



City of Yonkers, New York

HOME INVESTMENT
PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM-
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

ALLOCATION PLAN

HOME-ARP Allocation Plan Consultation

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

The City of Yonkers is served by the Westchester County Consortium of Care Partnership to End Homelessness (“COC”). Before writing their plans, the City of Yonkers, City of Mount Vernon, City of New Rochelle, Westchester County, and the Westchester County CoC held a virtual Open Forum consultation meeting on January 11, 2022 and invited all stakeholders to share funding priorities. In that meeting, 60+ stakeholders, non-profits and municipalities spoke about local needs. The recording of this public forum can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/live/gvP7a6nGcrI?feature=share>.

Several general themes emerged from the feedback shared during the open forum. Common funding priorities include expanded affordable housing and supportive services for elderly and disabled individuals, kinship caregiver families, and young people aging out of foster care. Additionally, several stakeholders emphasized the importance of eviction prevention services, including tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA) and legal representation for individuals facing eviction. This virtual open forum included the following speakers:

Organizations Consulted:

AGENCY	Type of Organization	Method of Consultation	FEEDBACK
Westchester County COC	Continuum of Care	WebEx-Open Forum on 1/11/2021	Recommended expanding Rapid Rehousing subsidies and supportive services for up to 9 years; and housing support for youth aging out of foster care
Legal Services of Hudson Valley	Non-profit legal services/civil rights provider	WebEx-Open Forum on 1/11/2021	Recommended funds designated to homeless prevention services and TBRA and legal representation for tenants facing eviction
New Rochelle Housing Authority	Housing Authority	WebEx-Open Forum on 1/11/2021	Recommended expanded resources for veterans and the elderly
Family Service of Yonkers	Non-profit homeless service provider	WebEx-Open Forum on 1/11/2021	Recommended new multi-year rent subsidies and housing case management services targeted to kinship caregivers keeping related children out of foster care

AGENCY	Type of Organization	Method of Consultation	FEEDBACK
Program Design & Development	Homeless advocate	WebEx-Open Forum on 1/11/2021	Recommended developing ARP programs that provided rent subsidies & services for 5-9 years, bridging the gap between Rapid Rehousing programs offering services but only for 2 years, and Emergency Housing Voucher programs offering subsidies for up to 9 years but no self-sufficiency services
Westchester County Dept of Mental Health	Public agency serving people with mental health, behavioral health, & developmental disabilities	WebEx-Open Forum on 1/11/2021	Recommended a Hoarding Intervention Program and tenancy preservation, non-congregate shelter, and TBRA paired with legal services
Westchester Disabled on the Move	Non-profit advocate for people with disabilities	WebEx-Open Forum on 1/11/2021	Recommended affordable housing and supportive services for people with disabilities
Westchester County Veterans Service Agency	Public agency serving homeless & other veterans	WebEx-Open Forum on 1/11/2021	Recommended veterans services; housing assistance for senior veterans and those unable to go into shelter system due to PTSD and other issues
Guidance Center of Westchester	Non-profit homeless service provider	WebEx-Open Forum on 1/11/2021	Supported increased street outreach and support services
First Steps to Heal	Non-profit domestic violence service provider	WebEx-Open Forum on 1/11/2021	Recommended emergency shelter and housing via extended hotel stay for Domestic Violence survivors
Lifting up Westchester	Non-profit homeless service provider	WebEx-Open Forum on 1/11/2021	Prioritize DV, and affordable rental units
Mount Vernon Public Schools	Public School System	WebEx-Open Forum on 1/11/2021	Recommended affordable housing units for doubled-up families with school children
Lower West Side Household Services	Nonprofit Organization – LMI/disabled/elderly healthcare	WebEx-Open Forum on 1/11/2021	Recommended affordable and accessible housing and supportive services for elderly and disabled

The Yonkers Department of Planning also convened three follow-up forums via Zoom with leading local housing and service providers. These forums included:

- 1) Follow-up forum # 1 held on 9/22/2022 with local homeless service providers including CLUSTER, Westchester Residential Opportunities, The Bridge Fund of Westchester, The Children's Village, Westhab, and Family Service Society of Yonkers (recording available at: <https://www.youtube.com/live/y5UixIyAyTI?feature=share>);
- 2) Follow-up forum #2 held on 9/29/2022 with Yonkers' public housing authority, the Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers (MHACY), and
- 3) Follow-up forum #3 held on 10/6/22 with local housing developers including Conifer, CURE Development, Dolphin Property, Macquesten Companies, Mountco Construction & Development Corp., Mulford Corporation, and Westhab (recording available at <https://www.youtube.com/live/rs-G6j7TmU4?feature=share>).

Additional Organizations Consulted:

AGENCY	Type of Organization	Method of Consultation	FEEDBACK
Family Service of Yonkers	Non-profit homeless service provider	WebEx-Open Forum on 1/11/2021	Recommended new multi-year rent subsidies and housing case management services targeted to kinship caregivers keeping related children out of foster care
CLUSTER	Non-profit homeless service provider	Zoom Forum on 9/22/2022	Recommended funds be provided for rent arrears and services to expand Yonkers' Emergency Rental Assistance Program
Westhab	Non-profit homeless service provider and housing developer		Recommended that HOME-ARP funds be used to support street outreach and supportive services to Yonkers' unsheltered homeless population
The Bridge Fund of Westchester	Non-profit eviction prevention services provider	Zoom Forum on 9/22/2022	Recommended funds be provided for rent arrears and services to expand Yonkers' Emergency Rental Assistance Program
The Children's Village	Non-profit homeless service provider	Zoom Forum on 9/22/2022	Recommended multi-year rent subsidies and services for youth aging out of foster care or juvenile justice systems

AGENCY	Type of Organization	Method of Consultation	FEEDBACK
The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers	Public housing authority	Zoom Forum on 9/29/2022	Recommended that entire ARP allocation be used to support a new housing construction project for MHACY
MacQuesten Companies	Housing developer	Zoom Forum on 10/6/2022	Suggested HOME-ARP funds be used to reduce interest costs for a proposed 160-unit affordable housing construction project
Westhab, Inc.	Non-profit housing developer and homeless services provider	Zoom Forum on 10/6/2022	This developer received information about HOME-ARP eligibility and requirements but did not propose a specific housing construction project.
CURE Development	Affordable Housing developer	Zoom Forum on 10/6/2022	This developer received information about HOME-ARP eligibility and requirements but did not propose a specific project.
Conifer and Mountco Construction & Development Corp	Housing developer	Zoom Forum on 10/6/2022	This developer received information about HOME-ARP eligibility and requirements but did not propose a specific project.

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

The not-for-profit homeless housing and service providers offered a number of recommendations as summarized above. Our local public housing agency, the Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers, initially suggested that we give them our entire HOME-ARP allocation to help offset the cost of one of their housing construction projects. We asked for written follow-up details on their proposed project but after they learned more about the long-term HOME-ARP requirements they decided not to provide any follow-up information. The housing developers who participated in our online forum mainly listened intently and asked a few questions. One of the developers, MacQuesten Companies, sent a written suggestion that we use the HOME-ARP funding to offset higher than expected interest costs on a proposed new 160-unit affordable housing construction project, but they dropped their request after learning more about HOME-ARP's long-term requirements. As detailed below, our proposed HOME-ARP Allocation Plan incorporates several of the suggestions received through our public comment process including

addressing the needs of unsheltered homeless people, youth aging out of foster care, and kinship caregivers.

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.

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:

[NOTE: This section will be drafted AFTER our public comment period and public hearing has been completed.]

- ***Date(s) of public notice: 2/22/2023***
- ***Public comment period: start date - 2/22/2023 end date - 3/10/2023***
- ***Date(s) of public hearing: 3/1/2023***

Describe the public participation process:

Yonkers’ draft HOME-ARP Allocation Plan was published on the City’s website. A public notice was published on 2/22/2023 inviting the public to submit written comments on the plan. A public hearing was held on 3/1/2023 at the Yonkers Riverfront Library. Copies of the Plan were distributed at the meeting and the community were invited to speak about the draft Plan and to submit written comments afterward.

Describe efforts to broaden public participation:

Yonkers emailed the notice of the public comment period and the public hearing to interested parties that had been invited and/or attended the forums held in the fall.

In addition, the City met the County and other municipalities in the County that are receiving HOME ARPP funds and reviewed their plans.

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

Two speakers affiliated with Family Service Society of Yonkers, including one with lived experience as a kinship caregiver and advocate for seniors who are kinship caregivers, spoke in favor of prioritizing a portion of HOME-ARP funding to provide rent subsidies and related services for low-income, housing cost-burdened, kinship caregivers. Both speakers also submitted written copies of their comments. (See attached.) Another resident acknowledged that the housing needs of kinship caregivers were important but urged the City to leave the door open to providing subsidies to other low-income, housing cost-burdened residents. A representative from Westhab spoke in favor of providing outreach and supportive services for the unsheltered Yonkers residents experiencing homelessness

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

Not applicable. All public comments at the public hearing and later written recommendations were accepted and considered.

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.

