> <p>In addition, they indicated that population with more need are the youth.</p>	1,4
<b>FUNDESCO</b>	Homeless Service Provider (shelter, Permanent Housing, Rapid rehousing, Supportive services and housing)	Letter and questionnaire	<p>Mrs. Carmen Matos completed the questionnaire. In the response indicated that the principal needs (1-3) were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supportive Services</li> <li>Administrative Funds</li> <li>Development of affordable housing</li> </ul>	1



Agency/Org Consulted	Type of Agency/Org	Method of Consultation	Feedback	Qualifying population served <sup>1</sup>
			In addition, they indicated that population with more need are the elderly.	
<b>Municipio de Jayuya</b>  <b>Jayuya Leasing Assistance</b>	Municipality member of 503 CoC	Letter and questionnaire	<p>Mrs. Idalia Perez completed the questionnaire. In the response indicated that the principal needs (1-3) were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supportive Services</li> <li>• Development of affordable housing</li> <li>• Administrative Funds</li> </ul> <p>In addition, they indicated that population with more need are the elderly.</p>	N/A
<b>Corporación SANOS</b>	Homeless Service Provider (Permanent Housing and Rapid Rehousing, Supportive Services)	Letter and questionnaire	<p>Mrs. Ivonne Vega Ramos completed the questionnaire. In the response indicated that the principal needs (1-3) were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supportive Services</li> <li>• Development of non congregated shelters</li> <li>• TBRA</li> </ul> <p>In addition, they indicated that population with more need are the single adults.</p>	1
<b>Puerto Rico Department of the Family</b>	State Agency and Services Provider	Letter and questionnaire	<p>Mrs. Karla Nieves, Deputy Secretary for Planning completed the questionnaire. In the response indicated that the principal needs (1-3) were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Affordable housing</li> <li>• TBRA</li> <li>• Supportive Services</li> </ul> <p>In addition, they indicated that population with more need are the Elderly.</p> <p>MRs. Nieves indicated that the shortage of available housing units</p>	1,2,3,4

Agency/Org Consulted	Type of Agency/Org	Method of Consultation	Feedback	Qualifying population served <sup>1</sup>
			in the market needs to be taken into consideration and the benefits to landlords should be increased so that they decide to offer housing for long-term affordable housing and not for AirBnBs.	

Each organization consulted received a presentation about HOME-ARP, including the amount of funding the Municipality is eligible for, the possible uses of the grant, and the qualifying populations. In addition, each organization was provided with direct link to complete an online survey. The consultation letters provided potential responders with 2 weeks for the completion of the survey. However the Municipality extended the period to almost 1 month.

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

The table above present summary of the consultation process with entities. The result of questionnaire is included in attachment 6.

### III-Public Participation

In accordance with Section V.B of the Notice (page 13), PJs must provide for and encourage citizen participation in the development of the HOME-ARP allocation plan. Before submission of the plan, PJs must provide residents with reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on the proposed HOME-ARP allocation plan of **no less than 15 calendar days**. The PJ must follow its adopted requirements for “reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment” for plan amendments in its current citizen participation plan. In addition, PJs must hold **at least one public hearing** during the development of the HOME-ARP allocation plan and prior to submission.

PJs are required to make the following information available to the public:

- The amount of HOME-ARP the PJ will receive, and
- The range of activities the PJ may undertake.

Throughout the HOME-ARP allocation plan public participation process, the PJ must follow its applicable fair housing and civil rights requirements and procedures for effective communication, accessibility, and reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities and providing meaningful access to participation by limited English proficient (LEP) residents that are in its current citizen participation plan as required by 24 CFR 91.105 and 91.115.

**Template:**

*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:** 03/13/2023

**Public Comment Period:** start date :03/13/23 end date: 03/29/2023

**Dates(s) of Public Hearing:** February 6, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

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

The Municipality of Ponce encouraged citizens and interested parties to provide inputs for the development of the HOME-ARPA allocation Plan, in accordance with Section 24 CFR 91.105(b)(3). It is required that public hearings be celebrated for the preparation of the Plan. Reasonable notice and opportunity to comment occurred and throughout the participation process Ponce followed the applicable fair housing and civil rights provisions, as required by 24 CFR 91.105 and 91.115. The implemented procedures guaranteed effective communication, accessibility, and reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities and provided meaningful access to participation by limited English proficient (LEP) residents.

The Municipality of Ponce published notices in Spanish and in English, on January 19, 2023, in the “Primera Hora”, newspaper of general circulation. The notices announced the virtual public hearing as to provide information about HOME-ARPA allocations and Plan to be prepared and to receive comments from the public. The hearing was announced in compliance with the Ponce Citizen participation Plan, which establishes that the notice is to be available for 15 days prior to the celebration of public hearings. The hearing was celebrated, as programmed, on February 6, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. It could be accessed through the virtual link: <https://meet.goto.com/604171413>. A total of 17 persons were attendees at this virtual hearing. An exposition made by municipal officials included information on the objectives of the HOME-ARPA allocation to Ponce, the eligible population, the possible use of funds and the type of entities to execute programs and most important the eligible clientele. During the hearing the Plan process was explained, the amount of the allocation to Ponce was divulged (\$3,624,819) and guidance was provided on eligible populations and activities. Also, an explanation of the ways that effective participation could take place among the impacted population and service entities was provided. Emphasize was given to the importance of receiving inputs from the communities and individuals of low and moderate-income, identifying needs, urgencies, priorities, and aspirations, while seeking opportunity and solutions aligned with the goals of the Housing and *Community Development Consolidated Plan of Ponce for the years 2020 to 2024*.

The public hearings allowed active participation of the interested parties and provided opportunity to expose opinions and ideas pertaining the existing needs and possible solutions that can be sought using HOME ARPA funding. In accordance with the protocols established because of the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Municipality carried out these public hearings virtually. Also, a QR code and link was provided to access a survey and participants were exhorted to fill in the questionnaire that is accessed through the code or through the address <https://forms.office.com/r/Fr70qGx61k>. Answers to the questionnaire would be received until one week ahead from the date of this hearing. An email and postal address for questions or written comments were also provided. Comments would be addressed to Idelisse Santiago, Person in charge of the HOME-ARP funds, [idelissesantiago@ponce.pr.gov](mailto:idelissesantiago@ponce.pr.gov); Address: P.O. Box 331709, Ponce, Puerto Rico, 007331709.

Highlights on preliminary data collected from the questionnaires were presented, as well as information from the homeless Counts of the years 2019 and 2022. It was emphasized by the presenter that questionnaire answers positioned as the population with the highest housing needs are first for elders

and second for adults living alone, third for victims of domestic violence. In terms of activities the answers identified principal, providing supportive services and as second the need for the development of rental housing. The homeless count data presented an important increase in the number of victims of homeless. The population sectors with the most increase were the victims of domestic violence.

The hearing transcript can be accessed at the following addresses:

<https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/#/s/730beba3b23ce9c30a85f113152c22b2bcbfc75137e09febcd78f8cafaf58e0>

Hearing participants are listed below, and their comments appear next to their names:

1. Joseph Harrison, HCG Consulting Group - The hearing began with welcoming remarks by Mr. Joseph Harrison who proceeded with the exposition and explanation of the power point slides.
2. Attorney Rebecca Ramos Franceschini, Director of the Housing Department, Municipality of Ponce, welcomed the participants at the public hearing. She mentioned that she was accompanied by Mrs. Idellise Santiago, from the HOME Program, Glorimar Nazario, Supervisor of the Fiscal Unit of the Municipality of Ponce, and other employees of the Housing Department. Also, that Mr. Waldemar Rivera, Director of the Office of Citizens Affairs was present and willing to make a presentation during the hearing.
3. Antonio Rodríguez
4. Beatriz Grau, Moriviví, Inc. ([bgrau@morivivipr.org](mailto:bgrau@morivivipr.org)). Asked about until when can comments to the hearing could be submitted to which the presenter answered that until the Friday following the hearing. Harrison mentioned a programmed meeting with the organization and that their comments could be handed in on that occasion. Ms. Grau mentioned that challenges to serve the homeless in Ponce are the unavailability of rental units, the need for supportive services and the need for administrative funds for non-profit organizations addressing these needs. Also, the sustainability of the shelters and the lack of TBRA units are a big problem. She explained that the homeless count of the past week did not include Ponce, which means that the data for 2019 and 2022 will be the only data available.
5. Francisco J. Rodríguez Fraticelli, Executive President of the Coalición de Coaliciones. He began explaining the Coalición de Coaliciones grouped 53 organizations and operated the coordinated system, while Morivivi, Inc. is the coordinating agency of the PR503 Coalition. He mentions that from the HMIS data they have access to recent information on the populations to be served by HOME-ARP. Mr. Rodríguez asks that rental parameters be explained more in detail and the presenter went on exposing that the HOME-ARP exemptions for rents may allow payment standards used by Section 8 which can work with the 120% of the payment standard for the area and those are more competitive rents than HOME usual rents. Mr. Rodríguez exposed on the need to assist capacity development of organizations to better administer these types of funds and be able to get involved in project development endeavors.
6. Waldemar Rivera Casiano, Director of the Office of Citizens Affairs of the Municipality of Ponce makes a presentation about the *Hogar Enerstina Rodríguez*, which serves over 35 homeless adults (“adultos mayores”) and is located at the Los Diamantes Street, Ponce Center, in a property built in 1883, which has a structure that has been impacted and deteriorated by time and by recent adverse events. Services offered to the population are

shelter, food, laundry, and support to their medical and daily life. The building needs repairs which include roof repairs, repairs to the storage areas, the laundry, the meeting room, and the administrative offices. Also, fixes are needed to the water connections, surrounding areas, among other improvements. More personnel to service the needs of the population housed in the institution is a must to sustain adequate operations. The exposition made addressed in more details the needs and requested that these be considered in the use of the HOME-ARP funds.

7. Wilma Alejandro – She asked about units that are available for sale by CHDO's and if it may be that a developer have rental housing projects to be completed, can the HOME-ARP fund these type of activities, as long as these units be made available for occupation by the qualified populations.

8. Deborah Echevarría, SVDS, Ponce

9. Edgar Gonzalez, Section 8 Program, Municipality of Ponce

10. Glorimar Nazario, Supervisor of the Fiscal Unit of the Municipality of Ponce

11. Idellise Santiago, from the HOME Program, Housing Department, Municipality of Ponce

12. Irma Román

13. Johanna Valladares Sopeña

14. Teresa Carrero

15. Nilsa López Rivera, Representative of the Instituto Pre-Vocacional e Industrial de PR, Inc.

16. Irisbel Núñez, Guara Bi

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

The municipality took proactive action to broaden and promote public participation including the following:

1. Notified the public of the availability of the HOME ARP Funds using public notices published in English and Spanish (see attachment) in newspapers and social media.
2. The municipality follow up (phone) to each of the entities consulted during the consultation process.
3. Held a meeting with CoC to receive input.
4. Notice inviting the public to the Public Hearing was published in English and Spanish
5. Notice of the plan's availability was published in English and Spanish

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

1. Beatriz Grau, Morivivi, Inc. ([bgrau@morivivipr.org](mailto:bgrau@morivivipr.org)). Asked about until when can comments to the hearing could be submitted to which the presenter answered that until the Friday following the hearing. Harrison mentioned a programmed meeting with the organization and that their comments could be handed in on that occasion. Ms. Grau mentioned that challenges to serve the homeless in Ponce are the unavailability of rental units, the need for supportive services and the need for administrative funds for non-profit organizations addressing these needs. Also, the sustainability of the shelters and the lack of TBRA units are a big problem. She explained that the homeless count of the past week did not include Ponce, which means that the data for 2019 and 2022 will be the only data available.
2. Francisco J. Rodríguez Fraticelli, Executive President of the Coalición de Coaliciones. He began explaining the Coalición de Coaliciones grouped 53 organizations and operated the coordinated system, while Morivivi, Inc. is the coordinating agency of the PR503 Coalition. He mentions that from the HMIS data they have access to recent information on the populations to be served by HOME-ARP. Mr. Rodríguez asks that rental parameters be explained more in detail and the presenter went on exposing that the HOME-ARP exemptions for rents may allow payment standards used by Section 8 which can work with the 120% of the payment standard for the area and those are more competitive rents than HOME usual rents. Mr. Rodríguez exposed on the need to assist capacity development of organizations to better administer these types of funds and be able to get involved in project development endeavors.
3. Waldemar Rivera Casiano, Director of the Office of Citizens Affairs of the Municipality of Ponce makes a presentation about the *Hogar Enerstina Rodríguez*, which serves over 35 homeless adults (“adultos mayores”) and is located at the Los Diamantes Street, Ponce Center, in a property built in 1883, which has a structure that has been impacted and deteriorated by time and by recent adverse events. Services offered to the population are shelter, food, laundry, and support to their medical and daily life. The building needs repairs which include roof repairs, repairs to the storage areas, the laundry, the meeting room, and the administrative offices. Also, fixes are needed to the water connections, surrounding areas, among other improvements. More personnel to service the needs of the population housed in the institution is a must to sustain adequate operations. The exposition made addressed in more details the needs and requested that these be considered in the use of the HOME-ARP funds.
4. Wilma Alejandro – She asked about units that are available for sale by CHDO’s and if it may be that a developer have rental housing projects to be completed, can the HOME-ARP fund these type of activities, as long as these units be made available for occupation by the qualified populations.

**Consultation Meeting with CoC 503**

On March 8, 2023 the Municipality held an online meeting with representative of Coordinadora Morivi (Collaborative Entity of the CoC). During the meeting the municipality presented the preliminary finding of the Citizen Participation and Consultation process. In

addition, the Municipality presented the representatives of the CoC with the proposed allocation of HOME ARP Funds. The CoC concurred with the gap analysis and the activities selected and the recommended allocation.

