



STARK COUNTY, OH HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

Submitted to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
as a Substantial Amendment to the
2021 Annual Action Plan

Allocation Plan Amended April 2024
Allocation Plan Amended July 2026

Resolution

Stark County Commissioners

Distribution
Journal
RPC/LSnyder w/a
File

Adopted March 15, 2023

Subject A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 ACTION PLAN
SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT WITH HOME-ARP ALLOCATION PLAN

Regula moved the adoption of the following resolution which was
seconded by Smith

WHEREAS, the Board of Stark County Commissioners is a grantee and recipient of funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the HOME-American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) to provide homelessness assistance and supportive services; and

WHEREAS, this Board and the Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) have a complete HOME-ARP allocation plan and;

WHEREAS, this Board desires to adopt the FY 2021 Action Plan substantial amendment with HOME-ARP Allocation Plan which was advertised and provided for a 30-day comment period and is attached hereto and made a part hereof as though written in full.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Board hereby adopts the FY 2021 Action Plan substantial amendment with HOME-ARP Allocation Plan as referenced above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this Board authorizes its President to sign the required certifications for the FY 2021 Action Plan substantial amendment with HOME-ARP allocation plan and authorizes the SCRPC to submit the Action Plan substantial amendment on its behalf to HUD.

Upon roll call the vote resulted as follows:

MS. CREIGHTON- yes

MR. REGULA- yes

MR. SMITH- yes

CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned Assistant Clerk of the Board of Stark County Commissioners, hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted by the Board.

Richard Henry

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

3-15-2023

Date

President Board of Stark County Commissioners

Title

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:**

M21-DP390204

5b. Federal Award Identifier:

M21-DP390204

State Use Only:**6. Date Received by State:****7. State Application Identifier:****8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:***** a. Legal Name:**

Board of Stark County Commissioners

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

346002718

*** c. UEI:**

TF1MTFVU7MF4

d. Address:*** Street1:**

110 Central Plaza South 2nd Floor

Street2:*** City:**

Canton

County/Parish:*** State:**

OH: Ohio

Province:*** Country:**

USA: UNITED STATES

*** Zip / Postal Code:**

44702-1211

e. Organizational Unit:**Department Name:****Division Name:****f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:****Prefix:**

Ms.

*** First Name:**

Diane

Middle Name:*** Last Name:**

Sheridan

Suffix:**Title:**

Chief of Community Development

Organizational Affiliation:*** Telephone Number:**

330-451-7031

Fax Number:

330-451-7990

*** Email:**

dmsheridan@starkcountyohio.gov

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

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

B: County 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

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

14-239

CFDA Title:

* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:

14-239

* Title:

Home Investment Partnership Program

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

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

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

HOME Investment Partnership Program

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	3,228,483.00
* b. Applicant	
* c. State	
* d. Local	
* e. Other	
* f. Program Income	
* g. TOTAL	3,228,483.00

*** 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:

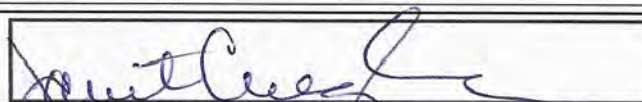
Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Suffix:

* Title: * Telephone Number: Fax Number: * Email:

* Signature of Authorized Representative:

* Date Signed:

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☒ Application
☐ Changed/Corrected Application

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☐ Continuation
☒ Revision

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

A: Increase Award

*** Other (Specify):**

*** 3. Date Received:**

4. Applicant Identifier:

5a. Federal Entity Identifier:

M21-DP390204

5b. Federal Award Identifier:

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*** First Name:**

Diane

Middle Name:

*** Last Name:**

Sheridan

Suffix:

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Chief of Community Development

Organizational Affiliation:

*** Telephone Number:**

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Fax Number:

*** Email:**

dmsheridan@starkcountyohio.gov

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* 10. Name of Federal Agency:

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

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14-239

Assistance Listing Title:

* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:

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* Title:

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13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

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

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

HOME Investment Partnerships Program American Rescue Plan

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

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* a. Applicant

* b. Program/Project

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Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date:

* b. End Date:

18. Estimated Funding (\$):

* a. Federal	3,233,324.00
* b. Applicant	0.00
* c. State	0.00
* d. Local	0.00
* e. Other	
* f. Program Income	
* g. TOTAL	3,233,324.00

* 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.
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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.

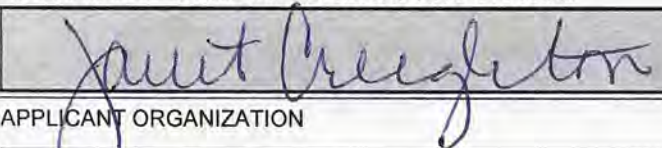
PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

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 President Board of Stark County Commissioners
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION Board of Stark County Commissioners	DATE SUBMITTED 3-15-2023

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.

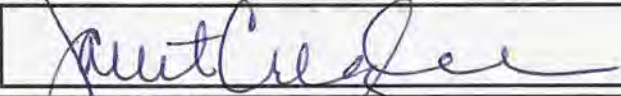
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As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

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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APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	DATE SUBMITTED
Board of Stark County Commissioners	3-15-2023

STARK COUNTY, OH HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

Submitted to HUD as a Substantial Amendment to the
Approved 2021 Annual Action Plan

Consultation

Section 1: Describe the consultation process including methods used and dates of consultation

See Appendix A for all Stakeholder Consultation materials. Stakeholder comments received throughout the various sessions and individual meetings are summarized below and referenced throughout the Needs Assessment & Gaps Analysis.