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

Qualifying Population #1: Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

Westchester County's Continuum of Care has the third largest homeless population in New York State, trailing only the 5-county New York City CoC and the 2-county (Nassau/Suffolk) Long Island CoC. Westchester's 2022 Point-In-Time Count identified **1,356** homeless persons, including **813** homeless family members living in 266 family households, only **1** homeless unaccompanied minor, and **542** homeless childless adults. Westchester has just under **11%** of all homeless people identified in New York State outside New York City.

Westchester has prided itself for twenty years for having remarkably few unsheltered homeless. Our PIT Count numbers of unsheltered people had been rising slowly for years but abruptly tripled during the pandemic, from 32 in 2019 to 67 in 2020 to 96 in 2021. Despite some improvement, the numbers have remained unacceptably high, with 50 found in 2022 and a still-preliminary count of 55 in our recently-completed 2023 PIT count. The problem has been growing particularly acute in Yonkers. Our 2022 PIT Count found 7 people living on the streets of Yonkers. Preliminary results from our recently completed 2023 PIT count are that 20 people were found unsheltered in Yonkers, and that was on a particularly cold and rainy night.

Unsheltered homeless people have become a high-profile community concern in Yonkers, particularly in our rapidly redeveloping downtown/waterfront area.

Unsheltered Homeless People Identified in Westchester County PIT Counts: 2013-2023

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
#	22	20	27	34	47	44	32	67	96	50	55*

Source: Westchester County Continuum of Care Partnership to End Homelessness.

*Preliminary PIT data.

Westchester's homeless population is primarily comprised of people of color. Westchester's 2022 PIT Count identified 1,356 people experiencing homelessness, and 913 (**67.3%**) were African-American and 407 (**30%**) were Hispanic/Latino. People identifying as Multiple Races, Asian, American Indian/Alaskan Native, or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander collectively comprised just under **3%**. Whites, including both Hispanics and non-Hispanics, comprised only 403 (**29.7%**).

The gender distribution in our 2022 PIT Count was 53.4% male, 46.4% female, and less than 0.15% transgender. Children under age 18 comprised 498 (**36.7%**) of our homeless population, young adults aged 18-24 comprised 96 (**7%**), and 762 (**56.2%**) were over age 24.

Qualifying Population #2: At Risk of Homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

HUD defines those at risk of homelessness as individuals and families who have an income below 30% of the area median income (AMI), do not have sufficient resources or support networks to prevent them from becoming homeless, or live with instability. Using HUD's 2011-2015 CHAS data, Yonkers has **19,540** households with incomes at or below 30% AMI, (over 26.7% of all city households). Over **77.5%** percent of these households are renter households. Households classified as at-risk of homelessness include an estimated **9,965** renter households living at or below 30% AMI who have one or more of the following four severe housing problems: lack of kitchen facilities, lack of complete indoor plumbing, severe overcrowding, and/or severe housing cost burdened. It also includes **2,030** additional renter households who are living at 30-50% AMI and have one or more of those four severe housing problems.

OPTIONAL Housing Needs Inventory and Gap Analysis Table

Non-Homeless			
	Current Inventory	Level of Need	Gap Analysis
	# of Units	# of Households	# of Households
Total Rental Units	38,400		
Rental Units Affordable to HH at 30% AMI (At-Risk of Homelessness)	5,320		
Rental Units Affordable to HH at 50% AMI (Other Populations)	15,150		
0%-30% AMI Renter HH w/ 1 or more severe housing problems (At-Risk of Homelessness)		9,965	
30%-50% AMI Renter HH w/ 1 or more severe housing problems (Other Populations)		2,030	
Current Gaps (0%-30% AMI with severe housing problems)			9,965
Current Gaps (30%-50% AMI with severe housing problems)			2,030

Data Sources: 1. American Community Survey (ACS); 2. 2011-2015 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS)

Qualifying Population #3: Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking, as defined by HUD

The Yonkers Police Department's Uniform Crime Reports show that the YPD reported **626** domestic violence offences in 2021, including 129 cases of Aggravated Assault, 426 cases of Simple Assault, 49 Protective Order Violations, and 22 Sex Offenses. These 626 reported crimes represent **34.5%** of all domestic violence offenses reported in UCR by all 36 law enforcement agencies in Westchester, despite the fact that Yonkers has only **21%** of Westchester's population. In these 626 reported crimes, 407 (**65%**) of the victims were female intimate partners, 66 (**10.5%**) were male intimate partners, and 153 (**24.4%**) were other family members.

Many domestic violence offences go unreported and many domestic violence survivors are afraid, reluctant, or unable to leave their abusers. Few shelter beds are dedicated to domestic violence survivors. Despite those barriers, the number of DV survivors seeking shelter far exceeds our local resources. Westchester County (2020 population of **1,004,457**) has only **39** shelter beds dedicated to people fleeing domestic violence. One of those shelters – HOPE's Door – has 19 beds. In 2022 HOPE's Door turned away **1,016** people seeking shelter for one of two reasons: "No Space Available" or "Family Too Large for Available Accommodations".

The Westchester CoC's Annual Point-In-Time Count identified **57** adult survivors of domestic violence. This included 41 living in emergency shelters, 14 living in transitional housing programs, and 2 who were unsheltered on the night of the PIT count.

The Westchester CoC's Annual Gaps Analysis for 2022 included an analysis of housing needs for specific subpopulations including domestic violence survivors. It identified the number of unique households in each subpopulation using a 1-year Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data report for all Emergency Shelter (ES), Transitional Housing (TH), and Street Outreach (SO) contacts in Westchester for the period from 05/01/2021 to 04/30/2022. That data report identified **134** unique households identified as fleeing domestic violence who used our CoC's ES, TH and/or SO services during that one-year period.

Qualifying Population #4: 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

This Qualifying Population (QP) includes two major categories, with the second category subdivided into multiple groups.

- The first category listed as part of QP#4 is “Other Families Requiring Services or Housing Assistance to Prevent Homelessness.” This is defined as “households (i.e., individuals and families) who have previously been qualified as “homeless” as defined in 24 CFR 91.5, are currently housed due to temporary or emergency assistance, including financial assistance, services, temporary rental assistance or some type of other assistance to allow the household to be housed, and who need additional housing assistance or supportive services to avoid a return to homelessness.” The Westchester CoC identified households timing out of federal and locally funded Rapid Rehousing programs as one of the priority populations for our new NYS Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program. As of 2/6/2023 **74** households timing out of Rapid Rehousing programs have been housed with EHV. That represents **28.7%** of the 258 households housed during the first 15.2 months of this program.
- The second subset listed as part of QP#4 is households “At Greatest Risk of Housing Instability.” HUD then subdivides this category into multiple component groups. The first component group of QP#4 households is households “with annual income that is less than or equal to **30%** of the area median income, as determined by HUD **and** is experiencing severe cost burden (i.e., is paying more than **50%** of monthly household income toward housing costs). Yonkers' FY2020-2024 Consolidated Plan reports using 2011-2015 CHAS data, that Yonkers has **9,320** renter households and **2,975** owner households who are both at or below 30% AMI **and** severely housing cost burdened. This is by far the largest component group of QP #4 here in Yonkers.
- Another component group in this QP is households “living in the home of another because of economic hardship.” The only source of data for this group is the McKinney-Vento Homeless School Liaisons, who track and report the number of students who are homeless using the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness, which includes people who are “doubled-up.” All of the Homeless School Liaisons in Westchester submit their data to the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services (SWBOCES). SWBOCES bundles this data and forwards it to the NYS Department of Education. The Westchester Children's Association also collects the bundled data from SWBOCES and publishes it online as a searchable Westchester County Child and Youth Homelessness Dashboard. The Dashboard has 7 years of data, with 2019-2020 as the most recent, for all school districts in Westchester. The Dashboard allows users to search

by year, district, type of homelessness, student age, and other categories. The Dashboard reports that in 2019-2020 the Yonkers school district identified 398 homeless students, including **138 (34.7%)** who were doubled up.

- Another group in this QP are households that have “been notified in writing that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days after the date of application for assistance.” Our Continuum of Care has been working closely with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (LSHV) to track the level of eviction-related activity in Westchester’s six city housing courts, including Yonkers. These six housing courts all use case tracking software called *eCourts* that is provided by the NYS Unified Court System. LSHV’s Director of Litigation has been manually tracking the number of eviction cases reported by these 6 courts and sharing that data with our CoC. The table below shows the number of eviction cases heard in these 6 courts over a recent 6-month period in 2022. It shows that Yonkers had the highest volume of eviction cases, hearing **54.7%** of all eviction cases heard in the 6 courts. Over the 6-month period Yonkers housing court heard **6,134** eviction cases, an average of **1,022 cases per month**.

Eviction-Related Appearances:

Court	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Total
Mt. Vernon	471	383	454	377	536	351	2,572
New Rochelle	217	242	351	293	280	226	1,609
Peekskill	49	46	79	38	71	32	315
Rye	1	2	8	8	5	4	28
White Plains	120	80	89	109	93	71	562
Yonkers	1,221	934	1,211	1,102	946	720	6,134
Total	2,079	1,687	2,192	1,927	1,931	1,404	11,220

Source: eCourts data compiled by LSHV.