### **Written Responses Received**

The following organizations provided written responses during the consultation process:

1. FUNDESCO- February 2, 2023, indicated they completed the questionnaire
2. Oficina del Procurador del Paciente- Letter dated January 30, 2023. They presented the following comments:
  - The OPP offers, through the Office of the Assistant Ombudsman for Programmatic Affairs, orientation to patients on their rights and responsibilities and, in some cases, coordinates services they need. In addition, it handles complaints related to access to health services, intercedes so that the parties involved can reach an agreement and, when necessary, offers legal representation to patients through its Auxiliary Office of Legal Affairs. It also has an Education and Community Services Division whose efforts are aimed at making the entire population aware of the agency's services, as well as their rights and responsibilities as patients. Services are offered in the satellites offices of Comerio, Guayama, Mayaguez and San Juan.
  - The most common cause of complaints received overall during the current year was due to denial of access to services and denial of medications. The complaints filed with the OPP are due to patient dissatisfaction with the health facility and denial of:
    1. Medications
    2. access to outpatient health services
    3. 3. referral to specialist physicians

Attention to the complaints by the OPP translates into more patients receiving the medically necessary services to which they are entitled and were denied; thus avoiding hospitalizations, emergency room visits, further deterioration in health and sometimes even death.
  - OPP projects an increase in its services due to several reasons. Among them are:
    1. Act No. 47 of July 23, 2017, which expands the jurisdiction of the OPP so that it can evaluate complaints from private patients and Medicare Advantage plans. This law recognizes the legitimacy of health facilities and health service providers to file complaints before the OPP. This law



recognizes the legal standing of health facilities and health service providers to file complaints before the OPP regarding denials of hospitalization authorizations.

2. Implementation of the new Vital Plan of the Puerto Rico Health Insurance Administration (ASES). Our experience dictates that these changes generate doubts, increasing the demand for counseling and grievance services.
3. ACLU- Letter dated February 23, 2023. They provided information about their roles in the civil rights movement. The main role is to help establish a robust public policy that promotes the protection of human rights. that promotes the protection of fundamental human rights for all people, respect for diversity respect for diversity, community participation in decision making, and open community participation in decision making, and open access to justice for traditionally disadvantaged to justice for traditionally disadvantaged sectors.

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

All comments received were evaluated and addressed in this document.

## IV-Needs Assessment and Gaps Analysis

### **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.

**Template:****OPTIONAL Homeless Needs Inventory and Gap Analysis Table (COC-503)**

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	32	8	133	0	0								
Transitional Housing	15	1	30	0	7								
Permanent Supportive Housing	115	38	485	0	#								
Other Permanent Housing	81	26	81	0	0								
Sheltered Homeless						7	190	7	8				
Unsheltered Homeless						7	95	7	8				
<b>Current Gap</b>										7	4	197	186

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

As part of the Continuum of Care South-Southeast of Puerto Rico (CoC-PR-503) strategy's to ending homelessness, the Municipality of Ponce is committed to reducing and ending homelessness in Puerto Rico. The Municipality participates as a board member of the CoC-PR503 that serves 54 Municipalities across the island. It also collaborates and maintains an ongoing relationship with the Coalition which was established to promote through alliances the integration, coordination and use of strategic use of resources among community, government and private sectors, develop new strategies to evaluate and reallocate resources, remove barriers to accessing services, evaluate unmet needs and provide supportive services and affordable housing needs, implement effective solutions to build economic security and promote and support activities that prevent homelessness.

The Municipality is an active member CoC-PR503 consisting of state agencies, municipalities, non-profit organizations, and formerly homeless citizens. The Municipality of Ponce works in collaboration with other ESG recipients, community, faith-based Organizations and Municipalities across the 54 Municipalities target area. In addition, the Municipality administers a variety of federal, state or locally funded programs with the same objectives that are outside the scope of this Plan. The Municipality also has a homeless admission preference in its Public Housing Administration Plan. As part of the CoC-PR 503, agencies that provides services to the homeless population in the Municipality are invited and encouraged to attend meetings of the CoC and participate in the Coordinated Entry System (CES) of the CoC. Consolidated oversight for the majority of the homeless assistance programs throughout the South-southeast area of Puerto Rico allows targeting of funds, consistency of program goals and policies and helps reduce and ultimately end homelessness in PR. Additionally, the Municipality actively participates in the Point-in-Time Count of sheltered and/ or unsheltered homeless individuals and families performed every other year.

It is important to highlight than different from the United States, where homelessness is essentially caused by the inability of households to pay for their housing related costs, in Puerto Rico, the main characteristic of the homeless population is that supportive services needs go far beyond the housing needs and it include a number of social and medical needs that require a core group of initiatives to deal with this social problem. The Municipality will serve the homeless strategy from a collaboration approach during the period covered by this Plan. This strategy allows the Municipality to coordinate services that fully address the barriers faced by homeless persons.

The critical components of the Municipality's homeless strategy may include the following:

- Tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA)
- Affordable rental housing development
- Provision of supportive services
- Acquisition and development of non-congregate shelters

The planning process will serve as a roadmap to define and design the services strategies and initiatives to deliver combine housing and supportive services that facilitate in re-housing homes individuals and/or families.

The data used for the HOME ARP plan was widely available in the COC 503 - 2022 Point-In-Time (PIT) count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC), along with data obtained from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2015-2019 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS). The Municipality evaluated the size, gap and demographic composition of each qualifying populations to assess the unmet

needs of those populations. In addition, the Municipality also identified gaps within CoC 503 HMIS. The data used by the Municipality was the most up to date data available for HOME-ARP's qualifying populations and their need for additional housing, shelter, or services during the formation of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan.

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

**Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.5**

The Point in Time (PIT) Census is conducted every two years by the two Continuum of Care in Puerto Rico: PR-CoC-502 and PR-CoC-503. The Municipality of Ponce is one of the cities covered by the South-Southeast Puerto Rico Continuum of Care (PR-CoC- 503) comprised of fifty-four (54) Municipalities. According to most recent Point in Time Count conducted from March 3-4, 2022, there are 2,215 unsheltered and sheltered homeless individuals and families across the island; 98.7% are unsheltered and 8.1 % of individuals are living in the streets with another adult or family member. Fifty – four (54%), **1,189** of the **homeless population** is located within the Municipality of Ponce jurisdiction (CoC-PR 503). Fourteen (14%) of the total homeless population is located within the PR-CoC-503 jurisdiction in which the Municipality of Ponce provides services to the homeless population.

Over the last years, Puerto Rico has experienced extraordinary social, economic, and environmental challenges. However, the CoC-503 homeless count had no significant changes when compared with PIT 2019 in which 1,190 homeless individuals were identified. The homeless situation is complex and those who remain on the streets are the most vulnerable. Of the 1,089 persons counted in 2022, 95% are unsheltered. More services need to be planned to fulfill the needs of the population. In order to plan and target services for those in need, next will outline the nature of homeless population for the Municipality of Ponce.

Currently, Ponce is second ranked with the highest number of homeless individuals within the CoC-503 jurisdiction. According to the PIT census, Ponce has 168 homeless individuals, 39 more individuals than last count in year 2019. The increase in the number of persons might be related to the fact the Municipality of Ponce is one of the Municipalities with more service providers and this population tends to migrate where they can reach out services. On the other hand, the population of the south of Puerto Rico was severely impacted in the beginning of year 2020, where many buildings and housing structures were damaged, due to several earthquakes, resulting in an increase in the number of homeless individuals and families at risk of homelessness. Despite the recovery efforts of the authorized agencies, there is still a need of

affordable housing and high quality housing in the Municipality of Ponce. The 2022 PIT count reported that 16% of the population was homeless due to natural disasters.

The PIT census shows that 79% of the homeless population is male while nearly 27% are women; 97% are individuals over the age 25 and 3% falls between 18 and 24 years of age. The survey also reveals that 56% of the population experienced homelessness for the first time, 10.7% of individuals are living in the streets with another adult or family member, 6% (8) fleeing from a domestic abuse, 4.5% (6) HIV positive, and 4% (2) veterans. CoC-503 PIT count shows that 95% of the population is unsheltered as opposed to 5% of sheltered population. This data is significantly different in the Municipality of Ponce in which on average 49% of the population is sheltered and 51% are unsheltered individuals.

Some of the reasons to become homeless were related to substance and alcohol abuse (32%), family problems (18%), unemployment (18%), natural disasters (16%), financial hardship (14%), mental health (7.2%), eviction (5%), related to COVID-10 pandemic (3%), child abuse (2%), domestic violence (1%) , other (19%) and, did not know or did not remember (9.6%).

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

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

The definition of at risk of homelessness is broad and no single source include all the population that may fit into the definition. The best available data to quantify and estimate this population is HUDS Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy data. Each year, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) receives custom tabulations of American Community Survey (ACS) data from the U.S. Census Bureau. These data, known as the "CHAS" data (Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy), demonstrate the extent of housing problems and housing needs, particularly for low-income households. The data is available at:

<https://www.huduser.gov/PORTAL/datasets/cp.html>

CHAS data identifies the number of families who have incomes below 30% of the area median income (AMI) and are likely to not have sufficient resources immediately available to attain housing stability. Based on the 2015-2019 CHAS, the Municipality identified a total of 1,485 households with income below 30% AMI with cost burden and 1,190 with severe cost burden. A household is cost burdened when they spend more than 30 percent of the household income on housing cost. A household is severely cost burdened when they spend more than 50 percent of

the household income on housing cost. For renters, housing costs include rent paid by the tenant plus utilities. The total number of households with cost and severe cost burden is 2,675.

Cost and severe cost burden is a risk of homelessness indicator but not all of the households are at immediate risk. For the purpose of this analysis, we have added a concept of Housing Insecurity. Housing insecurity is defined as not paying the full amount of rent or mortgage and/or utility bills (water, power) sometime in the previous 12 months. To estimate that number we used the data provided by HUD's Picture of Subsidized Households report (<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/assthsg.html>). This data set describes the nearly 5 million households living in HUD-subsidized housing in the United States. Assistance provided under HUD programs falls into three categories: public housing, tenant-based, and privately owned, project-based. Picture provides characteristics of assisted housing units and residents, summarized at the national, state, public housing agency (PHA), project, census tract, county, Core-Based Statistical Area and city levels. From this data set we obtained the percentage of households with no income and applied the percentage to the universe included in the CHAS data set. According to the dataset 15% of the subsidized households in Ponce has no income. When applying this percentage, we narrow down the number of households at risk to 502. The same report disclosed that there are 234 affordable units available for the persons at risk and PHA data indicates that only 46% of the vouchers awarded in Ponce found a unit. Taking that into consideration we calculated a housing need gap of 394 units for individuals or households at risk of becoming homeless. In addition, we determined to include all the 394 individual or households without income as families with supportive services need.

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

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

One significant data gap that exists in the qualifying population is for persons fleeing, or attempting to Flee, domestic Violence, dating Violence, sexual Assault, stalking, or human trafficking, as defined by HUD. Official data is insufficient to determine housing gap and need and during the citizen participation and consultation no data was provided by any of the parties consulted. To address the need of this population the Government and the CoC must work in collaboration to promote accurate data collection and compile statistics that can produce a profile of this qualifying population. Domestic violence can take various forms, and most often, it combines several types of violence, creating depression, injuries, illness and need for housing and supporting services. The data collection efforts will enable an understanding of how domestic violence undermines victims' economic security and quality of life.

During the consultation process we obtained data published by the Oficina de la Procuradora de la Mujeres 2021 annual report<sup>2</sup>. The data was collected as part of the CRIAS Project (Centro de Respuesta Integrada de Apoyo y Servicios para la Mujer). The Center for Integrated Response, Support and Services for Women (CRIAS) is a critical resource for women in Puerto Rico today and in the future. CRIAS is a call center through which the Office receives calls from victims of persons Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking. The call center directs the callers to the appropriate supportive service. Data from the system discloses the following:

<b>CRIAS</b>	
<b>Population</b>	<b>Number of Persons</b>
Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee	109
Domestic Violence	
Sexual Assault	1
Stalking	3
Other	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>

### **Demographic Characteristics**

The characteristics of the population was calculated using the same report. We must clarify that the characteristics used for this report were calculated for the whole Island and no local data is available.

In general, the predominant age range in the population of surviving victims served is 20 to 29 years of age, which represents 22% (279), followed by the group of 30 to 39 years old with 21% (269) and then by the group of 40 to 49 years old with 17% (213). The marital status of the population served through the hotline was mostly identified as single with 40% (504). Next, in descending order, married 20% (249), in a consensual relationship 10% (130), divorced 5% (67), separated in a consensual relationship 3% (42), separated 2% (21) and widowed 1% (13).

### **Relationship of the Population with the Aggressor**

<sup>2</sup> <https://docs.pr.gov/files/Mujer/Informes/Informe%20Anual%20OPM%202021.pdf>



The spouse of the victim represents the main aggressor with 19% (239) this was followed by someone with whom the victim had a consensual relationship with 15% (188) and the former partner with 19% (248). Acquaintances, whether a friend, neighbor, co-worker or others represent 15% (186) of the victims.

### Education

Most of the population served through the CRIAS system have a high school diploma (19% or 246). However, it is important to note that violence against women does not discriminate by level of education. The data shows that 12% (159) of the surviving victims reported having at least a bachelor's degree, 9% (115) reported having an associate's degree or technical certificate, 3% (43) a master's degree, and 1% (15) had a Ph.D or doctorate. This is an indication that any individual is exposed to living situations of violence in his or her environment, regardless of his or her academic preparation.

To calculate the housing gap, we used CHAS and PHA data. First, we narrowed down the number of total victims (115) by subtracting the potential opportunity to find a housing unit with a Housing Choice Vouchers available (110) to calculate the actual Housing gap to 5 units. However, all the potential victims (115) require supporting services.

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

**In other populations where providing supportive services or assistance under section 212(a) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12742(a)) would prevent the family's homelessness or would serve those with the greatest risk of housing instability**

The definition of other population included in CPD Notice 2021-10 is too broad and no single source of data include all the population that may fit into the definition. Again, the best available data to quantify and estimate this population is HUDS Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy data (see description above).

