

INFORMATION MEMO

To: Honorable Mayor and Yakima City Council

From: Joan Davenport, Community Development Director

Subject: Yakima City Council Public Hearing to Receive Public Input on HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

Date: February 21, 2023 Public Hearing

The City of Yakima was notified of eligibility for \$1,822,807 in Home Investment Partnership Program-American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) funds in a one-time allocation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Prior to receiving the funds for projects, the City of Yakima is required to develop a HOME-ARP Allocation Plan. A public hearing to receive public comments during the development of the Allocation Plan is part of the guidelines for this grant.

HOME-ARP grant fund may be used to assist Qualified Populations which include individuals or households who are experiencing homelessness, at risk of homelessness, victims of domestic violence and other vulnerable populations, such as veterans, those with disabilities and others. Grant funds may be used to provide services or housing to reduce homelessness or promote housing stability.

The City of Yakima will develop the Allocation Plan following the public input phase. All comments received will be included in the Allocation Plan. At this time, the City of Yakima is inclined to state a preference that funds be prioritized for projects which develop new affordable housing for homeless individuals or households, or those at risk of being homeless. Additional consideration would be given to a managed project that matches services to individuals and households with residents that are 30% or less of the Average Median Income (AMI), or have a disability and/or include veterans, as well as projects that create 60 or more housing units available to households at 50% or less of the AMI.

Notably, the City of Yakima and Yakima County conducted Joint Community Consultation processes and are holding concurrent public comment opportunities on their respective HOME-ARP Allocation Plans. Persons wishing to comment on the HOME-ARP programs have another opportunity to attend and comment at the Public Hearing held by the Board of Yakima County Commissioners on Tuesday February 28, 2023 at 10:00 AM in the Yakima County Courthouse Basement, Room 33B at 128 North 2nd Street, Yakima WA 98901. All comments received at either the February 21, 2023 City of Yakima Public Hearing and the February 28, 2023 Yakima County Public Hearing will be shared with both agencies.

The draft City of Yakima Allocation Plan will be available for public review on March 7, 2023. Written comments regarding the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan must be submitted no later than 4:00 PM, March 22, 2023.

Public notice of this hearing was published in both English and Spanish, with outreach to local organizations and stakeholders.