The *eCourts* data also includes the number of court-ordered eviction judgments entered into the system. Not all of the courts routinely use this feature, but Yonkers does. It shows Yonkers had **1,463** evictions orders issued during this six-month period, an average of **244** per month.

New judgments noted on e-courts:

Court	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Total
Yonkers	233	224	188	272	216	164	166	1,463

Source: eCourts data compiled by LSHV.

It should be noted that the volume of eviction cases heard that is reported above represents only a fraction of the eviction cases backed up waiting to be heard. In addition to the federal eviction moratorium, NYS implemented a statewide eviction moratorium that lasted over a year. Housing courts stopped hearing cases in person and struggled to find online ways to move any cases forward. Most cases were just put on hold repeatedly for months at a time. Courts also struggled with staff shortages due to a wave of pandemic-related early retirements and extended absences due to illness or quarantine requirements. The courts are still hearing eviction cases initially brought in 2021, 2020, and some even in 2019. The courts are trying to balance bringing these old cases forward while leaving room on their calendar to hear new cases. An LSHV review of Yonkers’

eCourts data for the first week of October 2022 showed that **25%** of the eviction cases being heard that month had initially been brought in 2021 or earlier.

With the courts still trying to work through their backlog of old eviction cases as well as a rush of new cases, their court calendars are limited by time and staff. Yonkers' housing court is the busiest, sometimes hearing as many as 100 cases in a 2.5-hour court session. That works out to less than two minutes per case. An estimated 93% of tenants have no attorneys so their cases whiz through. The courts are also coping with a shortage of marshals, who are struggling to execute evictions as fast as they are being ordered.

The backlog of eviction cases in the local housing courts have caused confusion about HUD's rule about having "been notified in writing that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days after the date of application for assistance." Hundreds of Yonkers residents have received those 21-day eviction notices and had them expire long before their cases are ever heard in housing court. They exist in a state of legal limbo waiting for their case to float up through the over-burdened court system.

- Another group identified as part of this QP are households who live "in a single-room occupancy or efficiency apartment unit in which there reside more than two persons or lives in a larger housing unit in which there reside more than 1.5 persons reside per room, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau". Yonkers' FY2020-2024 Consolidated Plan, citing 2011-2015 CHAS data, reports that Yonkers has **635** households living at or below 50% AMI who meet the standard of being severely overcrowded.

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):

Homeless Needs Inventory

Qualifying Population #1: Homeless:

	Current Inventory					Homeless Population			
	Family		Adults Only		Vets	Family HH (at least 1 child)	Adult HH (w/o child)	Vets	Victims of DV
	# of Beds	# of Units	# of Beds	# of Units					
Emergency Shelter	599	207	515	515	12				
Transitional Housing	627	211	58	58	12				
Permanent Supportive Housing	239	78	58	58	11				
Other Permanent Housing	547	221	973	973	343				
Sheltered Homeless						813	492	24	55
Unsheltered Homeless						0	50	1	2

Data Sources: 1. 2022 Point in Time Count (PIT); 2. 2022 CoC Housing Inventory Count (HIC).

NYS Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) Program: In 2021 the NYS Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) state agency offered CoC's statewide the opportunity to partner with them on a new **Emergency Housing Voucher program** funded through the American Rescue Plan. It offered FMR-level housing vouchers good until September 2030. Our Westchester CoC jumped at the opportunity. Our CoC prioritized domestic violence survivors and followed by families and individuals who had been homeless over one year for referral to this EHV program.

Westchester housed more households more quickly with NYS Emergency Housing Vouchers than any other county in New York. We housed our first household with EHV on 11/1/2021. As of an 8/3/22 EHV briefing with HCR, Westchester had already successfully leased up **186** EHV units: that was **26%** more than all of New York City, **66%** more than Suffolk County, **2.55 times** as much as Nassau County, and **6.2 times** as much as Dutchess County.

As of our CoC's most recent internal status report on 2/6/2023, **258** households have moved in or have Housing Assistance Payment contracts signed with landlords and imminent move-in dates approved. Another **83** households have had their applications approved by HCR, including 3 in the briefing phase and 80 in the housing search phase. Another **86** households have been selected by HCR to submit applications, and they are currently assembling the required documentation. We have referred **50** more households who are still hoping that HCR will select them to move forward with their applications. As a result of Westchester's exceptional performance with this program, Westchester has the opportunity to secure **27.3%** of New York State's total allocation of 1,566 EHVs.

NYS Rental Supplement Program (RSP): On 10/6/2022 Westchester County kicked off its newest housing program. New York State offered counties to develop individualized plans to implement local versions of a new NYS Rental Supplement Program that would pay up to 85% FMR for homeless and at-risk households prioritized in the counties' NYS-approved plans. Westchester's approved RSP plan prioritized people in shelters who scored very low on our CoC prioritization tool for both Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Rehousing, people fleeing domestic violence who also scored very low on both prioritization tools, and people who were timing out of time-limited Rapid Rehousing programs without incomes sufficient to sustain their housing. Westchester's RSP program is expected to serve at least **100** households. To date, **3** households have been approved and housed, **30** households have been approved and are in the housing search phase, **10** are pending documentation, and **16** have scheduled intake appointments.

Qualifying Population #2: At Risk of Homelessness:

Yonkers recently successfully completed its Emergency Rental Assistance Program funded by the U.S. Treasury Department. Yonkers received two rounds of ERA funding totaling **\$14,559,098.50**. Yonkers was the only community in Westchester that operated its own ERA program. The only other local ERA grantee in Westchester was Westchester County, which folded its ERA funds into New York State's statewide ERA program. Yonkers contracted with five experienced local not-for-profit housing agencies to provide housing stability services, including outreach, eligibility screening, budget counseling, linkage to other financial benefits, and linkage to other sources of additional funding for rent arrears. Contracting with multiple not-for-profits allowed us to swiftly mobilize senior staff from multiple agencies experienced with addressing rent arrears, thus minimizing the time needed for start-up and enabling us to begin enrolling participants before NYS. Contracting with multiple not-for-profits also allowed us to conduct outreach to multiple high-need populations including recent immigrants, the formerly

homeless, public assistance recipients, and working tenants. The City of Yonkers provided its grant administrative services as an in-kind contribution. Yonkers' ERA program provided financial assistance and housing stability services to **853** unique Yonkers tenant households. It paid rental arrears to approximately **360** different Yonkers landlords, owners, and management companies.

After Yonkers exhausted its ERA funds, NYS allowed Yonkers residents to apply for ERA assistance from the statewide ERA program. Yonkers residents were able to secure an additional **\$11 million** in rental assistance from the statewide program. On 1/20/2023 NYS stopped accepting any new applications for ERA assistance from its statewide program.

The Westchester County Department of Social Services (WCDSS) is Westchester's largest provider of rent arrears payments to prevent evictions. It provides one-time payments of eviction prevention rent arrears to hundreds of households annually through its Emergency Assistance to Families and Emergency Assistance to Adults programs.

WCDSS invests over \$2 million local dollars annually to prevent eviction and homelessness. We consolidated our previously fragmented county-funded system of eviction prevention subsidies by assigning CLUSTER responsibility for our two southern district office catchment areas in Yonkers and Mount Vernon/New Rochelle and assigning Westchester Residential Opportunities responsibility for our northern and central district office catchment areas of Peekskill and White Plains. These contracts include funding for crisis assessment, budget counseling and rent arrears. WCDSS also has a small contract with Mount Vernon United Tenants to provide eviction prevention services in Mount Vernon.

WCDSS also contracts with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (LSHV) to provide eviction prevention legal services. The City of Yonkers' **Emergency Solutions Grant Program** also funds eviction prevention programs with CLUSTER, WRO, and LSHV. The Westchester County Planning Department also uses ESG funds to support eviction prevention and foreclosure prevention efforts in Westchester Consortium communities that are not large enough to receive direct allocations of ESG funding from HUD.

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley currently has a multi-year **STEHP** grant from New York State. It funds them to provide legal assistance and a small pot of funding for rent arrears for tenants facing eviction throughout the Hudson Valley, including Westchester.

The Westchester County Board of Legislators is currently considering legislation that would fund legal representation for all low-income tenants facing eviction in Westchester. That legislation, modeled after the Right To Counsel legislation successfully adopted in New York City, is supported by Westchester County Executive George Latimer. Currently 93% of landlords have lawyers representing them in Westchester's Housing Courts, while only 7% of tenants facing eviction have access to legal counsel.

The Westchester Eviction Prevention Network: CLUSTER, the Bridge Fund of Westchester, and our CoC have worked together for many years to organize the dozen or so not-for-profit agencies working to prevent homelessness in Westchester into the Westchester Eviction Prevention Network (EPN). The EPN meets monthly, coordinates advocacy, and years ago developed a shared intake form that multiple agencies use. There are multiple agencies that have relatively small pots of funding for rental arrears from multiple sources. Many of the funding sources limit the number of months of rent arrears that can be paid to 2, 3 or 6 months. As a result of the

economic disruption caused by the COVID pandemic and the multiple eviction moratoria imposed by the state and federal government delaying eviction proceedings, thousands of Westchester tenants are now potentially facing eviction with an unparalleled extent of rent arrears, often 12-24 months or even more. The interagency coordination and shared intake form developed by the EPN has made it possible for 3-4 agencies or more to routinely pool their resources to help a single client household bring their balance of rent owed to zero.