CHAS data identifies the number of families who have incomes between 30% and 50% of the area median income (AMI) and are likely to not have sufficient resources immediately available to attain housing stability. Based on the 2015-2019 CHAS, the Municipality identified a total of 975 households with income below between 30% and 50% AMI with cost burden and 685 with severe cost burden. A household is cost burdened when they spend more than 30 percent of the household income on housing cost. A household is severely cost burdened when they spend more than 50 percent of the household income on housing cost. For renters, housing costs include rent paid by the tenant plus utilities. The total number of households with income

between 30%-to 50% AMI cost and severe cost burden is 1,660. To estimate the number of housing gap for this population we used data from HUD's Picture of Subsidized Households dataset to estimate the number of families currently subsidized with income between 30-50% AMI. According to the data set 14.75% of the units are occupied by those families and only 46% will succeed in the housing market. Taking that into consideration we estimated the number of units available to that population (110 units). This resulted in a gap of 135 units. In addition, we determined to include all the 135 families without income as families with supportive services need.

**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 Municipality is an active member of the PR 503 CoC. Municipal representatives regularly attend PR 503 CoC meetings and work closely with CoC staff to administer homeless programs. As part of the preparation of this plan the Municipality consulted with the CoC. The Municipality coordinates constantly with the CoC and its members to address the need of the homeless persons. Municipal departments and offices provide direct services to the homeless persons including health, housing, economic assistance and other. The Municipality coordinates with the following entities:

- Centro De Deambulantes Cristo Pobre- Outreach, referrals for supportive services and transitional housing meal and nutritional services, housing search assistance, basic needs, transportation, legal services, HIV/AIDS drugs, mental health, employment training, case management, day care, and other.
- Lucha Inc.- Permanent housing, supportive services, transportation, legal assistance, mental health, HIV/AIDS care, drug abuse, employment, case management, and service referral.
- Hogar Crea- transitional housing, supportive services, transportation, health, drug and substance rehabilitation.
- Proyecto Amor que Sana- Safe Haven, Outreach, referrals for supportive services, meal and nutritional services, housing search assistance, basic needs, substance abuse treatment, transportation, legal services, HIV/AIDS, mental health, employment training, case management, and other.
- Casa Protegida Julia de Burgos Ponce- is the emergency shelter for women survivors of domestic violence and their children. The organization provides emergency housing, transitional housing, safety, case management, economic assistance and other supportive services.

The following table describe the inventory of affordable housing available for the qualifying population:

Program	Subsidized units available
Public Housing	5473
Housing Choice Vouchers	2023
Mod Rehab	34
Project Based Section 8	991
Total	8521

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

**Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.5, At Risk of Homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 91.5, Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking, as defined by HUD in the Notice 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**

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

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

The Homeless Needs Inventory and Gap Analysis Table (COC-503) above identifies the shelter and housing inventory gaps. In addition, there still some service gaps that that needs to improve in services providers to maximize the best use of resources including: (1) Adopting Systematically Housing First Approach; (2) Increasing Outreach Activities; (3) Increasing Specialized Mental Health Outreach Personnel; (4) Supportive Services for Homeless with Mental Health Illness; (5) Increasing one-bedroom public or private housing inventory; (6) Increasing housing inventory.

The Municipality of Ponce operates and promotes on homeless service providers the Housing First approach recognizing that most people struggle to access services while experiencing homelessness. However, service providers may still transitioning to this new approach and may face difficulties in the implementation phase. The modality, in which housing services are offered to those experiencing homelessness and allows them to choose what and when to access them

represents a paradigm change. The acceptance of participants regardless of their sobriety or use of substances, completion of treatment, and participation in services becomes a challenge in which there might be available beds that are not been used. More technical assistance is needed for services providers to embrace the housing first approach.

On the other hand, there is a service gap for outreach programs and mental health services for the homeless population. There are only one Organization that does outreach in the area in a regular basis. Additionally, and there is a need of more projects whose personnel have the expertise to reach out individuals with mental health illness.

There is also a service gap for persons who are at the earliest phase of recognizing that there is a problem, even though they are currently living in uninhabitable places and unable to function due to mental illness or due to a serious addiction to alcohol and/or drugs.

Most homeless are single individuals, therefore, there is a service gap for one-bedroom apartments in public housing facilities which difficult placement in permanent housing as the first choice.

Finally, there is a service gap for renters and owners who might be at risk of homelessness due to economic hardships, but do not qualify for prevention financial assistance or many other assistances that requires income eligibility.

**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 economic crisis has placed extremely low-income families at greater risk of homelessness. In particular, family households and single mothers are vulnerable due to the high costs associated with childcare and nutrition. Cost burden is another element that worsen the burden of this families. The characteristics of this families at risk are:

- Extremely low income or zero income
- Head of households unemployed
- Victim of domestic violence
- Women headed households
- Little or no support from family and/or friends; no natural supports
- Poor work history; inability to hold a job
- History of mental health or substance abuse

The identified needs of this population are subsidies for rent, job opportunities, and utility subsidies. As the data previously analyzed show, in Ponce the cost burden problem most affects the small family households and the elderly households.

**Identify priority needs for qualifying populations:**

All of the qualifying population have demonstrated need thus no preference or priorities will be established in this plan.

**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 Municipality used both statistical data and stakeholder input to identify the level of need along with gaps in Ponce's shelter/affordable housing inventory and service delivery systems. In order to determine the gaps in Ponce affordable housing inventory, the Municipality first identified its qualifying populations. The following table summarize the source data used to determine the qualifying population:

Qualifying Population	Data Source
<b>Homeless</b>	2022 Point In Time Survey Coc 503
<b>At Risk of homelessness</b>	CHAS Data A picture of Subsidized Households PHA Data (Success Rate) Consolidated Plan Data
<b>Fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking</b>	Consolidated Plan Data Data from Procuradora de Asuntos de la Mujer
<b>Other Population</b>	CHAS Data A picture of Subsidized Households PHA Data PHA Data (Success Rate)

Once the number of individuals in qualifying populations were identified, the Municipality used a formula that considered the number of available units (CoC, Picture of Subsidized Households) the success rate (PHA) and the income of the clientele (Picture of Subsidized Households).

The analysis provided the Municipality with a picture of the need of each population and the gaps for each type of housing type and service. The supportive services need was obtained from the input provided during the hearing, the CoC meeting and the online survey. The Municipality

provided multiple organizations with an opportunity to complete a HOME ARP needs online survey. The online survey also provided for the presentation of housing and services gaps. For a list of the parties consulted please see the attachment section.

## V- HOME-ARP Activities

### **Template:**

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

### **RESPONSE:**

The Lead Office for the administration of the HOME ARP is the Secretariat of Housing and Socioeconomic Development (SHSD) of the Municipality of Ponce. This agency is responsible for the oversight, management, monitor, coordination and evaluation of the HOME, CDBG, and ESG Programs. The Municipality is a grantee of those programs since 1976. The SHSD is also a Public Housing Authority with the responsibility of overseeing and managing HUD's Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8).

The SHSD will be responsible of drafting and publishing application forms and evaluation criteria. Solicitation publication, review, and selection will follow standard municipal policies that promote diversity in applicants and timely and cost-effective implementation. The request for applications will be promoted via social media, web page, and email to the members of CoC 503 and to all stakeholders that participated in the HOME-ARP planning process – including homeless service providers; providers that serve victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking; veterans' groups and affordable housing developers. Activities to be undertaken by the Municipality will not be subject to competition.

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

### **RESPONSE:**

The Municipality of Ponce will administer the HOME ARP funds with the assistance of a consultant (Harrison Consulting Group). Ponce will administer the activities to be funded with HOME-ARP allocations and will use the allowable portion of 15% of the funds assigned to the jurisdiction for such purposes. As part of its administrative duties the Secretariat of Housing and Socioeconomic Development of the Municipality of Ponce will evaluate proposed projects, conduct layering and underwriting analysis, and monitor all HOME-ARP activities for compliance with federal regulations.

Regarding specific activities the Municipality intends to administer projects funded with HOME ARP. Specifically, the Municipality intends to acquire or develop rental units with HOME ARP funds and use funds for the rehabilitation and operation of the non-congregated shelter.

***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:***

**RESPONSE:**

No 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. However, the Municipality conducted an RFP process to identify and select a qualified contractors to provide consulting services. The selection of the contractor followed the requirements of 2 CFR 200.317-326. The contractor selected was Harrison Consulting Group (HCG).

HCG was contracted to conduct the planning necessary to complete the allocation plan, no transfer of funds will occur until the allocation plan is approved by HUD. The contractors is seasoned local firm with ample experience in the provision of services to Public Jurisdictions. The firm have two Certified HOME Specialist and one subject matter expert in CoC. HCG has experience in the HOME and CoC programs and supported the CoC 503 Collaborative Entity. The tasks contracted with the independent contractor include:

- Preparation of the HOME ARP Allocation Plan.
- Revise the Citizen Participation plan (as needed).
- Prepare program designs for the activities to be undertaken.
- Provide technical assistance to the Municipality and subrecipients.
- Assists in the preparation of the annual performance report and any other required reports.
- Prepare progress reports.



**Requirement:**

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.

**Template:****Use of HOME-ARP Funding**

	Funding Amount	Percent of the Grant	Statutory Limit
Supportive Services	\$1,540,548	13.81%	
Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelters	\$500,696	-	
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	-	28.69%	
Development of Affordable Rental Housing	\$1,039,853	0.00%	
Non-Profit Operating	\$0.00	0.00%	5%
Non-Profit Capacity Building	\$0.00	15.00%	5%
Administration and Planning	\$543,722	13.81%	15%
<b>Total HOME ARP Allocation</b>	<b>\$3,626,819</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 municipality conducted a rigorous citizen participation and consultation process that was used for determining the proposed use of HOME ARP funds. As part of the consultation process, the Municipality held a working meeting with the members of the CoC 503's executive committee. During this meeting, a presentation was made explaining the scope of the

consultation and citizen participation process and how the housing and service unit gap had been calculated. The proposed distribution was also presented to the Coalition. The Executive Committee members agreed with the distribution of funds and did not request any changes.

The Municipality will use the HOME-ARP allocation to undertake three (3) eligible activities: 1) Acquisition with or without Rehabilitation, Rehabilitation of Existing Housing, or New Construction of rental Housing to be offered for rent to qualified populations, 2) to provide supportive services, 3) Production of Non Congregated Shelters. The three projects were identified during the citizen participation and consultation process and were selected based on the best data available and the input from the stakeholders. The need analysis shows a gap of 567 affordable rental units, 119 shelter beds, and supportive services for 1,046 persons.

Through the investments in HOME-ARP funding, paired with other funding sources, the Municipality will increase the capacity of to serve the qualifying population and will connect people with housing options, and eventually exit homelessness contributing to a decrease in the identified gap. HOME-ARP rental housing that will provide single family or multifamily housing. To promote the development of financially viable housing, the Municipality would opt for the most profitable development option. In addition to the affordable housing need the gap analysis also disclosed that there is a need for supportive service for the qualifying population.

#### **ACQUISITION WITH OR WITHOUT REHABILITATION, REHABILITATION OF EXISTING HOUSING, OR NEW CONSTRUCTION OF RENTAL HOUSING TO BE OFFERED FOR RENT TO QUALIFIED POPULATIONS**

**Funds to be allocated \$1,039,853**

**Goal: 7 units**

**Rental Housing Goal: 7 rental housing units**

As a result of the citizen participation and consultation process it was identified that there is a shortage of affordable housing that is preventing people with housing vouchers to obtain an affordable housing unit. This project or assignment will be carried out by acquiring housing units (standard and substandard) to convert them into rental housing. The housing characteristics of the units will range from 1 to 4 bedrooms, private bathroom (s) and kitchen.

Among the strategies to guarantee project success are the following:

- Produce a regulation for harmonious cohabitation of families within the project,
- Perform home inspections periodically to ensure that the home is kept in optimal conditions,

- Maintaining effective and productive relationship between the landlord and tenant to ensure property maintenance.

The location of these homes will be anywhere in the municipality of Ponce, except in areas susceptible to flooding or landslides for the safety of the inhabitants. The goal is to acquire seven (7) housing units.

## **PROVISION OF SUPPORTIVE SERVICES**

### **Funds to be allocated \$1,540,548**

During the consultation process the organizations indicated that there is need for supportive services that need to be provided to the qualifying population. Based on the identified need the Municipality is allocating HOME ARP resources for the provision of a broad range of supportive services to qualifying individuals or families as a separate activity or in combination with other HOME-ARP activities. The need analysis shows a gap of supportive services for 1,046 individuals or households among the qualifying population in Ponce.

The Municipality will provide HOME-ARP funds for a broad range of supportive services to the qualifying individuals and families that meet HUD's requirements. The eligible supportive services include (1) McKinney-Vento Supportive Services; (2) HOME-ARP Homelessness Prevention Services; and (3) Housing counseling services, except homeowner assistance and related services. Eligible costs associated with McKinney-Vento supportive services and homelessness prevention supportive services include: Costs of child care, Costs of improving knowledge and basic educational skills, Costs of establishing and/or operating employment assistance and job training programs, Costs of providing meals or groceries, Costs of assisting eligible program participants to locate, obtain and retain housing, Costs of certain legal services, Costs of teaching critical life management skills, Financial assistance costs, including, Rental application fees, Security deposits, Utility deposits, Payment of rental arrears. Costs associated with housing counseling services include staff salaries and overhead costs of HUD-certified housing counseling agencies related to directly providing eligible housing counseling services to HOME-program participants. Other costs are the development of a housing counseling workplan, marketing and outreach, Intake, financial and housing affordability analysis, action plans that outline what the housing counseling agency and the client will do to meet the client's housing goals and that address the client's housing problem(s).

The services will be provided in accordance with the requirements of Section D (page 42) of CPD Notice 2021-10. Supportive services may be provided to individuals and families who meet the definition of a qualifying population who are not already receiving these services through another

program. The Municipality will develop policies and procedures for the undertaking of the activity.

## **PRODUCTION OF NON-CONGREGATED SHELTER FOR QUALIFYING POPULATIONS**

**Funds to be allocated \$500,696**

**Goal: 10 units**

**Non Congregated Shelter Goal: 10 units**

The gap and need analysis disclosed a need for non-congregated shelter in Ponce. During the PIT survey a total of 152 unsheltered homeless were identified. The available beds (33) are not sufficient to house and provide emergency shelter to the homeless population. The calculated gap for non-congregated shelter is 119 beds. The survey and the consultation with the CoC concurred with our analysis. The preferred options for non-congregated are:

1. Scattered units
2. Acquisition of buildings
3. Conversion or rehabilitation of existing shelters

In addition to the beds supportive services are needed for the homeless population to be provided with shelter. Eligible cost must be consistent with section E (page 55) of CPD 2021-10 Notice.