Stark County and the City of Canton (each of which is receiving a separate HOME-ARP funding allocation) collaborated on the stakeholder consultation process. In most cases, the same stakeholders cover the city and county, most without regard for the jurisdictional boundary that separates the two. Together, the county and city engaged in an extensive stakeholder consultation process over the course of four months beginning in July 2022. The first round of consultations focused on identifying the QPs and their unmet housing and service needs. A brief PowerPoint presentation on the HOME-ARP program was presented followed by questions meant to engage participants in identifying unmet needs among the qualifying populations they served. Details of Round 1 are included in the chart below.

ROUND 1 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS				
Date	Method	Participants Stakeholders	PJ Staff/ Consultants	Agency/Organization Type <i>(required stakeholders in italics)</i>
July 20, 2022 2:00-3:30 pm	GoToMeeting virtual session	22	11	<i>Homeless service providers, veterans service provider, Domestic violence provider, Public/private organizations addressing the needs of the QPs, Public agencies that address the needs of the QPs, Continuum of Care, Business, Affordable housing provider, Public housing authority, Philanthropic organization, Nonprofit organization</i>
July 21, 2022 9:00-10:30 am	GoToMeeting virtual session	10	9	<i>Continuum of Care, Public housing authority, Homeless services providers, Local government, Affordable housing provider, HMIS</i>
July 21, 2022 2:00-3:30 pm	GoToMeeting virtual session	8	8	<i>Continuum of Care, Homeless service providers, Business, School district</i>

The second round of stakeholder sessions was rescheduled for October 3, 5, and 6. The purpose of this round was to provide a summary of the stakeholder comments collected in July and a summary of the Needs Assessment & Gaps Analysis. Each session began with a detailed PowerPoint presentation summarizing key findings from the stakeholder consultation and the data analysis. Participants were

asked to provide feedback on the summary of stakeholder-identified needs and the needs identified through the data analysis. Details of Round 2 are included in the chart below.

ROUND 2 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS				
Date	Method	Participants Stakeholders	PJ Staff/ Consultants	Agency/Organization Type <i>(required stakeholders in italics)</i>
October 3, 2022 1:00-2:30 pm	GoToMeeting virtual session	11	8	<i>Public housing authority, Continuum of Care, Homeless service provider, HMIS, Nonprofit organization, Business, School district</i>
October 5, 2022 1:00-2:30 pm	GoToMeeting virtual session	7	4	<i>Domestic violence service provider, Homeless service provider, HMIS, School district</i>
October 6, 2022 10:00-11:30 am	GoToMeeting virtual session	10	2	<i>Homeless service providers, Domestic violence service provider, Continuum of Care, HMIS</i>

Following a review of the participant stakeholders and information collected during the Round 1 and Round 2 sessions, the city and the county identified the need to seek additional participation from civil rights/fair housing/disability rights organizations, veterans organizations, and domestic violence service providers. Details of these sessions are summarized below.

ADDITIONAL CONSULTATIONS		
Date	Method	Agency/Organization Type <i>(required stakeholders in italics)</i>
October 5, 2022 2:00-3:00 pm	GoToMeeting virtual session	<i>Public organizations that address civil rights, fair housing, disability rights (3)</i>
October 6, 2022 1:00-2:00 pm	Teams Meeting virtual session	<i>Domestic violence service provider</i>
October 7, 2022 9:00-10:00 am	Teams Meeting virtual session	<i>Veterans organization</i>

Section 2: List the organizations consulted and summarize feedback received and results of upfront consultation with these entities.

A list of all invited stakeholders is included in Appendix A. Also, included in Appendix A are summaries of the comments received during each stakeholder consultation session along with the participating entities.

All required stakeholder categories were engaged either through group stakeholder sessions, individual interviews, or via e-mail to obtain data.

The general themes and trends that emerged from the stakeholder sessions include the following:

- More affordable and accessible rental housing is needed for households up to 50% AMI through new construction and preservation with smaller developments and scattered sites available as options to expand housing choice

- Many landlords refuse to accept Housing Choice Vouchers given the higher market rents they can charge, and many landlords also refuse to rent to tenants who are homeless or released offenders, or who have a criminal history, evictions on their record, or poor credit
- Better collaboration with landlords is needed to increase the acceptance of HCVs from persons who are homeless or have criminal histories.
- The current level of HCV is inadequate to serve families in need of subsidized rental housing
- Subsidized housing has long waiting lists with little turnover among PSH and affordable rental units
- The level of supportive services available for those who are homeless is insufficient, contributing to the potential for returning to homelessness. These services include legal, financial counseling, case management, employment training, and more.
- There is a need for affordable housing that is accessible for persons with disabilities and accessible to transportation, amenities, good schools, etc.
- Increasing rental costs are impacting nearly all household groups, placing more households at risk for homelessness
- Lower income households who cannot afford rising rental rates are moving out of their units to avoid having an eviction action on their record. This is placing a strain on agencies who then must find them housing, front rent and utility deposits, etc.
- Gentrification is causing displacement in some city neighborhoods but there are no affordable units for these households
- Persons with limited English proficiency cannot find resources to help them understand and navigate the system. They do not understand the eviction process, they do not know about Legal Aid or how to use the homeless hotline.
- There are subsidies and services available for homeless veterans but finding rental units is very difficult.
- The number of adults and children who received emergency shelter from DVPI surged 73% in the first six months of 2022.
- Victims of domestic violence need TBRA so they don't have to wait on the SMHA HCV waiting list, even it was open. Otherwise, they risk having to return to their abuser.