The Westchester Eviction Prevention Network's membership includes 11 not-for-profits that provide financial assistance for rent arrears. They include:

- The Bridge Fund of Westchester,
- Catholic Charities Community Services,
- CLUSTER Community Services,
- Community Housing Innovations (CHI),
- The Community Resource Center (of Mamaroneck),
- Human Development Services of Westchester,
- Legal Services of the Hudson Valley,
- Westchester Residential Opportunities,
- WestCOP – New Rochelle Community Action Program,
- WestCOP – Peekskill Community Action Program,
- Yonkers Community Action Program,

The EPN includes two not-for-profits that provide eviction prevention legal assistance: Legal Services of the Hudson Valley and the Hudson Valley Justice Center. The EPN also includes two not-for-profits that provide information: The United Way of Westchester and Putnam, which operates the 211 information directory, and Mount Vernon United Tenants, which provides extensive tenant education, organizing, and advocacy.

The EPN's members are coordinating literally dozens of relatively small eviction prevention grants that provide funding for rent arrears. Their funding sources include Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG), COVID-related ESG-CV, Community Development Block Grants from HUD, Emergency Food and Shelter Grants, Community Service Block Grants from HHS, local DSS grants, Solutions To End Homelessness Program (STEHP) grants from NYS, special COVID-related discretionary CARES Act grants, Emergency Rental Assistance Program funding from the U.S. Treasury, private funding from foundations and individuals, and more. The grants are awarded by HUD, HHS, New York State, Westchester County DSS, Westchester County Planning Department, the City of Yonkers, the City of Mount Vernon, the City of New Rochelle, the City of White Plains, the United Way of Westchester and Putnam, and more. To say that this is an extraordinary patchwork of funding would be a gross understatement. It is only due to the extraordinary leadership and vision of the Eviction Prevention Network that all of these agencies can meld all of these funding sources into coherent integrated packages of financial assistance that annually bring hundreds of tenants facing eviction to a zero balance of rent owed.

Qualifying Population #3: Domestic Violence:

Westchester County (2020 population of **1,004,457**) has only **39** shelter beds dedicated to people fleeing domestic violence. One of those shelters – HOPE's Door – has 19 beds. In 2022 HOPE's

Door turned away **1,016** people seeking shelter for one of two reasons: “No Space Available” or “Family Too Large for Available Accommodations”.

Domestic violence survivors do not fit neatly into geographic boxes. Unlike other groups of people experiencing homelessness, domestic violence survivors often want and need shelters outside of their home communities to avoid their being seen and further victimized by their abuser. As a result, Westchester’s two DV shelters often receive requests from outside Westchester and many DV survivors from Westchester wind up seeking shelters outside our county.

Many DV survivors are not comfortable entering congregate shelters, particularly during the pandemic. Our CoC has been working hard to develop new housing options for this population.

In 2019 Westchester secured a CoC Domestic Violence Bonus Grant that enabled us to create a new DV Bonus Joint TH-RRH project called RISE. RISE opened in late 2019 and reached full capacity in 2020. It includes 20 Rapid Rehousing units (12 for families with children and 8 for single adults) and 8 scattered-site transitional units (6 for families with children and 2 for single adults) so that we were able to move many of these survivors into safer scattered-site transitional and permanent housing units during COVID.

Our CoC gave first priority to households fleeing domestic violence for its new NYS Emergency Housing Voucher program. To date this EHV initiative has been the single largest infusion of permanent housing resources for DV survivors that Westchester has ever seen. As of 2/6/2023, 66 DV households have been housed (with an approved EHV voucher and a signed lease for an HCR-approved unit). Of those 66 DV households, 33 came from our DV shelters, 14 came from RISE, and the remaining 19 came from our general population shelters, transitional apartments for families, and Rapid Rehousing programs.

People fleeing domestic violence were also identified as one of 6 eligible populations for Westchester’s new NYS Rent Supplement Program. To date **112** households have been referred for RSP eligibility screening, including **8** households of domestic violence survivors.

Later this year **75** newly constructed permanent housing rental units will open that will be dedicated to domestic violence survivors. The units are being developed by a major local for-profit housing developer as part of a much larger housing development. The 75 dedicated units will be operated and receive supportive services from New Destiny Housing, a New York City-based not-for-profit founded in 1994 whose mission is to provide affordable housing and services to domestic violence survivors. The project will receive ongoing funding (awarded in 5-year increments) for rent subsidies, supportive services, and project operating costs from New York State’s Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI). This will be the first time that newly constructed permanent supportive housing units will be dedicated to this population. Our CoC is very excited about this major new influx of DV housing resources.

Qualifying Population #4: 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:

There are currently **NO** housing services available in Westchester specifically targeted to low-income people living in doubled-up, overcrowded, unstable, or substandard housing. Those who are low-income could potentially qualify for public housing or Housing Choice Vouchers but the

waiting list for those subsidies in Yonkers is years-long and our local PHA only sporadically and briefly opens the window for submitting new applications.

Describe the unmet housing and service needs of qualifying populations:

QP#1: Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

The major needs of this QP are:

- More programs that effectively engage hard-to-engage people experiencing homelessness and link them to low-demand “Housing First” housing programs;
- More affordable permanent rental housing for people who are primarily just too poor to compete in Westchester’s high-cost rental housing market;
- More permanent supportive housing programs for people with disabilities, particularly people with physical disabilities, mental health disabilities, and substance use disorders;
- More effective employment support programs to help more people raise their incomes high enough to be able to sustain market-rate rents after their two-year Rapid Rehousing subsidies end;
- More low-barrier emergency shelters to encourage more unsheltered homeless people to accept temporary shelter; and
- A new multi-faceted countywide Landlord Risk Mitigation Program to incentivize local landlords to accept more homeless people with housing barriers as tenants.

QP#2: At Risk of Homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

The major needs of this QP are:

- Millions of dollars to repay pandemic-related rent arrears often totaling 18-24 months or more for hundreds of Yonkers households (and probably several thousand Westchester households) with long-running eviction cases still working their way slowly through Westchester’s overcrowded and understaffed housing courts;
- Legal representation for the estimated 93% of low-income tenants facing eviction with no access to legal counsel; and
- Increased access to ongoing housing subsidies, e.g. Housing Choice Vouchers and the new NYS Rental Supplement Program, for tenants facing eviction who will not be given assistance paying rent arrears because they cannot demonstrate the ability to pay their rent going forward after the rent arrears have been paid.

QP#3: Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking, as defined by HUD in the Notice

The major needs of this QP are:

- More safe emergency housing that can be immediately accessed when survivors are ready to flee their abusers, including not just congregate shelters in confidential locations but also scattered-site furnished apartments operated at Safe Homes that families and individuals can access immediately;

- Longer-term transitional housing programs dedicated to those fleeing domestic violence and related crimes including human trafficking, that can provide survivors with a safe place to live while making the often abrupt transition to needing to be able to afford housing in Westchester's expensive rental housing market with little or no financial assistance from their former abusive partner;
- Specialized re-employment programs that can help survivors with work experience and job skills to transfer to new jobs in other communities where they will be less likely to encounter their abusers; and
- More dedicated permanent housing resources or scattered-site permanent housing subsidies that can help survivors sustain safe permanent housing and not be forced back into their homes of their abusive partners simply because they can't afford the cost of living independently in Westchester.

QP#4: Other populations requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness and other populations at greatest risk of housing instability as defined by HUD in the Notice

The major needs of this QP are many because there are currently no local, county, state or federal resources specifically targeted to these groups. Their major needs include:

- Housing subsidies to make existing housing resources affordable without making them severely housing cost-burdened;
- The doubled-up and severely overcrowded subsets of households in this QP need specialized support services including various combinations of home-finding assistance, help understanding and negotiating leases, education about landlord-tenant rights and responsibilities, assistance with independent living skills, financial assistance with security deposits and moving costs, and/or employment skills training and job-finding assistance;
- Those exiting mental health and substance abuse treatment facilities need a wide variety of recovery-focused services (*e.g.* Wellness Self-Management, peer support, employment support, relapse prevention, assistance with reintegration into the community, and crisis intervention) as well as housing subsidies;
- Those exiting foster care or other youth facilities need a wide variety of specialized services (*e.g.* life skills training including budgeting and money management, academic remediation, job readiness training, job skills training, job-finding assistance, job coaching, help understanding and negotiating leases, education about landlord-tenant rights and responsibilities, and in many cases help learning to share housing successfully with other youth); and
- Those exiting the criminal justice systems often need a wide variety of specialized services (academic remediation, job readiness training, job skills training, job-finding assistance, job coaching, peer support, life skills training including anger management, stress reduction, and conflict resolution technique, budgeting and money management, independent living skills, and assistance with reintegration into the community).

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:

Yonkers HOME-ARP Allocation Plan hereby identifies low-income kinship caregivers, particularly grandparents and other elderly kinship caregivers, as another subpopulation At Greatest Risk of Housing Instability.