## **ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING**

**Funds to be allocated \$543,722**

The Municipality will use 15% of the HOME ARP grant for eligible Administration and Planning. In accordance with CPD Notice 2021-10 the Municipality will use the Administration and Planning Cost for:

- Salaries, wages, and related costs of the PJ's staff
- Travel costs incurred for official business in carrying out the HOME-ARP program
- Administrative services performed under third party contracts or agreements, including such services as general legal services, accounting services, and audit services.
- Other costs for goods and services required for administering the HOME-ARP program
- Costs of administering HOME-ARP supportive services programs
- Staff and overhead costs of the PJ directly related to carrying out a HOME-ARP project
- The provision of information and other resources to residents and citizen organizations
- Activities to affirmatively further fair housing (AFFH)
- Preparation of the HOME-ARP allocation plan
- Costs of complying with the applicable Federal requirements

- Provide all or a portion of its HOME-ARP administrative funds to subrecipients and contractor

The cost incurred will comply with the Cost Principles contained in subpart E of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at 2 CFR part 200.

***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 citizen participation and consultation process showed a lack of affordable housing units to serve all the qualifying population. The following are the highlights of the characteristics that provided a rationale to fund eligible activities:

- There are 152 unsheltered homeless in Ponce and 100% of them are in need of supportive services
- There is a need for 119 shelter units in Ponce.
- Unadjusted HUD CHAS data shows that 2,675 households with income below 30% AMI in Ponce are facing cost or severe cost burden.
- Data for HUD' Picture of Subsidized Households data shows that 18.75% of the housed households has no income.
- The Ponce Market only have 234 affordable units.
- The calculated Affordable Housing Gap for persons at risk of becoming homeless are 394 units.
- Data from the CRIAS Project (Centro de Respuesta Integrada de Apoyo y Servicios para la Mujer) show 115 women with supportive service needs.
- Based on the available data the housing needed for persons fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking is 59.
- HUD CHAS data shows that 1,660 households in Ponce with income between 30 to -50% AMI are facing cost or severe cost burden.
- Using the available data, the Municipality estimates the number of Other Population (as defined by CPD Notice 2021-10) is 135.
- Data provided by the section 8 program and CoC shows that voucher holders are having difficulties in finding units in the market.
- Detached affordable housing units are more suitable to house women and families homeless.
- The Consultation process disclosed that supportive services are needed to all the qualifying population.
- Observations and comments received during the participation process of this HOME-ARP Plan reinforced the need for additional rental housing.

All of the above support the HOME-APR projects proposed by the Municipality. The CoC concurred with our Gap Analysis and distribution of funds.

## VI-HOME-ARP Production Housing Goals

### **Template**

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

### **RESPONSE:**

After the completion of the analysis of the data and information collected during the citizen participation and consultation the municipality determined to allocated funds to two (2) housing activities:

Activity	Allocated Amount
Acquisition with or without Rehabilitation, Rehabilitation of Existing Housing, or New Construction of rental Housing	\$1,039,853
Non-Congregated Shelter	\$500,696

The Municipality is allocating \$1,039,853 for the acquisition of existing housing with or without Rehabilitation, or Rehabilitation of Existing Housing, or New Construction of rental Housing. The Municipality estimates that 7 affordable rental housing units for qualifying populations will be produced with funding support from its HOME-ARP allocation. The second housing activity that is proposed by the Municipality is the production of non-congregated shelter. The proposed affordable housing goal is 10 units. In addition, the municipality allocated resources for the provision of Supportive services that will be available to provide services to 883 persons. The following are the proposed production goals:

- Affordable Housing- 7 units
- Production of Non Congregated shelters – 10 units
- Supportive services- 883 person

***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:***

**RESPONSE:**

As established above the Municipality affordable rental housing production goal for HOME-ARP is 17 housing units. The gap analysis disclosed that there is need for affordable housing for all the qualifying population. This investment of funds will result in the needed new supply of affordable rental housing units and solve the problem of clients with housing vouchers residing in shelters or on the street because of no affordable rental units in the community. Taking that into consideration the Municipality proposed the use of HOME ARP resources for production of affordable rental housing and the production of non-segregated shelter. The Municipality will work with nonprofit organizations to provide case management and wrap-around services to the families placed in rental housing. This program addresses the priority need of the lack of rental housing and non congregated shelter for qualifying populations. This activity will reduce the gap for affordable housing and will serve as the starting point for a similar strategy with CDBG and HOME Funds. The Municipality will request proposals from nonprofit organizations and or developers. In addition, the Municipality will identify units in the market that comply with the property standards that can be acquired and used for rental. Also HOME ARP resources will be used for the existing Elderly Shelter operated by the Municipality. The expected due date for delivering affordable housing is late mid 2024 and early 2025. The action to be taken by the Municipality was supported by the CoC during the consultation meeting.



## VII- Preferences

### Requirement:

A preference provides a priority for the selection of applicants who fall into a specific QP or category (e.g., elderly or persons with disabilities) within a QP (i.e., subpopulation) to receive assistance. A *preference* permits an eligible applicant that qualifies for a PJ-adopted preference to be selected for HOME-ARP assistance before another eligible applicant that does not qualify for a preference. A *method of prioritization* is the process by which a PJ determines how two or more eligible applicants qualifying for the same or different preferences are selected for HOME-ARP assistance. For example, in a project with a preference for chronically homeless, all eligible QP applicants are selected in chronological order for a HOME-ARP rental project except that eligible QP applicants that qualify for the preference of chronically homeless are selected for occupancy based on length of time they have been homeless before eligible QP applicants who do not qualify for the preference of chronically homeless.

Please note that HUD has also described a method of prioritization in other HUD guidance. Section I.C.4 of Notice CPD-17-01 describes Prioritization in CoC CE as follows:

“Prioritization. In the context of the coordinated entry process, HUD uses the term “Prioritization” to refer to the coordinated entry-specific process by which all persons in need of assistance who use coordinated entry are ranked in order of priority. The coordinated entry prioritization policies are established by the CoC with input from all community stakeholders and must ensure that ESG projects are able to serve clients in accordance with written standards that are established under 24 CFR 576.400(e). In addition, the coordinated entry process must, to the maximum extent feasible, ensure that people with more severe service needs and levels of vulnerability are prioritized for housing and homeless assistance before those with less severe service needs and lower levels of vulnerability. Regardless of how prioritization decisions are implemented, the prioritization process must follow the requirements in Section II.B.3. and Section I.D. of this Notice.”

If a PJ is using a CE that has a method of prioritization described in CPD-17-01, then a PJ has preferences and a method of prioritizing those preferences. These must be described in the HOME-ARP allocation plan in order to comply with the requirements of Section IV.C.2 (page 10) of the HOME-ARP Notice.

In accordance with Section V.C.4 of the Notice (page 15), the HOME-ARP allocation plan must identify whether the PJ intends to give a preference to one or more qualifying populations or a subpopulation within one or more qualifying populations for any eligible activity or project.

- Preferences cannot violate any applicable fair housing, civil rights, and nondiscrimination requirements, including but not limited to those requirements listed in 24 CFR 5.105(a).
- The PJ must comply with all applicable nondiscrimination and equal opportunity laws and requirements listed in 24 CFR 5.105(a) and any other applicable fair housing and civil rights laws and requirements when establishing preferences or methods of prioritization.

While PJs are not required to describe specific projects in its HOME-ARP allocation plan to which the preferences will apply, the PJ must describe the planned use of any preferences in its HOME-ARP allocation plan. This requirement also applies if the PJ intends to commit HOME-ARP funds to projects that will utilize preferences or limitations to comply with restrictive eligibility requirements of another project funding source. **If a PJ fails to describe preferences or limitations in its plan, it cannot commit HOME-ARP funds to a project that will implement a preference or limitation until the PJ amends its HOME-ARP allocation plan.**

For HOME-ARP rental housing projects, Section VI.B.20.a.iii of the HOME-ARP Notice (page 36) states that owners may only limit eligibility or give a preference to a particular qualifying population or segment of the qualifying population **if the limitation or preference is described in the PJ's HOME-ARP allocation plan**. Adding a preference or limitation not previously described in the plan requires a substantial amendment and a public comment period in accordance with Section V.C.6 of the Notice (page 16).

**Template:**

***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:***

**RESPONSE:**

The gap and need analysis support the determination of not giving preferences to any qualifying population. The Municipality does not intend to give preferences within qualifying populations. Affordable housing projects will be available to all qualifying populations.

***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:***

**RESPONSE:**

Not applicable, as a preference was not identified.

## VIII- Referral Methods

### Requirement:

PJs are not required to describe referral methods in the plan. However, if a PJ intends to use a coordinated entry (CE) process for referrals to a HOME-ARP project or activity, the PJ must ensure compliance with Section IV.C.2 of the Notice (page10).

A PJ may use only the CE for direct referrals to HOME-ARP projects and activities (as opposed to CE and other referral agencies or a waitlist) if the CE expands to accept all HOME-ARP qualifying populations and implements the preferences and prioritization established by the PJ in its HOME-ARP allocation plan. A direct referral is where the CE provides the eligible applicant directly to the PJ, subrecipient, or owner to receive HOME-ARP TBRA, supportive services, admittance to a HOME-ARP rental unit, or occupancy of a NCS unit. In comparison, an indirect referral is where a CE (or other referral source) refers an eligible applicant for placement to a project or activity waitlist. Eligible applicants are then selected for a HOME-ARP project or activity from the waitlist.

The PJ must require a project or activity to use CE along with other referral methods (as provided in Section IV.C.2.ii) or to use only a project/activity waiting list (as provided in Section IV.C.2.iii) if:

1. the CE does not have a sufficient number of qualifying individuals and families to refer to the PJ for the project or activity;
2. the CE does not include all HOME-ARP qualifying populations; or,
3. the CE fails to provide access and implement uniform referral processes in situations where a project's geographic area(s) is broader than the geographic area(s) covered by the CE

If a PJ uses a CE that prioritizes one or more qualifying populations or segments of qualifying populations (e.g., prioritizing assistance or units for chronically homeless individuals first, then prioritizing homeless youth second, followed by any other individuals qualifying as homeless, etc.) then this constitutes the use of preferences and a method of prioritization. To implement a CE with these preferences and priorities, the PJ **must** include the preferences and method of prioritization that the CE will use in the preferences section of their HOME-ARP allocation plan. Use of a CE with embedded preferences or methods of prioritization that are not contained in the PJ's HOME-ARP allocation does not comply with Section IV.C.2 of the Notice (page10).

### **RESPONSE:**

### **Template:**

***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 HOME ARP Housing funded projects will use a project waiting list specific to the project or activity. All qualifying individuals/families will have access to apply for placement on the waiting list for an activity or project. The Municipality will select eligible households from a chronological waiting list for each of the eligible activities.

***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):***

The PJ will not use the CE.

***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 PJ will not use the CE.

***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):***

The PJ will not use the CE process in combination with any other referral method.

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

### Requirement:

Limiting eligibility for a HOME-ARP rental housing or NCS project is only permitted under certain circumstances.

- PJs must follow all applicable fair housing, civil rights, and nondiscrimination requirements, including but not limited to those requirements listed in 24 CFR 5.105(a). This includes, but is not limited to, the Fair Housing Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, section 504 of Rehabilitation Act, HUD's Equal Access Rule, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, as applicable.
- A PJ may not exclude otherwise eligible qualifying populations from its overall HOME-ARP program.
- Within the qualifying populations, participation in a project or activity may be limited to persons with a specific disability only, if necessary, to provide effective housing, aid, benefit, or services that would be as effective as those provided to others in accordance with 24 CFR 8.4(b)(1)(iv). A PJ must describe why such a limitation for a project or activity is necessary in its HOME-ARP allocation plan (based on the needs and gap identified by the PJ in its plan) to meet some greater need and to provide a specific benefit that cannot be provided through the provision of a preference.
- For HOME-ARP rental housing, section VI.B.20.a.iii of the Notice (page 36) states that owners may only limit eligibility to a particular qualifying population or segment of the qualifying population if the limitation is described in the PJ's HOME-ARP allocation plan.
- PJs may limit admission to HOME-ARP rental housing or NCS to households who need the specialized supportive services that are provided in such housing or NCS. However, no otherwise eligible individuals with disabilities or families including an individual with a disability who may benefit from the services provided may be excluded on the grounds that they do not have a particular disability.

***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:***

### **RESPONSE:**

As a result of the need and gap analysis conducted for this plan all the qualifying population has ample need for housing and services. Taking this into consideration the two (2) housing activities to be undertaken by the Municipality: 1) Acquisition with or without Rehabilitation, Rehabilitation of Existing Housing, or New Construction of rental Housing, and 2) Production of Non Congregated Shelter, will serve all the qualifying populations. Any project selected for funding will be available for all the qualifying populations. The Municipality will ensure that the tenant selection policy complies with the Fair Housing Act.

***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:***

**RESPONSE:**

The Municipality will not implement a limitation.

***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):***

**RESPONSE:**

Not applicable.

## X- HOME-ARP Refinancing Guidelines

### Requirement:

If the PJ intends to use HOME-ARP funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily rental housing that is being rehabilitated with HOME-ARP funds, the PJ must state its HOME-ARP refinancing guidelines in accordance with [24 CFR 92.206\(b\)](#). The guidelines must describe the conditions under which the PJ will refinance existing debt for a HOME-ARP rental project, including:

### RESPONSE:

The Municipality of Ponce will not use HOME ARP funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily rental housing that is being rehabilitated.

- ***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***

### RESPONSE:

The Municipality will not use HOME ARP funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily rental housing that is being rehabilitated.

- ***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.***

### RESPONSE:

Not Applicable, see above.

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

### RESPONSE:

Not Applicable, see above.

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

**RESPONSE:**

Not applicable, see above.

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

**RESPONSE:**

Not applicable, see above.

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

**RESPONSE:**

Not applicable, see above.