Public Participation

See Appendix B for evidence of Public Participation conducted for the plan.

Section 1: Describe the public participation process, including information about and the dates of the public comment period and public hearing(s) held during the development of the plan.

- ***Date(s) of public notice: 1/9/2023 1/10/2023***
- ***Public comment period: start date - 1/10/2023 end date - 2/9/2023***
- ***Date(s) of public hearing: 2/7/2023***

Describe the public participation process:

To broaden public participation, the County:

- Published the notice in *The Repository* (Canton), *The Independent* (Massillon), and *The Alliance Review* (Alliance)
- Distributed the notice to its HOME-ARP stakeholder list requesting them to place the notice on their websites, social media sites, public lobbies and waiting areas
- Distributed the notice to the Stark County CoC for distribution to its member organizations
- Made the draft plan available online for review by the public review
- Listed in the notice the priority needs identified through the stakeholder consultation process and the Needs Assessment & Gaps Analysis
- Included in the notice the proposed HOME-ARP budget
- Informed the public that oral comments were encouraged at the public hearing

An in-person public hearing was held on February 7, 2023, at 7 pm at the office of the Stark Regional Planning Commission. A brief PowerPoint presentation was made before the hearing was opened for comments. The Planning Commission voted to recommend the approval of the plan to Stark County Commissioners.

In addition, an article on the County's intent to submit its HOME-ARP Allocation Plan to HUD was included in the December 14, 2022, edition of *The Repository*.

Section 2: Describe efforts to broaden public participation.

See response above.

Section 3: Summarize the comments and recommendations received through the public participation process either in writing, or orally at a public hearing.

During the public hearing, the following questions were asked and answered along with a comment provided by one attendee.

Q: Who do they contact if somebody needs assistance?

A: Once this plan is completed, submitted to HUD and is approved, at that point the county can begin to implement its program. Their intention at this point is, if HUD accepts our plan, to have an RFP process where we will open up the funds to nonprofits or organizations in the community so they can submit applications to request funding, and then we will score the applications and go from there.

Q: When do you see that happening?

A: We intend to submit the allocation plan to HUD by the end of February. It's technically due to HUD by March 31, 2023, and then HUD has 45 days to approve the plan. It may be early spring when we should have more concrete steps in place.

Comment:

The government departmentalizes their money and their sources of funds and where they are allowed to be used, but it seems like we continue to throw money at treating the symptoms, lack of housing, not that it's not needed, but ignore the root causes of the homelessness in the first place. But there are probably other programs to do that.

Q: Will this be involved in transitional housing if there is substance abuse or drug addiction and they wanted to go to transitional housing first before they got their own place?

A: The way we envision this working, and we've provided detail in the allocation plan, is our intention is to use Stark County's coordinated entry system. We intend to give preference to those who are homeless. HUD states you must meet the specific homeless criteria in order to qualify for housing that's considered permanent supportive housing. Not to rule that out completely, but there's still a lot of logistics that we need to work out, so maybe we could work together and talk about that more in the future. We're not sure how all the details will look right now.

Q: What is the role of Stark Housing Network in this process?

A: Stark Housing Network is the lead entity for the Stark County Continuum of Care. Stark Housing Network has worked with us in the development of this allocation plan. Our intended use is for us to partner with them through future development of this implementation. Since they work directly with the coordinated entry system, we will have a strong working relationship with them. That is how Stark Housing Network is hooked into this Continuum of Care.

Section 4: Summarize any comments or recommendations not accepted and state the reasons why.

Richard Regula of Stark County submitted an email to the Stark County Commission with a list of counter-arguments to the priority needs identified in the draft HOME-ARP Allocation Plan along with a list of suggested activities. The comments mentioned, and were more reflective of, Stark Metro Housing Authority, and were not eligible activities under the HOME-ARP program.

Separately, the County received from an individual via email on January 10, 2023, an article titled "City to propose a safe sleep pilot program before council next week". The article referenced an initiative to be undertaken by the City of Birmingham, AL.

Needs Assessment and Gaps Analysis

This section presents the results of the homeless needs and gaps analysis, drawing on CoC HMIS data, Point-In-Time (PIT) count information, and public federal data sources. Where appropriate, this information is contextualized with feedback from community stakeholders. Although the county and city collaborated on stakeholder consultations, the needs assessment and gap analysis is specific to Stark County. Unless otherwise stated, Stark County data includes the City of Canton where jurisdictional data cannot be separated. Where data is available for Stark County exclusively, it is provided.

Like many communities, Stark County has an insufficient inventory of affordable housing for most income tiers up to 80% AMI. This shortage is impacting the Qualifying Populations in several ways:

- There is a lack of available and affordable units for persons exiting the homeless system. This, in turn, has caused lengthened stays in emergency shelter beds and transitional housing beds to just under six months.
- The tight rental market overall has caused rents to surge as landlords and property managers increase rents due to demand exceeding supply. As a result, landlords are less interested in accepting tenants with rental vouchers because they can achieve higher rents than the HUD fair market rents.
- With increasing mortgage interest rates, renters who were hoping to become homebuyers are remaining renters since they've been priced out of the sales market. This means less turnover in the rental market.
- Households with incomes above 80% of AMI have more options in the rental market. If they are unable to rent within their income tier (e.g., an 80-100% AMI household finding a unit that is affordable to an 80-100% AMI household), then they tend to rent down-market. In other words, they will rent units that are affordable to households in lower-income tiers. This squeezes out the lower-income households from renting within their own income tier, causing cost burden for many who then rent up-market.
- The resulting shortage of units both affordable and available for renter households at or below 30% AMI increases housing insecurity in extremely low-income households, making them at risk of becoming homeless

Table 1 includes the current inventory of resources available within Stark County outside of the City of Canton. Using the 2022 Point in Time count of persons and families who were homeless on the night of January 23, there is a gap of 23 units for adults without children.