The City of Yonkers has invested public resources in local programs serving kinship caregivers since 2003. Kinship caregivers are adult relatives who assume responsibility for raising minor children when the children’s parents are not able to care for them due to physical, mental health or behavioral health problems, incarceration, or death. Grandparents who are kinship caregivers are a subset of particular concern because they tend to be older, frailer, and lower-income.

Yonkers has **2,617** grandparents living with and responsible for grandchildren under the age of 18, including **568** with no parent present in the home and 2,049 where the grandparent(s) have assumed responsibility for the children despite a parent’s physical presence in the home.¹

The New York State legislature in SFY 2014-15 directed the NYS Homes and Community Renewal agency, in consultation with the NYS Office of Children and Family Services, NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, and NYS Office for the Aging, to undertake a study on housing in relation to grandparent and elderly relative caregivers of children under age 18. The study was conducted by two research institutions: the Urban Institute and the Center for Human Services Research at the State University of New York in Albany.² The study used the term “grandfamilies,” which it defined as families where a grandparent or other relative 55 years or older lives with and is the adult primarily responsible for their grandchild’s or grandchildren’s basic needs. It contains a quantitative analysis of grandfamily characteristics in New York State using U.S. Census data and other resources such as geographic mapping to present the “big picture” statewide. The reports Executive Summary included the following data:

- 43 percent of grandfamilies (46,300) pay 30 percent or more of their income for housing.
- 22 percent (23,800) live in overcrowded conditions.
- Four out of ten grandfamily caregivers are 60 years old or older, including 50,200 (35 percent) between 60 to 74 and 8,200 (6 percent) 75 years old or older. Another two out of ten – 27,800 (19 percent) are between 55 and 59 years old, and four out of ten -- 56,500 (40 percent) -- are under 55.
- More than 550,000 people live in grandfamilies; and nearly 200,000 of them are children under 18 years old, creating demand for upwards of 77,000 apartments with three-to-five bedrooms (depending on the ages and genders of the children).

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Grandchildren Under 18 Years Living With A Grandparent Householder By Grandparent Responsibility And Presence of Parent.

² New York State Grandparent Housing Study, New York State Homes and Community Renewal, 3/15/2015, available at https://www.albany.edu/chsr/Publications/NYS%20Grandfamilies%20Housing%20Study%20FINAL%20REPORT_Mar%2031%202015.pdf.

- Two out of three grandfamilies (72,500) live in 1-to-4 family homes; Nearly half (47 percent, 51,100) of the grandfamilies are homeowners (including more than 60 percent of those who live upstate or in the suburban counties around New York City).
- Half of the grandfamily caregivers are unemployed.
- There are 34,000 grandfamilies -- three out of ten -- where the parents of the grandchildren are absent, where 40,400 grandchildren (8 out of 10) are 6-to-17 years old, where median annual income is only \$37,400, and where more than four out of ten of the 18,200 who are renters have incomes below the Federal Poverty Level.

Identify priority needs for qualifying populations:

The priority need for Yonkers' homeless population is for resources to engage Yonkers' unsheltered homeless population. Westchester has prided itself for twenty years for having remarkably few unsheltered homeless. Our PIT Count numbers of unsheltered people had been rising slowly for years but abruptly tripled during the pandemic, from 32 in 2019 to 67 in 2020 to 96 in 2021. Despite some improvement, the numbers have remained unacceptably high, with 50 found in 2022 and a still-preliminary count of 55 in our recently-completed 2023 PIT count. The problem has been growing particularly acute in Yonkers. Our 2022 PIT Count found 7 people living on the streets of Yonkers. Preliminary results from our recently completed 2023 PIT count are that 20 people were found unsheltered in Yonkers, and that was on a particularly cold and rainy night. Unsheltered homeless people have become a high-profile community concern in Yonkers, particularly in our rapidly redeveloping downtown/waterfront area.

Unsheltered Homeless People Identified in Westchester County PIT Counts: 2013-2023

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
#	22	20	27	34	47	44	32	67	96	50	55*

Source: Westchester County Continuum of Care Partnership to End Homelessness.

*Preliminary PIT data.

The second priority need that Yonkers has identified is for housing subsidies plus housing stability services with preference given to very low-income Yonkers households (below 30% AMI) who are severely housing cost-burdened and therefore qualify as part of Qualifying Population #4.2 "At Greatest Risk of Housing Instability." We propose to prioritize Yonkers households who are kinship care givers with documented current or pending custody of relative children who might otherwise be at risk of being placed in the institutional foster care system. As stated above, our community currently has NO housing subsidies specifically targeted to QP #4. Low-income households could potentially qualify for public housing or Housing Choice Vouchers but the waiting list for those subsidies in Yonkers is years-long and our local PHA only sporadically and briefly opens the window for submitting new applications. Several respondents in our public comment phase recommended that we use our HOME-ARP allocation to address the housing needs of aging out youth and kinship caregivers. Prioritizing kinship caregivers helps address the needs of both vulnerable populations – the often elderly and low-income kinship caregivers and the youth who might otherwise be placed in institutional foster care. It also helps prevent two types of costly burdens on our local service system: the cost of a family losing its housing and entering the homeless shelter system AND the potential cost of a child entering the institutional child welfare system.

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:

QP#1: The Yonkers Planning Department has for decades been an active member of the board of directors of the Westchester County Continuum of Care Partnership to End Homelessness. We are well aware of the constantly evolving constellation of needs and resources in our CoC. During the pandemic our CoC's total number of homeless households dropped significantly, but the number of unsheltered people rose rapidly to numbers never before seen since Westchester County began conducting annual Point-In-Time Counts, with the countywide number **tripling** in two years. The problem is particularly acute in Yonkers. Preliminary results from our recently completed PIT Count show that while the countywide number of unsheltered people remained little changed, the number of unsheltered people in Yonkers **tripled** this year, from 7 found in 2022 to a preliminary tally of 20 found in 2023, and that was on a particularly cold and rainy night. Unsheltered homeless people have become a high-profile community concern in Yonkers, particularly in our rapidly redeveloping downtown/waterfront area. Because the problem of unsheltered homeless people is particularly concentrated in Yonkers, it is Yonkers that needs to prioritize addressing this need. Other homeless needs are being addressed through major new countywide and state-funded initiatives including the NYS Emergency Housing Voucher program and the NYS Rental Supplement Program.

QP#2: People facing imminent eviction have received millions of dollars of assistance, particularly from the U.S. Treasury Department's Emergency Rental Assistance program, including the \$14.5 million administered by the City of Yonkers plus additional assistance through the NYS-administered ERA program. Despite that, hundreds of Yonkers households still have pending eviction cases backed up in the Yonkers Housing Court. This is a major need, but it is one so large that it dwarfs the scale of Yonkers' HOME-ARP allocation. Yonkers cannot make a significant dent in that problem with this funding, so we will continue to work with the Westchester County Department of Social Services, our CoC, and its Eviction Prevention Network to develop an appropriately scaled systemic response.

QP#3: For Qualifying Population #3: Households Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking, we have seen a recent huge increase in housing resources. This includes our CoC's new RISE DV Bonus TH/RRH program that opened in 2020, our new NYS Rental Supplement Program that includes DV as one of its priority populations, and the **66** DV households placed in permanent housing during the last 15 months by our NYS Emergency Housing Voucher program. This latter represents the single largest infusion of permanent housing resources for DV survivors that Westchester has ever seen. That record will be topped later this year when New Destiny Housing opens its **75** new units of permanent housing dedicated to DV survivors later this year. Our CoC will be struggling to achieve unprecedentedly large and rapid housing placement rates for DV survivors for at least the coming year, so we have not prioritized creating new DV housing resources at this time.

QP#4: We felt that QP#4 is the most underserved of the four QPs so we are devoting our largest chunk of HOME-ARP funding to serving this group. It includes a large and diverse group of households who are both extremely low-income AND severely housing cost-burdened seemed a very logical place to focus our efforts. Several respondents in our public comment phase recommended that we use our HOME-ARP allocation to address the housing needs of aging out youth and kinship caregivers. Prioritizing kinship caregiver households helps address the needs

of both vulnerable populations – the often elderly and low-income kinship caregivers and the youth who might otherwise be placed in institutional foster care. It also helps prevent two types of costly burdens on our local service system: the cost of a family losing its housing and entering the homeless shelter system AND the potential cost of a child entering the institutional child welfare system. Westchester currently has NO housing resources specifically targeted to low-income kinship caregivers so we determined that including this prioritization would help ensure that we could serve an otherwise neglected group of at-risk households.

HOME-ARP Activities

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

Our PJ will issue two Requests For Proposals (RFPs) after our draft HOME-ARP Allocation Plan has been approved by HUD. One will be for \$2 million to be used for outreach and supportive services for people who are homeless, with preference given to those who are consistently or intermittently living in places not designed for human habitation in Yonkers. The second RFP will be for \$2.5 million for TBRA and housing stability services with preference given to very low-income Yonkers households (below 30% AMI) who are severely housing cost-burdened, with prioritization given to Yonkers residents who are kinship caregivers with current or documented pending custody of relative children.

Describe whether the PJ will administer eligible activities directly:

Our PJ will not administer eligible activities directly. We will oversee two HOME-ARP subcontracts with qualified not-for-profit agencies.