## XI-Attachments

## Attachment 1- Invitation to Public Hearing Notice



### AVISO VISTA PÚBLICA

Para conocimiento del público en general y de conformidad con las disposiciones del Artículo 8.6 de la Ley 161-2009, según enmendada, conocida como "Ley para la Reforma del Proceso de Permisos de Puerto Rico", la Ley Num. 38 -2017, según enmendada, conocida como "Ley de Procedimiento Administrativo Uniforme del Gobierno de Puerto Rico", el Reglamento Conjunto para la Evaluación y Expedición de Permisos relacionados al Desarrollo, Uso de Terrenos y Operación de Negocios, en adelante Reglamento Conjunto y cualquier otra disposición de ley aplicable, se informa que la Oficina de Gerencia de Permisos ("OGPe") celebrará vista pública para el caso que se describe a continuación:

Proyecto/Peticionario: INSTITUTO SOCIO-ECONOMICO COMUNITARIO (INSEC), INC.  
Caso Num. 2022-462696-PU-190329  
Dueño de la Propiedad: Elizabeth M. Padrón Colón  
Calificación: Residencial Intermedio (R-4)  
Cualquier interesado en acceder y participar en la Vista Pública Virtual puede a través de: [www.ddec.pr.gov/vistaspublicas](http://www.ddec.pr.gov/vistaspublicas)  
Fecha: 6 de febrero de 2022  
Hora: 9:30 a.m.  
Dirección de la acción propuesta: Ave. Boulevard #3457, Urb. Levittown, Toa Baja, Puerto Rico 00949

En la vista del caso de referencia se interesa discutir, pero sin limitarse a: solicitud de permiso de uso vía variación en uso para oficinas administrativas. La solicitud se evaluará a tenor, pero sin limitarse, a lo establecido en las Reglas 6.1.3 y 6.3.1 del Reglamento Conjunto y sus disposiciones sobre variación en uso. La parte proponente tendrá que justificar su solicitud para la concesión de la variación.

Se convoca e invita al público en general a comparecer y participar a la vista pública a celebrarse mediante el método alterno ("virtual"), con acceso al público general, además de las partes reconocidas. Los procedimientos para la celebración de la vista serán los establecidos en las secciones 2.1.10.7 a 2.1.10.15 del Reglamento Conjunto. Si una parte debidamente citada no participa o comparece a la conferencia con antelación a la vista, a la vista pública o a cualquier otra etapa durante el procedimiento adjudicativo, el funcionario que presida la misma podrá declarar en rebeldía, multarla y continuar el procedimiento sin su participación, pero notificará por escrito a dicha parte su determinación según la Regla 2.1.7 (Notificaciones), los fundamentos para la misma, el recurso de revisión disponible y el plazo para ejercerlo.

Se advierte que las partes, incluyendo corporaciones y sociedades, podrán, pero no están obligadas a, comparecer asistidas por abogado. Salvo justa causa, la vista no podrá ser transferida. Cualquier solicitud de transferencia de vista tendrá un cargo de \$100.00, y deberá ser presentada con no menos de cinco (5) días de antelación a la fecha de la misma a través del Sistema Unificado de Información ("Single Business Portal") de la OGPe, expresando las razones que justifican la solicitud. Deberá, además, cubrir los costos que conlleve la notificación de la transferencia y anunciar el nuevo señalamiento mediante la publicación de un nuevo aviso de prensa. El peticionario de la transferencia de la vista notificará y enviará copia de la solicitud simultáneamente a las otras partes ya reconocidas en el proceso y certificará el cumplimiento con lo aquí expuesto en la propia solicitud de transferencia. El Reglamento Conjunto faculta al Oficial Examinador a imponer una multa de \$500.00 a toda persona que observe una conducta irrespetuosa durante la vista, o que intencionalmente interrumpa o dilate los procedimientos sin causa justificada.

Cualquier persona podrá requerir examinar el expediente o solicitar copia del mismo mediante solicitud (SCE) a través del Single Business Portal en la página <https://sbp.ogpe.pr.gov/> o en cualquier oficina de la OGPe. Podrá, además, haciendo referencia al número de solicitud, presentar por escrito sus comentarios a través de [notificaciones\\_ogpe@ddec.pr.gov](mailto:notificaciones_ogpe@ddec.pr.gov) o a PO Box 41179, San Juan, PR 00940-1179 en cualquier momento previo a la fecha de la vista. El Oficial Examinador, motu proprio o a solicitud de parte, podrá conceder un término adicional para someter comentarios, que en ningún caso excederá de diez (10) días desde que concluya la vista. Debido a la emergencia causada por la pandemia del Covid-19 el Servicio al Cliente de la OGPe tanto en su Oficina Central en San Juan como en las Oficinas Regionales, será limitado y mediante coordinación previa al respecto.



### COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO Municipality Autonomous of Ponce Department of Housing and Economic Development INVITATION TO VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING

The Municipality of Ponce will prepare the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan that will be submitted in compliance with the federal regulations of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), per Notice CPD-21-10 issued on September 13, 2021 establishing the requirements for funds appropriated under section 3205 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-2) ("ARP") for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME).

The HOME-ARP funding allocation to the Municipality of Ponce was allocated \$3,624,819 and the funds will be used to provide homelessness assistance and supportive services assisting qualifying individuals or families. HOME-ARP defines qualifying individuals or families as those that are (1) homeless, as defined in section 103(a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 11302(a)) ("McKinney-Vento"); (2) at risk of homelessness, as defined in section 401 of McKinney-Vento; (3) fleeing, or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking; (4) part of other populations where providing supportive services or assistance would prevent a family's homelessness or would serve those with the greatest risk of housing instability; or (5) veterans and families that include a veteran family member that meet the criteria in one of (1)-(4).

Possible activities with HOME-ARP funds may be:

- Supportive services
- Development of affordable rental housing
- Tenant Based Rental Assistance (Vouchers)
- Acquisition and Development of Non-congregated Shelters.

This Plan will include the strategy for the distribution of the HOME-ARP funds to address the priority; the range of activities the PJ it may undertake; 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 or will provide any portion of its HOME-ARP administrative funds to a subrecipient or contractor.

Section 24 CFR 91.105(b)(3) requires the Municipality to hold public hearings throughout the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan public participation process, following its applicable fair housing and civil rights requirements and procedures for effective communication, accessibility and reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities and providing meaningful access to participation by limited English proficient (LEP) residents that are in its current Citizen Participation Plan.

In accordance with the protocols established because of the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Municipality will carry out these public hearings virtually on the following dates, hours and using the electronic address indicated below:

Date	Hearing	Time	electronic address (link to the hearing)
February 06, 2023	Virtual Public Hearing HOME-ARP	10:00 a.m.	<a href="https://meet.goto.com/604171413">https://meet.goto.com/604171413</a>

Interested parties are encouraged to connect to these virtual public hearings, so that they can actively participate in the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan public participation process. If any resident of the Municipality, public agency or legal personnel has any questions about this notice, they can contact: Mrs. Rebecca Ramos Franceschini, Housing Department Director, at the following email or postal address:

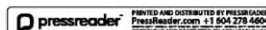
Leda. Rebecca Ramos Franceschini  
Directora  
Departamento de Vivienda  
[Rebecca.Ramos@ponce.pr.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Ramos@ponce.pr.gov)  
P.O. Box 331709  
Ponce, PR, 007331709

Persons with disabilities and/or special needs who are interested in participating in the Public Hearing should communicate prior to the day of the hearing with Mrs. Idelisse Santiago to the following telephone number teléfono (787) 843-7016, ext. 5247. In compliance with the laws of fair housing and accessibility, during the public hearings, subtitles will be provided to the presentation and the ability to receive questions through a chat in the same internet application.

Notice Published: January 19, 2023

Hon. Luis M. Irizarry Pabón  
Mayor

This notice is published in compliance with 24 CFR 91.105 and the Citizen Participation Plan of the Municipality.





**GOBIERNO DE PUERTO RICO**  
**Municipio Autónomo de Ponce**  
**Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Socioeconómico**  
**INVITACIÓN A VISTA PÚBLICA VIRTUAL**

El Municipio de Ponce preparará el Plan HOME-ARP, que se presentará de conformidad con los reglamentos federales del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los Estados Unidos (HUD), según el Aviso CPD-21-10 emitido el 13 de septiembre de 2021 y que establece los requisitos para los fondos asignados bajo la sección 3205 de la Ley del Plan de Rescate Americano de 2021 (P.L. 117-2) ("ARP") para el Programa HOME (HOME).

La asignación de fondos de HOME-ARP al Municipio de Ponce es de \$3,624,819, y se utilizará para proporcionar asistencia para personas sin hogar y servicios de apoyo que ayuden a individuos o familias que califiquen. HOME-ARP define a individuos o familias calificadas como aquellos que (1) no tienen hogar, como se define en la sección 103 (a) de la Ley de Asistencia para Personas sin Hogar McKinney-Vento, según enmendada (42 U.S.C. 11302 (a)) ("McKinney-Vento"); (2) en riesgo de quedarse sin hogar, como se define en la sección 401 de McKinney-Vento; (3) huir o intentar huir de la violencia doméstica, la violencia en el hogar, la agresión sexual, el acoso o la trata de personas; (4) parte de otras poblaciones donde la prestación de servicios de apoyo o asistencia evitaría la falta de vivienda de una familia o serviría a aquellos con el mayor riesgo de inestabilidad de vivienda; o (5) veteranos y familias que incluyen un miembro de la familia veterano que cumple con alguno de los criterios del (1)-(4).

Las posibles actividades con fondos HOME-ARP pueden ser:

1. Servicios de apoyo
2. Desarrollo de viviendas de alquiler asequibles
3. Asistencia de alquiler para inquilinos elegibles ("Tenant Based Rental Assistance")
4. Adquisición y Desarrollo de Abergues No Congregados ("Non-congregated shelters")

Este Plan incluirá la estrategia para la distribución de los fondos HOME-ARP para atender las prioridades identificadas; las actividades que el Municipio puede llevar a cabo; describir el método para solicitud de fondos y/o seleccionar desarrolladores, proveedores de servicios, subreceptores y/o contratistas y si el Municipio administrará actividades elegibles directamente o proporcionará cualquier parte de sus fondos administrativos de HOME-ARP a un subreceptivo o contratista.

La Sección 24 CFR 91.105 (b) (3) requiere que el Municipio celebre una vista pública durante todo el proceso de participación pública del Plan de Asignación HOME-ARP, siguiendo sus requisitos y procedimientos aplicables de vivienda justa y derechos civiles para una comunicación efectiva, accesibilidad y adaptación razonable para personas con discapacidades y proporcionando acceso significativo a la participación de residentes con dominio limitado del inglés (LEP) que están en su Plan de Participación Ciudadana actual.

El Municipio llevará a cabo estas vistas como se indica a continuación:

Fecha	Vista Pública	Hora	Localización
6 de febrero de 2023	Vista Pública HOME-ARP	10:00 a.m.	<a href="https://meet.goto.com/604171413">https://meet.goto.com/604171413</a>

Se exhorta a los residentes del Municipio a que participen de estas vistas públicas, para que puedan participar activamente en la preparación del Plan HOME-ARP.

Si algún residente del Municipio, agencia pública o personal jurídica tiene alguna pregunta sobre este aviso, pueden comunicarse con la Licenciada Rebecca Ramos Franceschini, Directora Departamento de Vivienda, al siguiente correo electrónico o dirección postal:

Lcda. Rebecca Ramos Franceschini  
 Directora  
 Departamento de Vivienda  
 Rebecca.Ramos@ponce.pr.gov  
 P.O. Box 331709  
 Ponce, PR, 007331709

Personas con discapacidad y/o necesidades especiales que interesen participar de la Vista Pública deberán comunicarse previo al día de la vista con la Sra. Idelisse Santiago, al siguiente teléfono (787) 843-7016, ext. 5247. En cumplimiento con las leyes de vivienda justa y accesibilidad, durante la vista del Municipio se proporcionarán subtítulos a la presentación y la habilidad de poder recibir preguntas a través de un chat en la misma aplicación de internet.

Aviso Publicado: 19 de enero de 2023

Hon. Luis Irizarry Pabón  
 Alcalde

Este aviso se publica en cumplimiento con el  
 Código de Reglamentos Federales en el 24 CFR 91.105 y el Plan de Participación Ciudadana.

# avisos y subastas



**Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico**  
**Municipio Autónomo de Juana Díaz**  
 Legislatura Municipal  
 Apartado 1409  
 Juana Díaz, Puerto Rico

RAMÓN A. VEGA SANTIAGO  
 PRESIDENTE

Tel. (787) 857-2165  
 Cel. 2223-2296  
 2224-2223  
[legislatura@juadiaz.com](mailto:legislatura@juadiaz.com)

## AVISO DE APROBACIÓN DE ORDENANZA

ORDENANZA NÚM. 013 SERIE 2022-2023

PARA AUTORIZAR AL DIRECTOR DE OBRAS PÚBLICAS MUNICIPAL INSTALE UN ROTULO DE IMPEDIDOS, Y PINTAR EL ENCINTADO DE COLOR AZUL FRENTE A LA RESIDENCIA DE LA SRA. GLADYS PRADO, EN LA URBANIZACIÓN VILLA EL ENCANTO CALLE G-16 DE JUANA DÍAZ

DICHA ORDENANZA FUE APROBADA POR LA LEGISLATURA MUNICIPAL DE JUANA DÍAZ, PUERTO RICO, EN LA CONTINUACIÓN DE LOS TRABAJOS DE LA SEGUNDA SESIÓN DEL AÑO 2022, CELEBRADA A LOS 27 DÍAS DEL MES DE OCTUBRE DE 2022.

ORDENANZA NÚM. 022 SERIE 2022-2023

PARA AUTORIZAR AL DIRECTOR DE OBRAS PÚBLICAS MUNICIPAL INSTALE UN ROTULO DE IMPEDIDOS, FRENTE AL PORTON DE LA RESIDENCIA DEL SR. ISRAEL FELICIANO GARCÍA EN LA CALLE 8 #214 DE LA COMUNIDAD SINGAPUR Y SE PINTA DE AZUL APROXIMADAMENTE 16 PIES DEL SARDINEL DE LA ACERA DEL PORTON PEQUEÑO DE LA ENTRADA DE LA RESIDENCIA HASTA LA ESQUINA QUE INCLUYE EL PORTON DE LA ENTRADA DEL VEHICULO.