Table 1. Homeless Needs Inventory and Gap Analysis, Stark County

	Current Inventory					Homeless Population (January 23, 2022 PIT Count)				Gap Analysis			
	Family		Adults Only		Vets	Family HH (at least 1 child)	Adult HH (w/o child)	Vets	Victims of DV	Family		Adults Only	
	# Beds	# Units	# Beds	# Units	# Beds					# Beds	# Units	# Beds	# Units
Emergency Shelter (non-DV)	50	22	21	-	-								
Emergency Shelter (DV)	20	9	3	-	-								
Permanent Supportive Housing	36	12	7	-	-								
Sheltered Homeless						33	-	7	132				
Unsheltered Homeless						-	23	2	-				
Current Gap										-	-	-	-

Data Sources: 1. 2022 Point in Time Count (PIT); 2. Continuum of Care Housing Inventory Count (HIC); 3. Consultations; 4. Alliance Area Domestic Violence; 5. Domestic Violence Project, Inc.; 6. 2022 HDX Report from Stark County CoC

According to HMIS, there are 21 voucher programs administered throughout Stark County providing a total of 527 units of housing. These programs include Permanent Supportive Housing, Transitional Housing, Rapid Re-housing, VASH, Emergency Housing Vouchers, Shelter Plus Care, and local motels.

Within the county's rental housing inventory, there is a housing gap for households at 0-30% and 31-50% AMI (see Table 2). Analyzing the household occupancy of rental units by income tier provides additional information. According to CHAS data, there are 10,900 renter households in Stark County at 0-30% AMI. However, there are only 9,195 rental units affordable to this group of households. Further exacerbating the situation is that only 4,270 of these 9,195 affordable units are occupied by 0-30% AMI households. The remaining 4,925 units are occupied by households with incomes above 30% AMI. **This results in a housing gap of 6,630 rental units affordable to 0-30% AMI renter households.**

Moving up the income spectrum, there are 8,950 renter households at 31-50% AMI. For this income group, there is an over-supply of 16,730 units affordable to them. However, only 3,670 of the 16,730 units are occupied by 31-50% AMI households. The remaining supply of 13,060 units are occupied by households of other income tiers, likely including some of the 0-30% AMI households who are living in units outside of their income tier that would cause them to be cost burdened. **This results in a housing gap of 5,280 rental units affordable to 31-50% AMI renter households.**

The CHAS data used to complete this analysis is from 2014-2018 and was the current data set at the time this analysis was conducted. It does not reflect current housing market conditions that have resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic, including recent rent surges. However, it is still valuable in analyzing the

degree to which households above 30% AMI and above 50% AMI are renting down-market due to a lack of housing inventory for higher-income households.

Table 2. Housing Gap Analysis

Stark County Renter Households (excluding Canton)	0-30% AMI	31-50% AMI
Total Households	10,900	8,950
Affordable Housing Units	9,195	16,730
Units Occupied by Appropriate Income Tier ¹	4,270	3,670
Units Occupied by Other Income Households ²	4,925	13,060
Gap³	6,630	5,280

¹ Number of housing units occupied by a household of the same income tier (i.e., a 0-30% AMI household occupies a unit that is affordable to a 0-30% AMI household)

² Number of housing units occupied by a household that is not of the same income tier (i.e., a 0-30% AMI unit is occupied by a household above 30% AMI)

³ Total Number of Households minus Units Occupied by Appropriate Income Tier equals the number of units needed to house the balance of the households within that income tier that are occupying units affordable to households above their income tier (i.e., the housing gap).

Data Source: 2014-2018 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS)

Section 1: The size and demographic composition of Qualifying Populations

1. Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

The number of Stark County residents that meet the definition of homeless under 24 CFR 91.5 was derived from the 2022 PIT Count, conducted by the Canton, Massillon, Alliance/Stark County Continuum of Care (CoC) on January 23, 2022. The PIT Count identified a total of 247 persons experiencing homelessness in 2022. Of the total, 219 (88.7%) were sheltered and 28 (11.3%) were unsheltered. In terms of racial and ethnic demographics, 39.3% of homeless individuals were Black/African American, 41.3% were White, 17% were multi-racial, and 13.7% were Hispanic.

Between January 2021 and July 2022, a total of 4,257 homeless persons were served by the Stark County Continuum of Care.

Table 3. Persons Served by Stark County CoC, January 2021-July 2022

Program	Persons Served
Emergency Shelter	1,620
Permanent Supportive Housing and Supportive Housing	1,471
Rapid Re-Housing	1,000
Street Outreach	166
Total	4,257

According to the FY2021 Performance Measurement Module, 1,108 individuals experienced homelessness for the first time during the period October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021. This is a 6.2% decrease from 2020 when 1,181 persons experienced homelessness for the first time. These numbers account for persons entering emergency shelter, transitional housing, safe haven, and permanent housing programs.

2. At Risk of Homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

According to 2014-2018 CHAS data, there is a housing gap of 6,630 rental units affordable to 0-30% AMI households. The 6,630 households represented by this unit gap are living in units that are affordable to higher-income households, meaning they are all cost-burdened and paying more than 30% of their monthly income on housing costs. In addition, there is a housing gap of 5,280 rental units for 31-50% AMI households. Many of the 5,280 households represented by this unit gap are living in units that are affordable to higher-income households although some are likely occupying units affordable to 0-30% AMI. The housing gap for both of these income groups represents renter households who are living in units where they are cost-burdened, putting them at risk for homelessness.