If any portion of the PJ's HOME-ARP administrative funds are provided to a subrecipient or contractor prior to HUD's acceptance of the HOME-ARP allocation plan because the subrecipient or contractor is responsible for the administration of the PJ's entire HOME-ARP grant, identify the subrecipient or contractor and describe its role and responsibilities in administering all of the PJ's HOME-ARP program:

Not applicable. Yonkers will not provide any portion of our HOME-ARP administrative funds to a subrecipient or contractor prior to HUD's acceptance of our HOME-ARP allocation plan.

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.

Use of HOME-ARP Funding

	Funding Amount	Percent of the Grant	Statutory Limit
Supportive Services	\$ 2,500,000		
Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelters	\$ 0		
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	\$ 2,000,000		
Development of Affordable Rental Housing	\$ 0		

Non-Profit Operating	\$ 0	0 %	5%
Non-Profit Capacity Building	\$ 0	0 %	5%
Administration and Planning	\$ 187,217	4.0 %	15%
Total HOME ARP Allocation	\$ 4,687,217		

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

Our PJ will issue two Requests For Proposals (RFPs) after our draft HOME-ARP Allocation Plan has been approved by HUD. One will be for \$2 million to be used for outreach and supportive services for people who are homeless, with preference given to those who are consistently or intermittently living in places not designed for human habitation in Yonkers. The second RFP will be for \$2.5 million for TBRA and housing stability services with preference given to very low-income Yonkers renter households (below 30% AMI) who are severely housing cost-burdened, and prioritization given to Yonkers residents who are kinship caregivers with current or documented pending custody of relative children.

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:

As detailed above, Westchester's shelter and housing inventory are substantial and growing. The part of the Homeless Qualifying Population that is least well-served by the current system is unsheltered homeless people, particularly here in Yonkers. This population needs a sustained effort to engage them and help link them to safe shelter, supportive services including treatment for acute and chronic medical, mental health and behavioral health conditions, and permanent supportive housing.

Households facing eviction and potential homelessness is a large population with expensive needs that dwarf the scale of Yonkers' HOME-ARP allocation. We do not feel that we can significantly impact such a huge problem with this funding.

Households fleeing domestic violence and related crimes have major new housing resources that began in 2022 and 2023, including NYS Emergency Housing Vouchers, NYS Rental Supplement Program, and the 75 new units of dedicated permanent housing that are opening this year with ongoing support from the NYS Empire State Supportive Housing Program. Our CoC will be struggling this year to process enough DV referrals to rapidly fill all these units. We therefore believe that this population should be a lower local priority at this moment.

Households At Greatest Risk of Housing Instability is the Qualifying Population with the least dedicated resources in our community so we assigned this QP our highest priority level. There are hundreds of local households who qualify as part of this QP. We are proposing to prioritize Yonkers residents who are kinship caregivers with current or documented pending custody of relative children. This group has no other housing resources specifically dedicated to it and is small enough in scale so that we have the potential to significantly impact it in our community.

HOME-ARP Production Housing Goals

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

Not applicable. Yonkers does not intend to produce or support any new affordable rental housing units with its HOME-ARP allocation.

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:

Not applicable.

Preferences

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).

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:

Our PJ will issue two Requests For Proposals (RFPs) after our draft HOME-ARP Allocation Plan has been approved by HUD. One will be for \$2 million to be used for outreach and supportive services for people who are homeless, with preference given to those who are consistently or intermittently living in places not designed for human habitation in Yonkers. The second RFP will be for \$2.5 million for TBRA and housing stability services with preference given to very low-income renter Yonkers households (below 30% AMI) who are severely housing cost-burdened, with prioritization given to Yonkers residents who are kinship caregivers with current or documented pending custody of relative children.

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:

Outreach/Supportive Services: Giving a preference to homeless people who are consistently or intermittently living in places not designed for human habitation in Yonkers will address the gap in shelter engagement resources and help reduce the recent increase in unsheltered homeless people living in Yonkers. It will also help address the most urgent housing needs of the people most at risk of dying due to hypothermia and exposure to the elements.

TBRA and Housing Stability Services: All four QPs will be eligible to participate in this activity. Giving a preference to Yonkers' **9,320** renter households who both have incomes at or below 30% of AMI **and** are severely housing cost-burdened will help focus these new resources on Yonkers' largest subpopulation of HOME-ARP Qualifying Population members. As cited above, Yonkers' FY2020-2024 Consolidated Plan reports that Yonkers has **9,320** renter households in this one subset of HOME-ARP Qualifying Populations. This preference also helps address the needs of a QP for whom no other dedicated housing resources are available in our community.

We will prioritize our HOME-ARP TBRA and Housing Stability Services to Yonkers residents who are kinship caregivers with current or documented pending custody of relative children. We

will implement this prioritization by only accepting referrals of households who fit this category during the first 6 months of our TBRA program's intake process. Beginning in Month 7 the program will accept referrals of any Yonkers household that is a member of any of the four QPs, while continuing to give a preference to renter households who are at or below 30% AMI **and** severely housing cost-burdened.

Referral Methods

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).

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 two not-for-profit agencies that will be selected via Yonkers' RFP process will manage their own separate referral and intake process for their HOME-ARP funded projects.

The agency selected to operate Yonkers' HOME-ARP Homeless Outreach/Supportive Services project will accept referrals from any source of members of any Qualifying Population who are consistently or intermittently living in places not designed for human habitation in Yonkers. One

major source of referrals will be the Yonkers Police Department. A second major source of referrals will be our Continuum of Care's Street Outreach Coordinated Entry Referral Committee (CERC). This Street Outreach CERC gathers reports of any unsheltered homeless person encountered anywhere in Westchester, gives their location to an appropriate street outreach team, and then works with the assigned outreach worker to facilitate linkages to emergency treatment, emergency shelter, Housing First permanent housing, and other needed resources. Yonkers' HOME-ARP Outreach/Supportive Services project will also accept referrals for any other local community agency, service provider, or concerned resident. After receiving a referral, the project will dispatch one or more outreach workers, usually within the hour, to try to establish initial contact with the unsheltered homeless person. The team will make repeated outreach contacts as needed to engage the individual and win the person's trust. Once the individual expresses a willingness to work with the outreach team to consider shelter and/or housing options and provides some basic personally identifying information, the outreach team will enter the individual into our Continuum of Care's Homeless Management Information System and begin working with our countywide Street Outreach CERC to identify and facilitate needed linkages.

The agency selected to operate Yonkers' HOME-ARP TBRA/Supportive Services project will accept referrals from multiple sources and manage its own referral list. It will identify potential recipients via inreach to its own social service programs when appropriate and outreach to the Westchester County Department of Social Services and other local service providers. For the first six months of this program's operation, referrals will only be accepted of Yonkers renter households who are: a) living at or below 30% of AMI, b) severely housing cost-burdened, AND c) kinship caregivers with current or documented pending custody of relative children. Beginning in the seventh month of this program's operation it will accept new referrals of any member of the four Qualifying Populations, while continuing to give a preference to Yonkers renter households who are both living with household incomes at or below 30% of AMI **AND** severely housing cost-burdened, with no further prioritization of relative caregivers. Households will be approved for participation in this project in the order of this established preference, further sorted by the order in which their completed applications are submitted.

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

Not applicable. Our PJ does not intend to use our Continuum of Care's Coordinated Entry process for referrals to either of our two proposed new HOME-ARP projects.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

Limitations in a HOME-ARP rental housing or NCS project

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:

Not applicable. Our PJ does not intend to use any of our HOME-ARP allocation to create new HOME-ARP rental housing or Non-Congregate Shelter.

If a PJ intends to implement a limitation, explain why the use of a limitation is necessary to address the unmet need or gap in benefits and services received by individuals and families in the qualifying population or subpopulation of qualifying population, consistent with the PJ's needs assessment and gap analysis:

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

HOME-ARP Refinancing Guidelines

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.

Not applicable. Yonkers does not intend to use HOME-ARP funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily rental housing that is being rehabilitated with HOME-ARP funds.

Other Required Attachments:

SF-424, SF-424B, SF-424D and Certifications

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

*** 1. Type of Submission:**

- ☐ Preapplication
☒ Application
☐ Changed/Corrected Application

*** 2. Type of Application:**

- ☒ New
☐ Continuation
☐ Revision

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

*** Other (Specify):**

*** 3. Date Received:**

4. Applicant Identifier:

5a. Federal Entity Identifier:

072722903

5b. Federal Award Identifier:

M21-MP360205

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State:

7. State Application Identifier:

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

*** a. Legal Name:** City of Yonkers

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

13-6007340

*** c. UEI:**

DA3CE2FN4MW1

d. Address:

* Street1: City Hall, 40 South Broowday

Street2:

* City: Yonkers

County/Parish: Westchester

* State: NY: New York

Province:

* Country: USA: UNITED STATES

* Zip / Postal Code: 10701-3821

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name:

Planning and Development

Division Name:

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

Prefix:

Mr.

* First Name:

Louis

Middle Name:

J.