APROBADA ESTA ORDENANZA POR LA LEGISLATURA MUNICIPAL DE JUANA DÍAZ, PUERTO RICO, EN LA SESIÓN EXTRAORDINARIA CELEBRADA A LOS 30 DÍAS DEL MES DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2022.

ORDENANZA NÚM. 025 SERIE 2022-2023

PARA AUTORIZAR AL DIRECTOR DE OBRAS PÚBLICAS MUNICIPAL INSTALE UN ROTULO DE IMPEDIDO, FRENTE A LA RESIDENCIA DEL SR. ISMAEL RODRÍGUEZ CASTILLO EN LA CALLE 1 F-10 DE LA URBANIZACIÓN VILLA EL ENCANTO Y SE PINTA DE AZUL APROXIMADAMENTE 22 PIES DEL SARDINEL DE LA ACERA DESDE LA ENTRADA DEL VEHICULO HASTA EL PORTON PEQUEÑO ENTRADA PRINCIPAL.

ORDENANZA NÚM. 026 SERIE 2022-2023

PARA AUTORIZAR AL DIRECTOR DE OBRAS PÚBLICAS MUNICIPAL INSTALE UN ROTULO DE IMPEDIDOS, FRENTE A LA RESIDENCIA DE LA SRA. GLORIA M. SANTANA RIVERA DEL SECTOR LUIS LLORENS TORRES 4 #16 A DEL BARRIO JACAQUAS DEL TERMINO MUNICIPAL DE JUANA DÍAZ.

DICHAS ORDENANZAS FUERON APROBADAS POR LA LEGISLATURA MUNICIPAL DE JUANA DÍAZ, PUERTO RICO, EN LA APERTURA DE LOS TRABAJOS DE LA PRIMERA SESIÓN DEL AÑO 2023, CELEBRADA A LOS 9 DÍAS DEL MES DE ENERO DE 2023.

COPIA CERTIFICADA DEL TEXTO COMPLETO DE ESTAS ORDENANZAS, PODRÁ OBTENERSE EN LA OFICINA DE LA LEGISLATURA MUNICIPAL DE JUANA DÍAZ, EN HORAS Y DÍAS LABORABLES LUEGO DEL PAGO DE LOS DERECHOS LEGALES CORRESPONDIENTES.

RAMÓN A. VEGA SANTIAGO  
 PRESIDENTE  
 LEGISLATURA MUNICIPAL

RAMÓN A. HERNÁNDEZ TORRES  
 ALCALDE  
 MUNICIPIO AUTÓNOMO DE JUANA DÍAZ





## Attachment 2- Public Hearing Presentation

# HOME American Rescue Plan Act

Vista Pública 6 de Febrero de 2023  
Municipio Autónomo de Ponce  
Hon. Luis M. Irizarry Pabón



SI USTED TIENE DIFICULTAD AUDITIVA O DISCAPACIDAD  
PUEDE UTILIZAR LA OPCIÓN DEL CHAT EN LA APLICACIÓN  
PARA HACER PREGUNTAS O PARA QUE ACLAREMOS SUS  
DUDAS.

LA VISTA SE OFRECERÁ CON SUBTITULOS EN ESPAÑOL

IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE DUE TO SPANISH PROFICIENCY  
LIMITATIONS, PLEASE NOTIFY US USING THE CHAT OPTION  
IN THE APP





- Registro Digital
- Presentación de Funcionarios
- Presentación
- Preguntas y Respuestas

## Objetivos

- Ofrecer a los participantes una visión general sobre los fondos HOME ARP
- Obtener insumo de participantes sobre necesidad, brechas de servicio y uso potencial de los fondos HOME-ARP
- Cumplir con los requisitos reglamentarios de Participación Ciudadana y Consulta



## American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Aprobada el pasado 11 de marzo de 2021

Ley de recuperación que atiende la recuperación Post COVID 19

Departamento de Vivienda Federal asignó fondos especiales bajo el programa HOME Investment Partnership Program





## Asignación de Fondos HOME-ARP

- Municipio de Ponce recibió una asignación de  
**\$ 3,624,819**



## Grant Agreement

- Municipio firmó contrato con HUD
  - Autoriza el uso de 5% de los fondos de Administración
  - El remanente de los fondos será aprobado una vez se presente y se apruebe el *HOME-ARP Allocation Plan*
  - **NINGUNA** actividad programática está aprobada (solo administración)
  - El municipio tiene que someter el *HOME-ARP Allocation Plan* para poder utilizar el remanente de los fondos
- Los fondos tienen vigencia hasta septiembre 30 de 2030



## Objetivos de los Fondos HOME-ARP

1. Atender la necesidad de vivienda de las personas sin hogar y otras poblaciones en riesgo

2. Proveer recursos para el desarrollo de vivienda a dicha población

3. Proveer recursos para la prestación de servicios de apoyo



## Población Eligible



### Quienes cualifican bajo HOME-ARP (Poblaciones Calificadas-Qualified Populations)

Personas Sin  
Hogar

Personas en  
Riesgo de  
Perder su  
Hogar

Personas  
huyendo de  
violencia  
doméstica,  
acoso, tráfico  
humano

Otras  
poblaciones  
que  
requieren  
servicios de  
apoyo y/o  
tienen  
inestabilidad  
de vivienda



## Actividades Elegibles



## Actividades Elegibles



Tenant Based Rental Assistance  
(Vouchers)



Desarrollo de viviendas de alquiler  
asequibles



Prestación de servicios de apoyo



Adquisición y desarrollo de albergues no  
congregados (Non Congregated Shelter).



## 1- Tenant Based Rental Assistance

### Se permite:

- Pagos de alquiler, depósitos de seguridad, depósitos y pagos de utilidades. (hasta el 100% de los costos).
- Renta = FMR o Payment Standard de Sección 8
- La familia puede seleccionar la unidad en el mercado siempre y cuando el alquiler sea razonable y cumpla con los estándares de propiedad aplicables (HQS).
- Se puede limitar la ayuda a un grupo en particular (Personas VIH/SIDA, víctimas de violencia doméstica)

### Flexibilidad y otros requisitos

- Terminación del contrato (multi-año)
- Si se otorga a unidades HOME o HOME-ARP no hay que inspeccionar las unidades
- Permite continuar asistiendo a personas que se encuentran ocupando unidades (no es requerida la inspección de HQS)



## 2- Desarrollo de Vivienda de Alquiler asequible

### Se permite:

- Adquisición de vivienda de alquiler estándar
- Construcción de viviendas de alquiler
- Rehabilitación de viviendas de alquiler
- Incluye la conversión de edificios no residenciales a vivienda

### Costos elegibles y otros requisitos

- *Hard and Soft costs*
- Costos operacionales del Proyecto

### Otros requisitos

Aplican los *Property Standards* de HOME  
15 años asequibilidad

Se requiere *layering* y *underwriting* de los proyectos

Proponentes son responsable de garantizar la viabilidad a largo plazo del proyecto (subsidio de alquiler)



## 3- Servicios de Apoyo

### Se permite:

- Opción 1- brindarlos como una actividad elegible por si misma
- Opción 2- Brindarlos en apoyo a una actividad de HOME-ARP
- Tres Categorías de servicios
  - Permitidos por el McKinney Vento Act
  - Servicios de prevención (similares a ESG)
  - Consejería de vivienda

### Ejemplos de Servicios de Apoyo

- Alimentos
- "Outreach"
- Tratamiento de abuso drogas / alcohol
- Transportación
- Manejo de casos





## 4- Adquisición y/o desarrollo de albergues no congregados

Uno o más edificios que:

- Proporcionan unidades de vivienda privadas o habitaciones para albergue temporero
- Que sirven a individuos/familias de poblaciones calificadas
- Donde **NO** se exige a los ocupantes firmar un contrato de arrendamiento u ocupación

### Se permite

- Adquisición de estructuras listas para ocupación
- Nueva Construcción, con o sin adquisición de terrenos
- Rehabilitación de estructuras existentes

### Costos elegibles

- Costos de adquisición
- Costos de Desarrollo (“hard and soft costs”)
- Reserva para gastos de remplazo de sistemas mayores durante la vida del proyecto

## 4- Adquisición y/o desarrollo de albergues no congregados – Tiempo Mínimo de Uso

- Adquisición solamente- 3 años
- Rehabilitación moderada (TDC <75% del valor de tasación)- 5 años
- Rehabilitación sustancial (TDC >75% del valor de tasación)- 10 años
- Nueva construcción – 10 años



## 5- Administración

### Se permite

- 15% del grant puede ser utilizado para administración y planificación del HOME-ARP
- Pueden ser delegados a CHDO o entidades sin fines de lucro\*

### Costos elegibles

- Salarios (incluyendo diferenciales) y beneficios marginales
- Información pública
- Costos de Ofrecer Vivienda Justa
- Costos Indirectos
- Preparación del HOME-ARP Plan

**\*Además se pueden delegar 5% adicional a CHDO y Entidades sin fines de lucro para desarrollo de capacidad.**



## Preferencias, Referidos y Subpoblaciones

- El Municipio podrá establecer preferencias para ciertas poblaciones para los proyectos a ser llevados a cabo (Ej. Violencia Doméstica, VIH/SIDA, etc.)
- Clientela de los proyectos:
  - Puede ser referida por el sistema coordinado del CoC
  - Puede ser manejada con una lista de espera en el proyecto
  - Combinación de ambos





## Requisitos para solicitar los fondos (HOME-ARP Allocation Plan)

### HOME-ARP Allocation Plan





## Consultas

- Propósito de la consulta es:
  - Identificar necesidad de la clientela
  - Identificar brechas en el sistema de servicios
  - Identificar actividades que se llevan a cabo en el Municipio
  - Oportunidades de colaboración y administración de las actividades
  - Obtener información para la selección de actividades HOME-ARP



## Aviso disponibilidad del Plan

- Se publicará un anuncio informando la disponibilidad del borrador del Plan (Opción de Redes Sociales, Periódicos o Página Web)
- Se recibirán comentarios sobre su contenido por un período de 15 días calendario a partir de la fecha de publicación del anuncio
- El Aviso indicará:
  - Actividades a llevarse a cabo
  - Cantidad asignada
- Los comentarios se considerarán en la preparación del Plan final.



## Proceso para seleccionar actividades



## Resultados Preliminares de Consulta

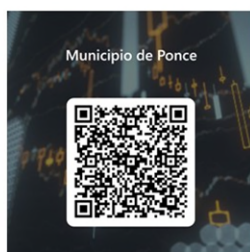




## Cuestionario de Insumo

Municipio prepare un cuestionario digital para recibir insumo

<https://forms.office.com/r/Fr70qGx61k>



## Preguntas y Respuestas

Persona Contacto:

Sra. Idelisse Santiago

[idelisse.Santiago@ponce.pr.gov](mailto:idelisse.Santiago@ponce.pr.gov)

<https://forms.office.com/r/Fr70qGx61k>



## Attachment 3- Public Hearing Attendees

### Ponce HOME ARP Public Hearing Attendees


#### Summary

Meeting Date	Meeting Duration	Number of Attendees	Meeting ID
February 6, 2023 8:56 AM EST	56 minutes	16	604-171-413

#### Details

Name	Email Address	Join Time	Leave Time	Time in Session (minutes)
Antonio Rodriguez	antonio.rodriquez@ponce.pr.gov	9:09 AM	9:52 AM	43
Beatriz Grau		9:04 AM	9:52 AM	48
Debra Echevarria SVDS Ponce		9:11 AM	9:52 AM	40
EDGAR		8:59 AM	9:52 AM	53
Francisco J. Rodríguez Fraticelli	francisco@coaliciondecoaliciones.org	8:56 AM	9:52 AM	55
Glorimar Nazario	glorimar.nazario@ponce.pr.gov	9:06 AM	9:52 AM	46
IDELISSE SANTIAGO		8:56 AM	9:52 AM	55
Irisbel Nunez , Guara Bi		8:56 AM	9:52 AM	55
Irma Roman	irma.roman@ponce.pr.gov	9:03 AM	9:52 AM	49
Johanna Valladares	johanna.valladares@ponce.pr.gov			
Sopeña		8:59 AM	9:52 AM	53
Joseph Harrison	harrison@hcgpr.com	8:56 AM	9:52 AM	56
Lcda. Rebecca Ramos		8:56 AM	9:52 AM	55
Nilsa López Rivera	ipvipr@yahoo.com	8:56 AM	9:52 AM	55
Teresa Carrero		8:56 AM	9:10 AM	13
Waldemar Rivera	waldemar.rivera@ponce.pr.gov			
Casiano		9:01 AM	9:30 AM	28
Waldemar Rivera	waldemar.rivera@ponce.pr.gov			
Casiano		9:35 AM	9:52 AM	16
Wilma Alejandro		9:00 AM	9:35 AM	35

## Attachment 4- Public Notice Availability of Draft Plan



**Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico**  
**Municipio Autónomo de Ponce**  
**Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Socioeconómico**

**AVISO DISPONIBILIDAD ENMIENDA SUSTANCIAL  
AL PLAN ANUAL 2021-2022**

El Municipio Autónomo de Ponce ha preparado una enmienda sustancial al Plan Anual 2021-2022 que incluye los cambios requeridos para poder recibir y utilizar los fondos HOME-ARP que están plasmados en el documento "HOME ARP Allocation Plan". Esta enmienda ha sido preparada en cumplimiento con los requisitos de la circular CPD 21-10, el 24 CFR 91.105 y el Plan de Participación Ciudadana del Municipio. La enmienda reconoce los fondos HOME-ARP delegados al Municipio que totaliza \$3,624,819. Luego del proceso de participación ciudadana y consulta estos fondos se han distribuido de la siguiente manera:

Actividad	Cantidad Asignada
Adquisición con o sin Rehabilitación, Rehabilitación de Vivienda Existente o Construcción de Vivienda de Alquiler	\$1,039,853
Servicios de Apoyo	\$1,540,548
Albergue No Congregado	\$500,696
Administración	\$543,722
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,624,819.00</b>


Los fondos estarán disponibles para todas las poblaciones calificadas según establecidos por HUD que incluye a:

1) Personas sin Hogar, 2) Personas en Riesgo de Perder su Hogar, 3) Personas huyendo o tratando de huir de violencia doméstica, violencia en citas, asalto sexual, acoso, o tráfico humano, y 4) Otras poblaciones en riesgo y con características de inestabilidad en la vivienda. La circular CPD 21-10 y el 24 CFR 91.105 le requieren al Municipio la publicación de este aviso público para que los residentes, las agencias públicas, Entidades de Base Comunitario y otras partes interesadas puedan revisar la enmienda, comentar y reaccionar a la petición de enmienda del plan anual 2021-2022. El documento conocido como "HOME ARP Allocation Plan" estará disponible para ser revisado por las partes interesadas en:

Departamento de Vivienda Municipal y Desarrollo Socioeconómico  
 2015 Blvd Luis A. Ferré Suite 102 Plazoleta Las Américas  
 Ponce, Puerto Rico  
 (Edificio Libre de Barreras Arquitectónicas)  
 Horario: Lunes a Viernes de 8:00 am a 3:30 pm  
 Atención: Lic. Rebecca Ramos - Franceschini  
 Tel.: 787-843-7016 ext. 5247


La enmienda y los documentos de apoyo estarán disponibles por 15 días calendario para que el público pueda hacer sus comentarios de forma escrita al correo electrónico: [rebecca.ramos@ponce.pr.gov](mailto:rebecca.ramos@ponce.pr.gov). Los comentarios serán evaluados, contestados e incorporados a la enmienda y luego se tramitará a la Oficina del Caribe del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano Federal (HUD) para evaluación y aprobación final. Si algún residente del municipio, agencia pública o persona jurídica tiene alguna pregunta sobre este aviso público, puede comunicarse con la Lic. Rebecca Ramos - Franceschini en horas y días laborables y/o a través del correo electrónico arriba indicado.