Based on HMIS data from January 1, 2021-June 30, 2022, 38% of leaver households exited to temporary destinations. Exiting to a temporary destination may indicate a greater risk of returning to homelessness.

Stark County assisted 1,445 (67% of applicants) households through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program within the last 24 months through July 13, 2022. Of these households, the average income was approximately \$12,853.21, equivalent to the federal poverty level for a 1-person household or 21% of AMI. Households requiring emergency rental assistance may be at greater risk of experiencing homelessness if they cannot sustain ongoing rent and utility payments. The majority of these households were assisted due to one-time Covid-related funding that ended in June 2022. Currently, the CoC's Coordinated Entry can only refer households to one program that offers rental assistance: the City of Canton's ESG program which provides about \$72,800 annually to fund a similar initiative.

Stark Metro Housing Authority's Housing Choice Voucher waiting list includes 1,793 applicants. Of these, 85% are extremely low-income households at 0-30% AMI. With only 75 vouchers in the program, waiting list households will wait years to receive a voucher. These 1,793 households are at risk for homelessness.

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

Stark County sheltered 59 adults and 44 children who were escaping domestic violence from January through December 2021. There were 52 adult females and 6 adult males. Children aged 12 and younger numbered 38. The majority were White (61 individuals/59%) followed by 26 (25%) who were Black/African American and 5 (4.9%) Hispanic individuals. There were 34 disabled individuals.

From January through June of 2022, 34 adults and 26 children were sheltered. There were 41 adult females and 19 adult males. Of the children, 25 were 12 years of age or younger. A total of 25 of the individuals were disabled. There were 35 (58%) White individuals and 21 (35%) were Black/African American with one Hispanic (1.7%).

The Domestic Violence Project, Inc. (DVPI) provided emergency shelter to 75 adults and 31 children during calendar year 2021. Fifty percent were White, 44% were Black/African American, and the race/ethnicity of 15 individuals was unknown. During the first six months of 2022, the number of adults and children who received emergency shelter from DVPI surged. A total of 127 adults and 56 children were assisted, equivalent to an overall increase of 73% in only six months. Of these, 49% were White and 38% were Black/African American. Furthermore, DVPI tracked 588 persons fleeing domestic violence from January-June 2022 whose shelter needs could not be met, an unduplicated number. These persons and families would be at risk for homelessness.

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*

Those at greatest risk of housing instability include 6,315 renter households with an annual income less than or equal to 30% AMI and experiencing severe cost burden. This represents 12.6% of all renter households in Stark County. In addition, 2,410 renter households earn less than or equal to 50% AMI and pay more than 50% of their income on housing.

According to HMIS data, 973 people were assisted by an emergency shelter during the period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021; of these 313 or 32.2% were Black/African American. During the same period, 557 people were receiving rapid rehousing assistance; of these, 36.6% were Black/African American, highlighting that this segment of the population is disproportionately represented among people experiencing homelessness. Three percent were Hispanic. Of households that exited Rapid Rehousing programs, 35.7% of adult leavers had no cash income, putting these households at greater risk of returning to homelessness if unable to support ongoing rent payments.

From January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, 879 households exited to temporary destinations and 99 households exited to unknown destinations. Households receiving temporary assistance and those exiting to temporary destinations are more likely to return to homelessness or face a greater risk of housing instability than those exiting to permanent destinations.

Section 2: 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):

Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority (SMHA) owns and manages 1,720 public housing units throughout the county. Of those, 1,106 units are in the greater Canton area. SMHA also administers 75 Housing Choice Vouchers. The Authority received an additional 61 Emergency Housing Vouchers during Covid, all of which have been issued.

According to the 2022 HDX Competitive Report, HMIS bed coverage was 100% for emergency shelter, 100% for Safe Haven beds, 100% for Rapid Re-housing beds, 90.32% for permanent supportive housing beds and 100% for other permanent housing beds.

Section 3: Describe the unmet housing and service needs of qualifying populations:

1. *Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.5*

HMIS indicated 2,315 individuals were served by the homeless system during the period from January 1, 2021-June 30, 2022. According to the 2022 HIC, Stark County has 568 Permanent Supportive Housing beds, 244 emergency shelter beds, 26 Transitional Housing beds and 8 Safe Haven beds. This includes 253 year-round beds and 23 overflow beds (consisting of hotel rooms covered by an outside agency, such as Child and Protective Services). With a length of stay (in emergency shelters and transitional housing beds, primarily) averaging several months, the available inventory is insufficient to meet the needs of the population experiencing homelessness.

The resounding comment heard from stakeholders was the same overwhelming need: affordable rental housing. Subsidized units fill quickly and experience very little turnover with long waiting lists for affordable housing and permanent supportive housing. Many permanent supportive housing providers rely on scattered site privately owned units, and many tenants are refused by landlords who are no longer willing to accept rental assistance or have tenant selection policies that act as barriers for special needs populations.

According to stakeholders, more case management and wrap-around supportive services are needed to assist in stabilizing tenants and decreasing individuals' chances of returning to homelessness. Stakeholders indicated that people who are single, have a disability, and are Black/African American are disproportionately represented in the homelessness system.