* Last Name:

Albano

Suffix:

Title: Commissioner

Organizational Affiliation:

* Telephone Number: 914-377-6650

Fax Number: 914-377-6672

* Email: Louis.Albano@yonkersny.gov

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

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

C: City or Township Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

* 10. Name of Federal Agency:

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development - HUD

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

14.239

CFDA Title:

HOME Investment Partnerships Program

* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:

M21-MP360205

* Title:

HOME Investment Partnerships Program

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

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

Yonkers, NY

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

The HOME Investment Partnerships American Rescue Plan(HOME-ARP) provides funding to reduce homelessness and increase housing stability.

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

16. Congressional Districts Of:

* a. Applicant

* b. Program/Project

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

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date:

* b. End Date:

18. Estimated Funding (\$):

* a. Federal	<input type="text" value="4,687,217.00"/>
* b. Applicant	<input type="text"/>
* c. State	<input type="text"/>
* d. Local	<input type="text"/>
* e. Other	<input type="text"/>
* f. Program Income	<input type="text"/>
* g. TOTAL	<input type="text" value="4,687,217.00"/>

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

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

* 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)

☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

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

☒ ** I AGREE

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

Authorized Representative:

Prefix: * First Name:

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Suffix:

* Title:

* Telephone Number: Fax Number:

* Email:

* Signature of Authorized Representative:



* Date Signed:

ASSURANCES - NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

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


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

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

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

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project cost) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
4. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
5. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
6. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee- 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and, (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.
7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
8. Will comply, as applicable, with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

9. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333), regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
10. Will comply, if applicable, with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
11. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).
12. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
13. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
14. Will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.
15. Will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. §§2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.
16. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
17. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
18. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.
19. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL 	TITLE Mayor
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION City of Yonkers	DATE SUBMITTED 3/17/2023

ASSURANCES - CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL

TITLE

Mayor

APPLICANT ORGANIZATION

DATE SUBMITTED

City of Yonkers

3/17/2023

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

3/17/2023

Date



Title

**HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP
PROGRAM-AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
(HOME-ARP
ALLOCATION PLAN
2021**

Appendices



Mayor Mike Spano

Lead Agency: Department of Planning and Development

City of Yonkers

87 Nepperhan Avenue – Suite 312

Yonkers, New York 10701

APPENDICES

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APPENDIX A

Public Notice/ Affidavit of Publication

Public Notice for the City of Yonkers HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

City of Yonkers, Department of Planning and Development HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM – AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (HOME-ARP) ALLOCATION PLAN

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The City of Yonkers Allocation Plan for the HOME - American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) will be available for public review and comment from February 21 through March 9th, 2023 at the City of Yonkers Department of Planning and Development, 87 Nepperhan Avenue, Room 315, Yonkers, New York, 10701 and at the Yonkers Public Library, 1 Larkin Center, Yonkers, NY 10701.

The City of Yonkers was awarded \$4,687,217 in HOME-ARP funds in a one-time allocation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The Allocation Plan is required by HUD for the City of Yonkers to receive federal HOME-ARP grant funds. The HOME-ARP Allocation Plan is a strategic plan detailing the allocation of funding to assist individuals or households who are experiencing homelessness, at risk of homelessness, and other vulnerable populations, by providing affordable housing, rental assistance, supportive services, and/or non-congregate shelter, to reduce homelessness and increase housing stability. The Allocation Plan defines the use of federal HOME-ARP grant funds to address these needs.

A public hearing on the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan will be held on Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. The draft HOME-ARP Allocation Plan can be viewed on the City of Yonkers web site at <https://www.yonkersny.gov/work/departments-of-planning-development/community-development/public-notice>

Written comments on the plan should be received by the Department by 4:00 p.m. March 9, 2023. Comments should be submitted to the attention of Louis J. Albano, Commissioner, City of Yonkers, Department of Planning and Development, 87 Nepperhan Avenue, Room 315, Yonkers, NY 10701 or cdoffice@yonkersny.gov

Non-English-speaking persons, persons with Limited English Proficiency, or persons needing reasonable accommodation should contact Alba Guevara at (914) 377-6650 or cdoffice@yonkersny.gov for further assistance or to access documents in another language.

Para asistencia en Español, puede contactar a Alba Guevara at (914) 377-6650 o cdoffice@yonkersny.gov



AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION FROM

State of Wisconsin
County of Brown, ss.:

On the 22 day of February in the year 2023, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said State, personally appeared Linda Tatt, personally known to me or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the individual(s) whose name(s) is (are) subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument, the individual(s), or the person upon behalf of which the individual(s) acted, executed, the instrument.

Linda Tatt being duly sworn says that he/she is the principal clerk of THE JOURNAL NEWS, a newspaper published in the County of Westchester and the State of New York, and the notice of which the annexed is a printed copy, on the editions dated :

Zone:
Westchester

Run Dates:
02/22/2023

Linda Tatt
Signature

Sworn to before me, this 22 day of February, 2023

[Signature]
Notary Public, State of Wisconsin, County of Brown

8-25-26
My commission expires

Legend:

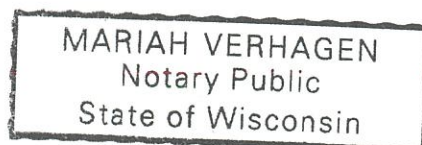
WESTCHESTER:

Amawalk, Ardsley, Ardsley on Hudson, Armonk, Baldwin Place, Bedford, Bedford Hills, Brewster, Briarcliff Manor, Bronxville, Buchanan, Carmel, Chappaqua, Cold Spring, Crompond, Cross River, Croton Falls, Croton on Hudson, Dobbs Ferry, Eastchester, Elmsford, Garrison, Goldens Bridge, Granite Springs, Greenburg, Harrison, Hartsdale, Hastings, Hastings on Hudson, Hawthorne, Irvington, Jefferson Valley, Katonah, Lake Peekskill, Larchmont, Lincolnville, Mahopac, Mahopac Falls, Mamaroneck, Millwood, Mohegan Lake, Montrose, Mount Kisco, Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, North Salem, Ossining, Patterson, Peekskill, Pelham, Pleasantville, Port Chester, Pound Ridge, Purchase, Purdys, Putnam Valley, Rye, Scarsdale, Shenorock, Shrub Oak, Somers, South Salem, Tarrytown, Thornwood, Tuckahoe, Valhalla, Verplanck, Waccabuc, White Plains, Yorktown Heights, Yonkers

ROCKLAND:

Blauvelt, Congers, Garnerville, Haverstraw, Hillburn, Monsey, Nanuet, New City, Nyack, Orangeburg, Palisades, Pearl River, Piermont, Pomona, Sloatsburg, Sparkill, Spring Valley, Stony Point, Suffern, Tallman, Tappan, Thiells, Tomkins Cove, Valley Cottage, West Haverstraw, West Nyack

Ad Number: 0005600314



Public Notice for the City of Yonkers HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

City of Yonkers, Department of Planning and Development

**HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM – AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (HOME-ARP)
ALLOCATION PLAN**

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The City of Yonkers Allocation Plan for the HOME - American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) will be available for public review and comment from February 22nd through March 10th, 2023 at the City of Yonkers Department of Planning and Development, 87 Nepperhan Avenue, Room 315, Yonkers, New York, 10701 and at the Yonkers Public Library, 1 Larkin Center, Yonkers, NY 10701.

The City of Yonkers was awarded \$4,687,217 in HOME-ARP funds in a one-time allocation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The Allocation Plan is required by HUD for the City of Yonkers to receive federal HOME-ARP grant funds. The HOME-ARP Allocation Plan is a strategic plan detailing the allocation of funding to assist individuals or households who are experiencing homelessness, at risk of homelessness, and other vulnerable populations, by providing affordable housing, rental assistance, supportive services, and/or non-congregate shelter, to reduce homelessness and increase housing stability. The Allocation Plan defines the use of federal HOME-ARP grant funds to address these needs.

A public hearing on the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan will be held on:

March 1, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Yonkers Riverfront Library

1 Larkin Center, 4th Floor Yonkers Room

Yonkers, NY 10701

The draft HOME-ARP Allocation Plan can be viewed on the City of Yonkers web site:

<https://www.yonkersny.gov/work/departments-of-planning-development/development/community-development/public-notice>

Written comments on the plan should be received by the Department by 4:00 p.m. March 10, 2023. Comments should be submitted to the attention of Louis J. Albano, Commissioner, City of Yonkers, Department of Planning and Development, 87 Nepperhan Avenue, Room 315, Yonkers, NY 10701 or cdoffice@yonkersny.gov.

Non-English-speaking persons, persons with Limited English Proficiency, or persons needing reasonable accommodation should contact Alba Guevara at (914) 377-6650 or cdoffice@yonkersny.gov for further assistance or to access documents in another language.