Aviso Publicado: 13 de marzo de 2023



**Hon. Luis M. Irizarry Pabón**  
Alcalde

Este aviso se publica en cumplimiento con el Código de Reglamentos Federales en el 24 CFR 91.105, la Circular CPD 21-10 y el Plan de Participación Ciudadana.





**COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO**  
**Autonomous Municipality of Ponce**  
**Department of Housing and Socioeconomic Development**

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT  
TO THE 2021-2022 ANNUAL PLAN**

The Autonomous Municipality of Ponce has prepared a substantial amendment to the 2021-2022 Annual Plan that includes the changes required in order to receive and use the HOME-ARP funds, and included in the HOME ARP Allocation Plan. The amendment recognizes HOME-ARP funds delegated to the Municipality in the amount of \$3,624,819. After the completion of the Citizen Participation and Consultation process these funds have been distributed as follows:


Activity	Allocated Amount
Acquisition with or without Rehabilitation, Rehabilitation of Existing Housing, or New Construction of Rental Housing	\$1,039,853
Supportive Services	\$1,540,548
Non Congregated Shelter	\$500,696
Administration	\$543,722
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,624,819.00</b>

The funds will be available to all the HOME ARP Qualifying populations as established by HUD that include: 1) homeless persons, 2) persons or households at risk of homelessness, 3) Persons fleeing, or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking; 4) Other at-risk populations with housing instability. CPD Circular 21-10 and 24 CFR 91.105 require the Municipality to publish this public notice to provide residents, public agencies, Community-Based Entities, and other interested parties the opportunity to review the amendment, comment on, and react to the 2021-2022 plan amendment. The document "HOME ARP Allocation Plan" will be available for review by stakeholders in:

Departamento de Vivienda Municipal y Desarrollo Socioeconómico  
 2015 Blvd Luis A. Ferré Suite 102 Plazoleta Las Américas  
 Ponce, Puerto Rico  
 (Edificio Libre de Barreras Arquitectónicas)  
 Horario: Lunes a Viernes de 8:00 am a 3:30 pm  
 Atención: Lic. Rebecca Ramos - Franceschini  
 Tel.: 787-843-7016 ext. 5247

The Amendment and its supporting documents will be available for public review for 15 calendar days. Comments may be submitted in writing to the following email [rebecca.ramos@ponce.pr.gov](mailto:rebecca.ramos@ponce.pr.gov). Comments will be evaluated, addressed and incorporated into the amendment. The final amendment will be submitted to the Caribbean Office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for review and approval. If any resident of the municipality, Public Agency or Legal Entity has any questions about this public notice, you can contact Mrs. Rebecca Ramos - Franceschini, Esq. during working hours and days and / or through the email indicated above.


Notice Published: March 13, 2023



**Hon. Luis M. Irizarry Pabón**  
Mayor

[hora#jiruthma@gmail.com](mailto:hora#jiruthma@gmail.com)

This notice is published in compliance with the Code of Federal Regulations at 24 CFR 91.105, CPD Circular 21-10 and the Citizen Participation Plan.



## Attachment 5- Consultation Letters

Consultation letters are available for review on the following links:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17va\\_\\_LrQz4JKkVTNyVd0tNS0EBqlyr4C?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17va__LrQz4JKkVTNyVd0tNS0EBqlyr4C?usp=sharing)

## Attachment 6- Results of Consultation Survey

12/03/2023, 09:50

Municipio de Ponce

## Municipio de Ponce

23

Responses

14:06

Average time to complete

Closed

Status

1. Por favor indique el Nombre de la entidad que usted representa:

23

Responses

Latest Responses

*"Oficina de la Procuradora de las mujeres"**"Departamento de Educación de Puerto Rico"**"Oficina para el Desarrollo Socioeconómico y comunitario."*

2. Por favor entre su Nombre y Apellidos

23

Responses

Latest Responses

*"Mildred Oyola "**"Norma L. Rivera Ortiz"**"Thais M Reyes Serrano"*

3. Por favor indique que puesto ocupa en la entidad.

23

Responses

Latest Responses

*"Ayudante Especial "**"Coordinadora Programa Homeless Children and Youth"**"Directora Ejecutiva "*

[https://forms.office.com/pages/designpagev2.aspx?auth\\_pvr=WindowsLiveId&auth\\_upn=harrison%40hcgpr.com&lang=en-US&origin=OfficeDotCom&...](https://forms.office.com/pages/designpagev2.aspx?auth_pvr=WindowsLiveId&auth_upn=harrison%40hcgpr.com&lang=en-US&origin=OfficeDotCom&...) 1/7



12/03/2023, 09:50

Municipio de Ponce

## 4. Entre su correo electrónico

23  
Responses

Latest Responses

*"Moyola@mujer.pr.gov"**"rivera\_no@de.pr.gov"**"Treyes@odsec.pr.gov"*

## 5. Entre su número de teléfono

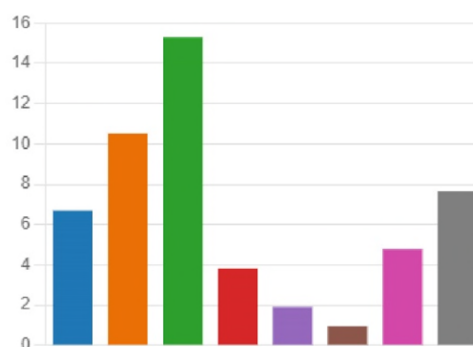
23  
Responses

Latest Responses

*"787 721 7676"**"787-773-2092"**"787-977-7060"*

6. ¿Cómo su Organización se relaciona con las siguientes poblaciones elegibles: personas literalmente sin hogar, personas huyendo de la violencia doméstica, abuso sexual, acoso o trata humana, veteranos, familias o alguna otra población? Indique, si es proveedor de los siguientes servicios (puede seleccionar mas de uno):

Albergue de Emergencia	7
Vivienda Permanente o Realoja...	11
Servicios de Apoyo	16
Vivienda/ Arrendador/ Administ...	4
Desarrollador de Vivienda Aseq...	2
Proveedor de los Fondos	1
Miembro de la Comunidad de I...	5
Other	8



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12/03/2023, 09:50

Municipio de Ponce

7. ¿Es su Organización miembro del Cuidado Continuo de Servicios para la población de personas sin hogar?



8. ¿En que Municipios su Organización provee los servicios? (Indique el/los Municipios):

23  
Responses

Latest Responses

"Toda la isla"

"Se le proveen servicios educativos a todos los estudiantes identificado..."

"Los 78 municipios"

9. Desde su Perspectiva como Organización, ¿Cuáles son las necesidades más apremiantes para atender a la población de personas sin hogar en Ponce? Ordene del mas importante al menos importante.



10. Desde su Perspectiva como Organización, ordene los siguientes servicios de apoyo del más importante al menos importante



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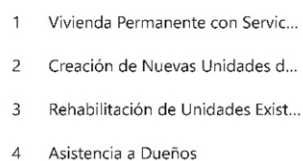
12/03/2023, 09:50

Municipio de Ponce

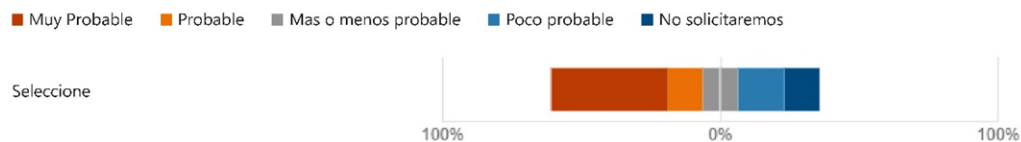
11. Desde su Perspectiva como Organización, ordene las actividades de Albergue no Congregados de la más importante a la menos importante.



12. Desde su perspectiva como organización , ordene las siguientes actividades de desarrollo de Vivienda Renta Asequible (de la más importante a la menos importante)



13. Qué probabilidad hay de que su entidad solicite los fondos de Prevención de Deambulancia

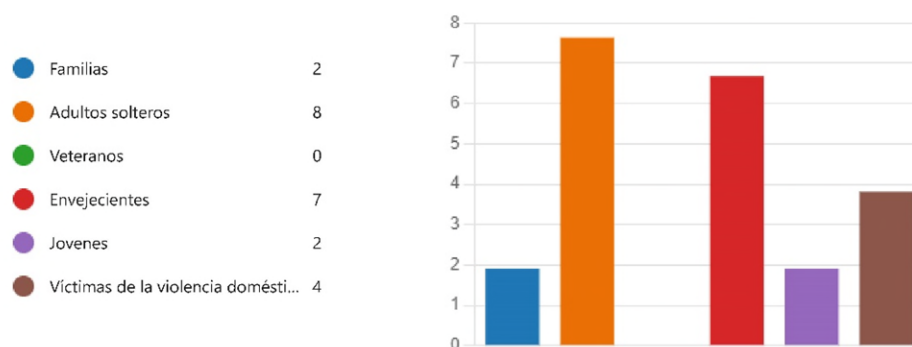


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12/03/2023, 09:50

Municipio de Ponce

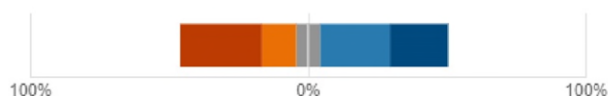
14. Las siguientes preguntas están diseñadas para identificar a la población sin hogar o en riesgo de convertirse en una persona sin hogar. De la siguiente lista, identifique la población con la mayor necesidad tomando en cuenta la experiencia de su Organización.



15. ¿Qué probabilidad hay de que usted solicite los fondos para Consejería de Vivienda?

☐ Muy Probable
 ☐ Probable
 ☐ Mas o menos probable
 ☐ Poco probable
 ☐ No solicitaremos

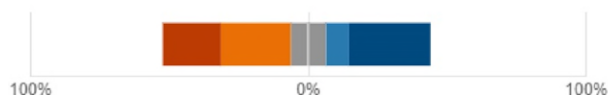
Seleccione



16. ¿Qué probabilidad hay de que usted solicite los fondos para Preparación para Empleo?

☐ Muy Probable
 ☐ Probable
 ☐ Mas o menos probable
 ☐ Poco probable
 ☐ No solicitaremos

Seleccione



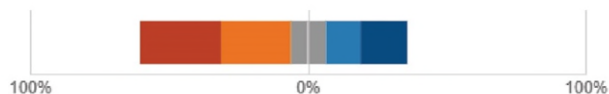
12/03/2023, 09:50

Municipio de Ponce

17. ¿Qué probabilidad hay de que usted solicite los fondos para desarrollar o capacitar en las Destrezas de Vida?

■ Muy Probable ■ Probable ■ Mas o menos probable ■ Poco probable ■ No solicitaremos

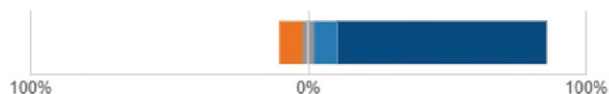
Seleccione



18. ¿Cree usted que los servicios de Consejería en vivienda como búsqueda de vivienda, derechos de los dueños y los inquilinos, manejo del presupuesto y consejería sobre la reparación de crédito tienen un impacto significativo en la comunidad?

■ No tiene impacto ■ Poco Impacto ■ No está seguro ■ Algo de impacto ■ Gran Impacto

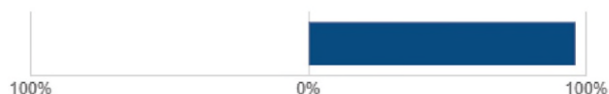
Seleccione



19. ¿Cree usted que la Prevención a la deambulancia tiene un impacto significativo en nuestra comunidad?

■ No tiene impacto ■ Poco Impacto ■ No está seguro ■ Algo de impacto ■ Gran Impacto

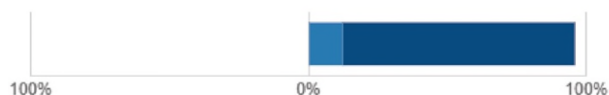
Seleccione



20. ¿Cree usted que la preparación para el empleo y/o la formación en destrezas de vida tienen un impacto significativo en nuestra comunidad?