2. At Risk of Homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

According to 2014-2018 CHAS data, there is a gap of 11,910 affordable units for all of Stark County. This indicates that the supply of affordable housing units is insufficient for households earning 0-30% AMI and those earning 30-50% AMI. As a result, these households reside in housing units that are more costly than what would be considered affordable to them. Although the ratio of cost-burdened renter households earning 81%+ AMI is smaller, this indicates an inadequate supply of units appropriately affordable to higher-income households. This leads to many higher-earning households renting down-market and residing in housing units that are affordable to lower-income households, including those with income below 30% AMI. Furthermore, this does not consider additional costs such as transportation, childcare, and accessibility modifications for individuals with disabilities. With 38% of all Stark County renters considered cost burdened and 20.4% considered severely cost-burdened, these additional costs further exacerbate the limited access to affordable housing in the county. Among 0-30% AMI renter households, 71% are cost-burdened and 58% are severely cost-burdened. Among 30-50% AMI renter households, 76.7% are cost-burdened and 27% are severely cost-burdened. This further suggests that the supply of affordable options for housing low-income households is insufficient.

Table 4. Cost Burden Among Lower Income Renters

Stark County, OH (excluding Canton)	Total		Cost burdened		Severely Cost burdened	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total Renters	48,429	-	18,390	40%	9,890	20.4%
Very Low-Income Renters (0-50% AMI)	19,850	41%	14,600	73.6%	8,725	44%
30-50% AMI	8,950	18.5%	6,865	76.7%	2,410	27%
0-30% AMI	10,900	22.5%	7,735	71%	6,315	58%

Data source: 2014-2018 CHAS data

Stakeholders reported that TBRA is useful with landlords working through the YWCA of Canton when a community health worker is assigned to provide social service needs to tenants. Otherwise, more available and affordable housing units are needed to take full advantage of existing rental assistance programs.

According to the SMHA reports (excluding the Canton area), there were 12,753 households on the public housing waitlist as of May 25, 2022. Of those households, 10,725 (84.1%) were extremely low-income.

There were 2,632 (20.6%) disabled, 232 (1.8%) veterans, and 711 (5.6%) victims of domestic violence identified. Most households, 9,756 or 76.5% were headed by females. The households were split mostly between White (7,065 or 55.4%) and African American (4,421 or 34.7%). There were 523 (4.1%) Hispanic households.

Poor credit history and a criminal record in the past 10 years have been identified as barriers for households accessing affordable households. Rental assistance and legal services for eviction prevention were identified as needed services to retain tenancies and prevent poor rental history from becoming a barrier for future tenancies.

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

According to the APR from January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, 1,092 households had a history of domestic violence. Of those, 243 were actively fleeing domestic violence. According to the 2022 HIC, only 49 shelter beds were dedicated for survivors of domestic violence. Transitional housing has been identified as a successful model for individuals fleeing domestic violence and human trafficking, particularly when finding permanent affordable housing is difficult.

The Domestic Violence Project, Inc. (DVPI) tracked 588 persons (unduplicated) fleeing domestic violence from January-June 2022 whose shelter needs could not be met.

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

According to HMIS, during the period January 1, 2021-June 30, 2022, 2,315 households exited the homeless system. Of these, 978 (42%) exited to temporary living situations, including transitional housing and temporarily staying with friends or family, or unknown destinations. Households without permanent housing may be more likely to experience returns to homelessness. Even among households exiting to permanent destinations, 25.6% exited to rentals without ongoing subsidy. Together, these suggest a need for both affordable housing units, as well as tenant-based rental assistance to support extremely low, and low-income households.

Stakeholders identified criminal background checks as a barrier to rental housing. Many landlords who were previously only going back 3-5 years on criminal background checks are now going back 5-10 years due to the fear of nonpayment after the Covid-19 eviction moratoria. Additionally, poor or no credit scores and rental histories are barriers. Stakeholders indicated 1,157 unique households were housed in a shelter since Covid-19 began. Many households were housed more than once bringing the total households served to 5,383. There is also a need to have landlord education and training programs to keep them informed of program guidelines and help them feel comfortable renting to disadvantaged households.

Stakeholders reported that Rapid Rehousing households without ongoing supportive services and employment are more likely to return to homelessness. Services such as case management, financial literacy, budgeting, basic life skills, workforce development and training, childcare and transportation, when provided beyond the time limitations of housing and/or rental assistance, are needed to promote stability and prevent returns to homelessness.

Veterans: There are a total of 71 beds available for veterans according to the 2022 HIC. During the period from January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, 31 chronically homeless veterans and 120 non-chronically homeless veterans were housed through the CoC. Of the 151 veterans, only 31.8% exited to a positive destination while 22.5% exited to temporary housing. Veterans often face additional, compounding barriers that may include mental health and/or substance abuse disorders, lack of income or rental history, or criminal history.

Persons with Disabilities: From January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, there were 3,601 instances of a mental health disorder or developmental or physical disability reported among persons assisted. While many individuals experience more than one condition concurrently, it is evident people with disabilities are a significant portion of those experiencing homelessness. Furthermore, for people with disabilities, accessible housing is a continuing and critical need, ranging from individuals in wheelchairs to medical beds and in-home healthcare services in order to maintain housing stability. Overall, there is a need for permanent housing that can accommodate persons with disabilities. This typically includes a bathroom equipped with grab bars, installation of handrails, walk-in showers and tubs, along with accessible doors and cabinets. Medical respite care was identified as a need for individuals discharged from hospital settings. Other needs of this population to maintain housing stability are the same as everyone else: access to employment and accessible public transportation.

According to SMHA, the Authority received 365 requests for reasonable accommodation. Of these 249 were approved. This indicates a continuing need for making rental units accessible to persons with sensory and physical disabilities.