Para asistencia en Español, puede contactar a Alba Guevara at (914) 377-6650 o cdoffice@yonkersny.gov

0005600314

APPENDIX B

Sign in Sheets

APPENDIX C

Speakers List

HOME-ARP
Public Hearing
03-01-2023
SPEAKER LIST

1. Felicia Medley / FSSX
2. Carolyn Fluckinger "
3. Jon Shesk CLUSTER
4. Elisha Ramos Westhale

APPENDIX D

COMMENTS RECEIVED

Wanda Rodriguez

From: Carolyn Fluckinger <CFluckinger@fssy.org>
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2023 5:23 PM
To: Alba Guevara
Cc: Anietra Guzman Santana
Subject: 3/1/2023 hearing remarks
Attachments: 2023 HAAP Hearing 3-1, F Medley.pdf; 2023 CoY HAAP Hearing, 3-1, CF.pdf

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Alba

Thank you for holding the March 1 hearing on the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan. We look forward to hear more about the plan in the next several months.

Attached are my remarks and those of Felicia Medley, grandparent caregiver and FSSY GrandPower Advocate.

*Carolyn Fluckinger
Director, Kinship Support Program
Family Service Society of Yonkers
30 S. Broadway
Yonkers, NY 10701
914-963-5118 (O)
914-525-7475 @*



Family Service Society
of Yonkers

P.O. Box 437
Yonkers, New York 10703-0437
Telephone (914) 963-5118
Fax (914) 963-4313
www.fssy.org

**City Of Yonkers, Department of Planning and Development
Home Investment Partnership Program
American Rescue Plan (Home-Arp) Allocation Plan Hearing
Yonkers Riverfront Library
March 1, 2023**

Thank you for holding this hearing. I am Carolyn Fluckinger, the Director of the Kinship Support Program, at the Family Service Society of Yonkers. We strongly recommend Yonkers' Home Investment Partnership Program American Rescue Plan Allocation includes an allocation of \$1,000,000 to be spread over 5 years to provide Tenant-Based Rental Assistance and essential support services to low income kinship families.

By far the most common requests the FSSY Kinship Support Program receives are for housing assistance.

Kinship families are among the most vulnerable in Westchester. There are **4,648 kinship caregiver families** in Westchester (NYS Kinship Navigator), including **3,247 grandparents** who are solely responsible for raising grandchildren (US Census 2020 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimate). Yonkers has **2,727 households** in which the heads of households are kinship caregivers, i.e. raising children under the age of 18 who are not their own.

Each year FSSY provides services to 100 kinship families. In Yonkers, where the largest number of kinship families reside in Westchester County. 91% of the families served have very low or low incomes. In a 2022 kinship survey conducted by FSSY we found that:

- 11.8% of kinship caregivers reported that they pay 31%-40% of their household income on rent
- 15.70% of kinship caregivers reported that they pay 41% - 50% of their household income on rent
- 19.6% of kinship caregivers reported that they pay 51% - 60% of their household income on rent

Tenant-based Rental Assistance will ensure that kinship caregivers do not face homelessness and that the children in their care do not enter the child welfare system. Thank you.



*Family Service Society
of Yonkers*

P.O. Box 437
Yonkers, New York 10703-0437
Telephone (914) 963-5118
Fax (914) 963-4313
www.fssy.org

**City Of Yonkers, Department of Planning and Development
Home Investment Partnership Program
American Rescue Plan (Home-Arp) Allocation Plan Hearing
Yonkers Riverfront Library
March 1, 2023**

Good evening, my name is Felicia Medley. I am a kinship caregiver who is raising 6 of my grandchildren and a FSSY GrandPower Advocate. This has changed my lifestyle in many ways. When I took them in I had a two bedroom apartment and that was all I could afford. To move to a bigger place means bigger finances. There are many caregivers like me who have taken on the responsibility of raising children who would have been placed in the system. The average caregiver is not able to afford to move to accommodate the family additions; however, they want to keep things uplifting and stable for the children's wellbeing. Our incomes and weekly spending have been affected by this change in lifestyle and we are not able to find adequate housing because of family size or not enough income. The price of everything is drastically increasing such as rent, food, clothing, etc., however; our incomes and governmental assistance are not increasing with it. This makes it extremely difficult to pay rent or to find adequate housing for our larger families. Most apartment agencies are looking for a person to have at least two to three months of rent in advance which could be as high as \$10,000. For a senior or person on a limited income it is almost impossible to get this type of money all at once. Today I am here to represent the Family Services Society of Yonkers also known as FSSY. We would like to recommend that the Yonkers Home ARP plan includes Tenant – Based Rental Assistance and Essential Support Services specifically for housing cost-burdened kinship caregivers. I thank you in advance for your kind consideration of this most important request.

Felicia Medley, Grandparent Caregiver

WHERE WE ARE:

Project Connect is located at 100 N. Broadway in Yonkers

WHAT WE DO:

Project Connect is Westhab's innovative homeless outreach program designed to provide a clear entry point and a pathway to services for individuals currently living unsheltered.

HOW WE DO IT:

Project Connect conducts outreach to the unsheltered homeless population of Yonkers and works with individuals to create short- and long-term goals geared toward ultimately attaining permanent housing. The team aims to build trust, open communication, practice harm reduction, and deliver life-changing services to the most vulnerable members of our community. Project Connect offers a safe and private space to meet with program staff, shower facilities, meals, and temporary emergency accommodations.

THE TEAM:

THREE (3)

OUTREACH WORKERS

TWO (2)

CASE MANAGERS

SEVEN (7)

SOCIAL WORK INTERNS

SINCE OPENING IN MARCH 2021, PROJECT CONNECT HAS ACHIEVED THESE SUCESES:

1824

Overall client interactions

435

Unique individuals served

11

Avg # individuals outreached per day

78

Unsheltered clients placed into shelter and on the path to permanent housing

69

In shelter as of 2/28/23

19

Unsheltered clients placed into permanent housing

4

Unsheltered clients placed into permanent housing w/ Westhab

ON-SITE SERVICE USAGE

1657

Clients Provided with Food

1463

Showers Provided

527

Clients Provided Laundry Service

10x

Emergency beds used

COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS:

- **St. John's Hospital Hope Center** provides on-site rapid HIV & Hep-C testing on monthly basis
- **Urban League of Mt. Vernon** provides free Narcan & training, along with other harm reduction tools (clean needles, wipes, etc.)
- **Lexington Center** provides addiction & recovery support in the community, working alongside our outreach team. They also provide virtual substance abuse assessments to individuals ready to engage in treatment
- **Central Park Recovery** provides in person substance abuse assessments to individuals ready to engage in treatment
- **Mobile SHAC**, through **MHA**, provides comprehensive biopsychosocial assessments for individuals coping with Mental Health and/or Substance Abuse in efforts to connect them to the necessary supports/services

PARTNER SUPPORT

Bob Walters | President | Beczak Environmental Education Center | Yonkers NY

"Project Connect is of tremendous importance in helping protect the quality of life not only for the Homeless but the residents of Downtown Yonkers."

Sharon Thomas | Director of Health Services | Urban League of Westchester County, Inc

"Project Connect has been a vital part of the community. Affordable housing has always been an issue in our community. Project Connect assists individuals who are homeless to receive necessary services such as food, clothing, a safe place to stay during the day, and case management. The COVID Pandemic has greatly increased the need for these services and Project Connect has stepped in where there was a "gap in services". It would be a great loss to Yonkers to lose this resource."

Cato Jones | Prevention Counselor | St. John's Riverside Hospital Hope Center | Yonkers NY

"Project Connect is very important to the Yonkers community as a whole. We (St. John's) have referred a number of clients enduring unsheltered homelessness to Project Connect that have needed the services. We have always gotten great feedback regarding the assistance & support they received. Project Connect has provided individuals with a reliable, safe space to go while they navigate this point in their lives. Project Connect has also allowed us to engage the homeless for HIV/Hep-C testing on-site."

PARTNER SUPPORT

Theresa Colao | Social Worker | St. Joseph's Emergency Department | Yonkers NY

"Project Connect has made a huge positive impact in how we work with our homeless population here in St. Joseph's Hospital. Having a point person like Sarah has been truly a "lifesaver" It is efficient to be able to contact just one person - Sarah - who can tell us about a patient's history in the shelter system , which often also includes vital inform. As you can imagine a person's history is significant in treatment of a pt. In addition having a center for a patient to go to before going straight to the shelter system is beneficial in so many ways. Being given information, a place to shower, food as well as information about what to expect and how to work with them to obtain housing is just priceless. I would think that outcome studies of these pts would indicate that PC was quite instrumental."

Sara Brody | Executive Director | The Downtown/Waterfront Business Improvement District Inc. of Yonkers

"The services that Project Connect have provided to the Downtown Yonkers community has been a vital source of working to get assistance for the homeless and mental health challenged individuals. Without this program, the two populations will not have a program that has been specifically designed to help each person where they are. Without this program, the homeless and mental health challenged individuals will not have advocates looking out to help them on a daily basis. The case workers for the program work closely with the police to determine how best to help these individuals and in many cases have been successful in getting the individuals off the streets and into apartments or programs that will further help them with their issues.

Without this vital program being refunded, I fear that the downtown area will become a larger haven for the homeless and mental health challenged and that it will be more difficult to engage the new residents to cross over Warburton Ave/Riverdale Ave even more than it already is and could possibly negatively affect the renting of apartments in the area. Not having this program extended will result in more struggling for the local businesses to make a living, it could mean possible increased crime, increased quality of life calls to the police and a general decrease in the quality of life that is slowly on the upswing for the area."