■ No tiene impacto ■ Poco Impacto ■ No está seguro ■ Algo de impacto ■ Gran Impacto

Seleccione



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12/03/2023, 09:50

Municipio de Ponce

21. Aquí podrá emitir cualquier comentarios adicional que nos permita identificar la necesidad y prioridad de las poblaciones de personas sin hogar. De necesitar ayuda favor de enviar correo a: idelisse.Santiago@ponce.pr.gov

9

Responses

Latest Responses

*"Las personas sin hogar necesitan el seguimiento y apoyo directo, par..."**"No tenemos comentarios"*

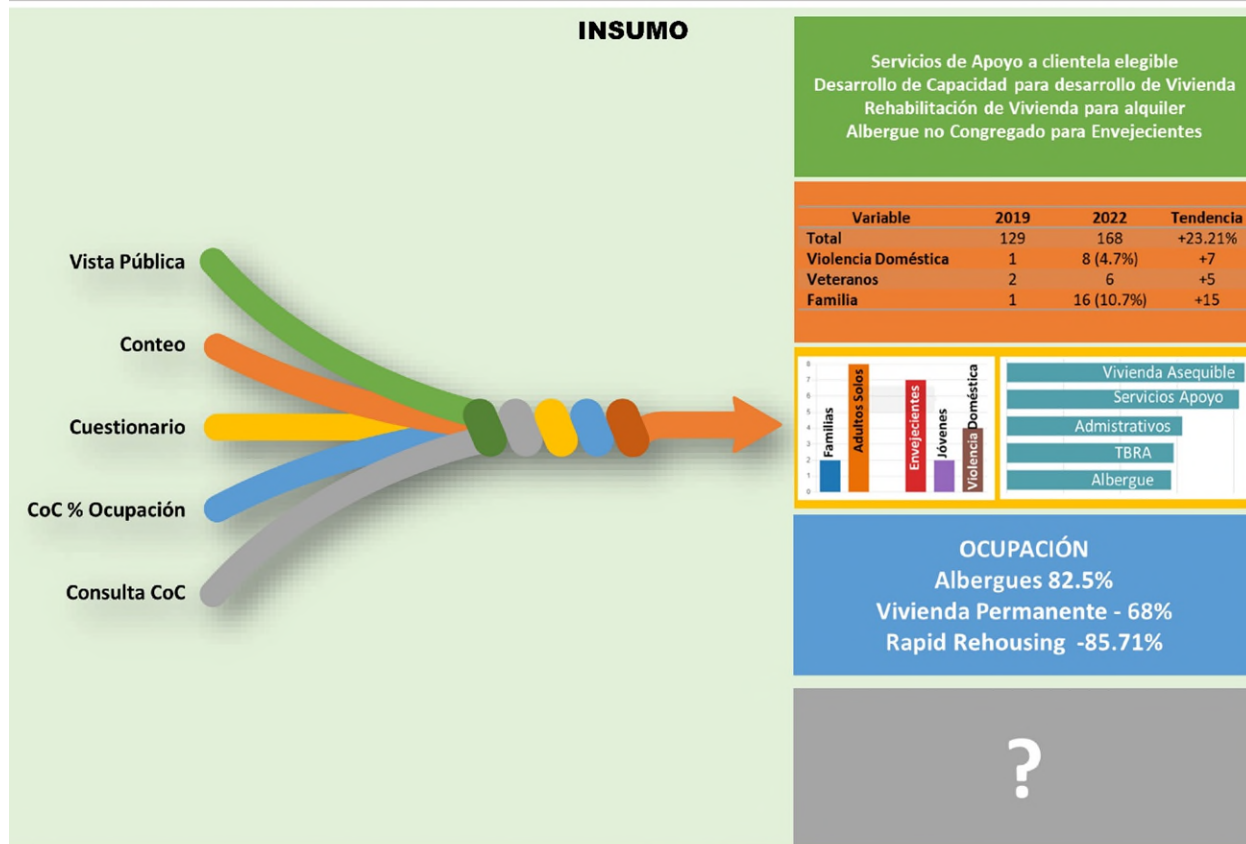
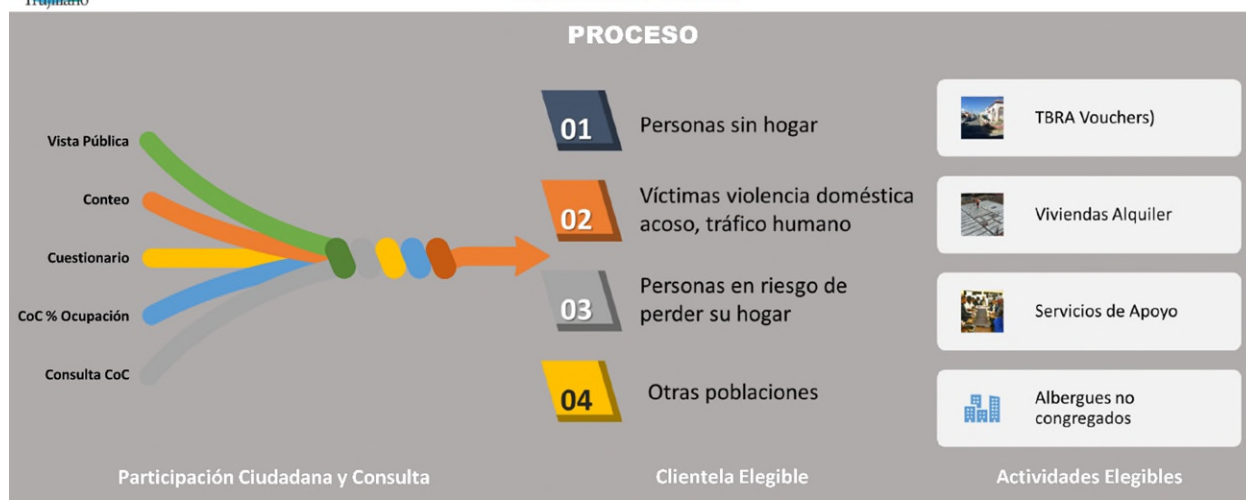
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## Attachment 7- Comments received from CoC

A meeting was held on March 8, 2023. During the meeting the Municipality presented a summary of the Citizen Participation and Consultation Process. A summary of the Gap Analysis and need was presented and the CoC concurred with the proposed distribution of funds.



## HOME ARP



### RESULTADO

- Todas las poblaciones muestran un brecha de servicios o vivienda
- Los servicios de apoyo son necesarios para todas las poblaciones
- La vivienda asequible es la actividad preferida
- El análisis de datos de HMIS muestra necesidad de albergue no congregado

Actividad	Presupuesto Recomendado
Vivienda Asequible	\$1,039,853
Servicios de Apoyo	\$1,540,548
Albergue No Congregado	\$500,696
Administración	\$543,722



## Attachment 8- Certifications and SF-424

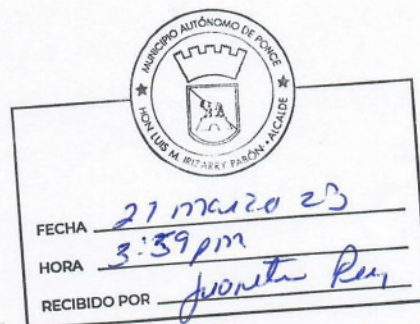


ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE PUERTO RICO  
MUNICIPIO AUTÓNOMO DE PONCE  
HON. LUIS M. IRIZARRY PABÓN

27 de marzo de 2023

**Hon. Luis M. Irizarry Pabón**  
Alcalde  
Municipio Autónomo de Ponce

**Lcda. Rebecca Ramos Franceschini**  
Directora Ejecutiva



**RE: Formas SF-424 HOME ARP**  
**Application for Federal Assistance**

Le acompaño para su firma los formularios y certificaciones correspondientes a la asignación de fondos HOME ARP del Departamento de Vivienda Federal. Estas forman parte de la documentación que es sometida con el Plan Anual para la revisión y aprobación de HUD.

De tener dudas al respecto, estamos en la mejor disposición de aclararles.

APROBADO :

**Hon. Luis M. Irizarry Pabón**  
Alcalde

RRF/isc

Anejos

DEPARTAMENTO DE VIVIENDA MUNICIPAL & DESARROLLO SOCIOECONÓMICO

PO Box 331709, Ponce, PR 00733-1709

Tel. 787.840.9200 ext. 5221 . 5282



OMB Number: 4040-0004  
Expiration Date: 11/30/2025

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424		
<b>* 1. Type of Submission:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Preapplication <input type="checkbox"/> Application <input type="checkbox"/> Changed/Corrected Application		
<b>* 2. Type of Application:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision		
<b>* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):</b> <input type="text"/> <b>* Other (Specify):</b> <input type="text"/>		
<b>* 3. Date Received:</b> <input type="text"/>		
<b>4. Applicant Identifier:</b> <input type="text"/>		
<b>5a. Federal Entity Identifier:</b> <input type="text"/>		<b>5b. Federal Award Identifier:</b> <input type="text"/>
<b>State Use Only:</b> <b>6. Date Received by State:</b> <input type="text"/> <b>7. State Application Identifier:</b> <input type="text"/>		
<b>8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:</b>		
<b>* a. Legal Name:</b> <input type="text"/> Municipality of Ponce		
<b>* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):</b> <input type="text"/> 660-43-3627		<b>* c. UEI:</b> <input type="text"/> JLHWBJJK69Y8
<b>d. Address:</b>		
<b>* Street1:</b> <input type="text"/> PO BOX 331709 <b>Street2:</b> <input type="text"/> <b>* City:</b> <input type="text"/> Ponce <b>County/Parish:</b> <input type="text"/> <b>* State:</b> <input type="text"/> PR: Puerto Rico <b>Province:</b> <input type="text"/> <b>* Country:</b> <input type="text"/> USA: UNITED STATES <b>* Zip / Postal Code:</b> <input type="text"/> 00733-1709		
<b>e. Organizational Unit:</b>		
<b>Department Name:</b> <input type="text"/> Hous & Socioecon Dev Secret		<b>Division Name:</b> <input type="text"/> HOME Program
<b>f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:</b>		
<b>Prefix:</b> <input type="text"/> Mrs. <b>* First Name:</b> <input type="text"/> Rebecca <b>Middle Name:</b> <input type="text"/> <b>* Last Name:</b> <input type="text"/> Ramos Franceschini <b>Suffix:</b> <input type="text"/> <b>Title:</b> <input type="text"/> Executive Director <b>Organizational Affiliation:</b> <input type="text"/> Housing and Socioeconomic Development Secretariat <b>* Telephone Number:</b> <input type="text"/> 787-840-9200 <b>Fax Number:</b> <input type="text"/> 787-841-0140 <b>* Email:</b> <input type="text"/> rebecca.ramos@ponce.pr.gov		



Application for Federal Assistance SF-424	
<b>* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:</b> <input type="text" value="C: City or Township Government"/>	
<b>Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:</b> <input type="text"/>	
<b>Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:</b> <input type="text"/>	
<b>* Other (specify):</b> <input type="text"/>	
<b>* 10. Name of Federal Agency:</b> <input type="text" value="U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development"/>	
<b>11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:</b> <input type="text" value="14.239"/>	
<b>CFDA Title:</b> <input type="text" value="HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM"/>	
<b>* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:</b> <input type="text"/>	
<b>* Title:</b> <input type="text"/>	
<b>13. Competition Identification Number:</b> <input type="text"/>	
<b>Title:</b> <input type="text"/>	
<b>14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):</b> <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Add Attachment"/> <input type="button" value="Delete Attachment"/> <input type="button" value="View Attachment"/>	
<b>* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:</b> <input type="text" value="HOME ARP"/>	
Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions. <input type="button" value="Add Attachments"/> <input type="button" value="Delete Attachments"/> <input type="button" value="View Attachments"/>	

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424	
<b>16. Congressional Districts Of:</b>	
* a. Applicant <input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="PR"/>	* b. Program/Project <input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="PR"/>
Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.	
<input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Add Attachment"/> <input type="button" value="Delete Attachment"/> <input type="button" value="View Attachment"/>
<b>17. Proposed Project:</b>	
* a. Start Date: <input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="07/01/2023"/>	* b. End Date: <input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="06/30/2030"/>
<b>18. Estimated Funding (\$):</b>	
* a. Federal	<input style="width: 150px;" type="text" value="3,624,819.00"/>
* b. Applicant	<input style="width: 150px;" type="text" value="0.00"/>
* c. State	<input style="width: 150px;" type="text" value="0.00"/>
* d. Local	<input style="width: 150px;" type="text" value="0.00"/>
* e. Other	<input style="width: 150px;" type="text" value="0.00"/>
* f. Program Income	<input style="width: 150px;" type="text" value="0.00"/>
* g. TOTAL	<input style="width: 150px;" type="text" value="3,624,819.00"/>
<b>* 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/> . <input type="checkbox"/> b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.	
<b>* 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If "Yes", provide explanation and attach <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/> <div style="text-align: right;"> <input type="button" value="Add Attachment"/> <input type="button" value="Delete Attachment"/> <input type="button" value="View Attachment"/> </div>	
<b>21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications** and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001)</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ** I AGREE <small>** 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.</small>	
<b>Authorized Representative:</b>	
Prefix: <input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="Hon."/>	* First Name: <input style="width: 200px;" type="text" value="Luis"/>
Middle Name: <input style="width: 200px;" type="text" value="Manuel"/>	
* Last Name: <input style="width: 250px;" type="text" value="Irizarry-Pabon"/>	
Suffix: <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	
* Title: <input style="width: 200px;" type="text" value="Mayor"/>	
* Telephone Number: <input style="width: 150px;" type="text" value="787-284-4141"/>	Fax Number: <input style="width: 150px;" type="text" value="787-259-1317"/>
* Email: <input style="width: 250px;" type="text" value="rebecca.ramos@ponce.pr.gov"/>	
* Signature of Authorized Representative:	* Date Signed: <input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="3-28-23"/>



## HOME-ARP CERTIFICATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Authorized Official

3-28-23

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title



**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.

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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 Municipality of Ponce	DATE SUBMITTED 3-28-23

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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).
9. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
10. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to non-discrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681 1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.

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11. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal and federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
12. Will comply with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.
13. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333) regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
14. Will comply with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
15. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).
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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
Municipality of Ponce	03-28-23

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