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

According to OH 2-1-1 Counts, 11,200 requests were made for housing and shelter assistance between January 2021 and June 2022 in Stark County. This was the top request at 30.1%. Over 57.2% of these requests were made for rental assistance. While most requests were adequately met, 10% of rental assistance requests could not be met. Rates for unmet requests were high for those seeking temporary housing solutions through shelter (7%) and home repair or maintenance needs for low-income homeowners (20%). Home repair/ maintenance includes adaptations for safety and disability access, general upkeep, and weatherization. This indicates an unmet need for supportive services and reinforces stakeholder comments indicating a lack of affordable and accessible housing options.

The Stark County Annual Performance Reports (APR) from January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, reported a total of 2,315 households staying at least one night in emergency shelter, permanent supportive housing, permanent housing, rapid re-housing, or on the street.

Table 5. Exits from the Homeless Service System

	% Positive Destinations	# Positive Destinations	Total Households Exited
<i>By Household type</i>			
Adult-only Households	48.4%	620	1,281
Households with Children	62.4%	643	1,031
Child-only Households	100%	3	3
<i>By Pathway</i>			
ES	54.1%	726	1,343
PSH + PH	43.5%	148	340
RRH	56.7%	304	536
Street Outreach	91.7%	88	96
All Households	54.7%	1,266	2,315

Nearly 55% of households exiting the homeless system exited to positive housing destinations. This suggests that there is an overall lack of permanent housing resources for all household types that entered the homeless system, especially for those who were able to access only emergency shelter or rapid re-housing resources.

Stakeholders indicated the need for more affordable one- to three-bedroom units. There is also a need to build housing distributed throughout Stark County rather than a large multi-family building in Canton. There is a great need for affordable housing in Canton, but stakeholders discussed how multi-family living in the city is not for everyone and there is a need throughout the rest of Stark County. Stakeholders also indicated the need for more employment, case management, and counseling.

6. Identify priority needs for qualifying populations:

Based on stakeholder consultations and data analysis, the following priority needs among Qualifying Populations emerged from the planning process:

- Rental housing that is affordable and accessible to individuals and households at 0-30% AMI
- An adequate inventory of deeply subsidized housing for Qualifying Populations. Very low rental vacancy rates and escalating rents make it difficult for them to find units they can afford and remain stably housed.
- Emergency shelter beds and transitional housing for the rising numbers of persons experiencing or fleeing from domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking
- Increased investment in supportive services to assist the QPs

7. 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:

In addition to feedback from stakeholders, the following data sources were consulted to determine the needs and system gaps for HOME-ARP qualifying populations:

- American Community Survey (ACS), 2016-2020
- HUD Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS), 2014-2018
- Canton, Massillon, Alliance/Stark County CoC 2022 Point-In-Time Count

- Canton, Massillon, Alliance/Stark County CoC 2022 Housing Inventory County (HIC)
- Canton, Massillon, Alliance/Stark County CoC 2022 HDX Competition Report
- Stark County Coordinated Entry System (CES)
- Stark County CoC Annual Performance Reports (APR)
- 2021 System Performance Measures
- United Way of Greater Stark County's 2-1-1 Counts
- Alliance Area Domestic Violence data for January 2021-June 2022
- Stark Metro Housing Authority
- Domestic Violence Project, Inc.

HOME-ARP Activities

Section 1: Describe the method(s) that will be used for soliciting applications for funding and/or selecting developers, service providers, subrecipients and/or contractors:

Stark County will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) from developers, service providers, and/or subrecipient organizations to undertake eligible HOME-ARP activities. The RFP will, at a minimum, specify eligible applicants, eligible activities, minimum and maximum funding amounts, application thresholds, and underwriting criteria, and will provide instructions on how to submit an application for funding. The RFP will include bonus points for proposed projects that will leverage other resources, such as project-based rental assistance, and other state and federal funding.

Applications may be evaluated according to criteria such as organizational or developer experience, capacity, demonstrated effective grant management experience, services offered, project readiness, and leveraged resources, among other factors. The RFP process will be finalized once HUD approves the county's Allocation Plan.

2. Describe whether the PJ will administer eligible activities directly:

Stark County will not directly administer HOME-ARP activities beyond program administration and planning.

3. 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:

No HOME-ARP administrative funds have been provided to a subrecipient or contractor prior to HUD's acceptance of the HOME-ARP allocation plan.

Table 6. Use of HOME-ARP Funding

Table 6	Funding Amount	Percent of the Grant	Statutory Limit
Supportive Services	\$ 304,841.00		
Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelters	---		
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	---		
Development of Affordable Rental Housing	\$ 2, 336, 210.55		
Non-Profit Operating	\$ 54,000.00	1.7%	5%
Non-Profit Capacity Building	\$ 54,000.00	1.7%	5%
Administration and Planning	\$ 484,272.45	15%	15%
Total HOME ARP Allocation	\$ 3,233,324.00		

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

The HOME-ARP budget was driven by the following priority needs identified as a result of stakeholder consultation and data analysis:

- Rental housing that is affordable and accessible to individuals and households at 0-30% AMI
- An adequate inventory of deeply subsidized housing for all Qualifying Populations. Very low rental vacancy rates and escalating rents make it difficult for them to find units they can afford and remain stably housed.
- Emergency shelter beds and transitional housing for the rising numbers of persons experiencing or fleeing from domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking
- Increased investment in supportive services to assist the Qualifying Populations

Three of the four priority needs indicate strong demand for more affordable rental units. All QPs will have access to the HOME-ARP-funded units. The county will allocate 72.4% of its HOME-ARP grant to the development of affordable rental housing and 9.3% to supportive services. The county will make available up to 1.7% of its HOME-ARP budget to the capacity building needs and another 1.7% to the operating expenses of nonprofit organizations that are awarded HOME-ARP funds for other eligible HOME-ARP activities. The remaining 15% of the grant will be allocated to program administration.

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

The priority needs in Stark County were selected based on the following data and stakeholder comments:

- Rental housing that is affordable and accessible to individuals and households at 0-30% AMI
 - Subsidized units fill quickly and experience very little turnover with long waiting lists for affordable housing and permanent supportive housing. Many permanent supportive housing providers rely on scattered site privately owned units, and many tenants are refused by landlords who are no longer willing to accept rental assistance or have tenant selection policies that act as barriers for special needs populations.
- An adequate inventory of deeply subsidized housing for all Qualifying Populations. Very low rental vacancy rates and escalating rents make it difficult for them to find units they can afford and remain stably housed.
 - Stark Metro Housing Authority reports (excluding the Canton area) that there were 12,753 households on the public housing waitlist as of May 25, 2022. Of those households, 84.1% were 0-30% AMI, 20.6% had a household member with a disability, 1.8% were veterans, and 5.6% were victims of domestic violence.
 - Among 0-30% AMI renter households, 71% are cost-burdened and 58% are severely cost-burdened.
- Emergency shelter beds and transitional housing for the rising numbers of persons experiencing or fleeing from domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking
 - According to the APR from January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, there were 243 persons actively fleeing domestic violence. According to the 2022 HIC, only 49 shelter beds were dedicated for survivors of domestic violence.
- Increased investment in supportive services to assist all Qualifying Populations
 - Across all Qualifying Populations, stakeholders emphasized the need for a wide range of supportive services to assist in keeping all Qualifying Populations stably housed.

HOME-ARP Production Housing Goals

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

Stark County proposes to develop 8-10 affordable rental units at a per-unit development cost of \$225,000.

2.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:

Stark County estimates the development of 8-10 affordable rental housing units for all Qualifying Populations to address the priority needs as outlined in the plan. The county will work with developers and local non-profit entities to acquire, rehabilitate and/or construct new affordable rental units. The county may work with Stark Metro Housing Authority to secure project-based vouchers in addition to potentially utilizing HOME TBRA to ensure units are financially sustainable throughout the minimum compliance period. The proposed units will help to address the identified need of more affordable and accessible rental units for Qualifying Populations.

Preferences

1. 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:

Stark County will provide access to all Qualifying Populations with a preference for literally homeless individuals and families for its HOME-ARP activities. All other eligible Qualifying Populations will be selected in chronological order for any HOME-ARP activities. Literally homeless QP applicants will be prioritized for admission for occupancy based on the following criteria, in order of priority:

1. Chronically Homeless Individuals and Families with the Longest History of Homelessness and with Severe Service Needs
2. Homeless Individuals and Families with a Disability and with Long Periods of Episodic Homelessness and Severe Service Needs
3. Homeless individuals or heads of household (in the case of families), as defined in 24 CFR 578.3, who are eligible for CoC Program-funded PSH and who have severe service needs. In the case of individuals or heads of households with equally severe service needs, those with the longest cumulative length of documented homelessness during the last three years will receive priority.
4. Homeless individuals and heads of households (in the case of families) who are:
 - a. Eligible for CoC Program-funded PSH and currently residing in a transitional housing project, where, before residing in the transitional housing, they had lived in a place not meant for human habitation, in an emergency shelter, or in a safe have; or
 - b. Eligible for CoC Program-funded PSH and currently residing in a transitional housing project if they were fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence before residing in the transitional housing even if they did not live in a place not meant for human habitation, an emergency shelter, or a safe haven before entering the transitional housing.

2. 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:

The preference for literally homeless individuals and families for HOME-ARP activities was determined by the priority needs identifying rental housing that is affordable and accessible to individuals and households at 0-30% AMI and deeply subsidized for extremely low-income Qualifying Populations along with increased investment in supportive services to increase their likelihood of becoming stably housed. The challenges faced by chronically homeless individuals and families are exacerbated by the lack of affordable housing available to them; hence, the County has established a prioritization that favors chronically homeless individuals and families with severe service needs. Without rental units that are available and affordable, in conjunction with a strong supportive services component, this Qualifying Population is more likely to return to homelessness. The stable environment provided by housing and supportive services can provide them with opportunities to receive physical and mental health care, mainstream benefits, education and employment training, employment and other services critical to long-term maintenance of stable housing and an improved quality of life.

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

Stark County will establish a preference for literally homeless individuals and families for its HOME-ARP activities. All other Qualifying Populations will be selected in chronological order for any HOME-ARP activities.

Referral Methods

1. Identify the referral methods that the PJ intends to use for its HOME-ARP projects and activities. PJs may use multiple referral methods in their HOME-ARP program.

(Optional):

Stark County will use the CoC Coordinated Entry in conjunction with additional methods in identifying qualifying populations to be referred to the HOME-ARP project since the CE does not currently accept all HOME-ARP Qualifying Populations. In an effort to reach all Qualifying Populations and provide them with access to HOME-ARP activities, Stark County will require the use of additional referrals from outside organizations. These may include the homeless hotline and emergency assistance providers, among other entities. The referral method will be finalized as part of the implementation process through the development of a policy and procedure manual to administer the HOME-ARP program.

2. 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):

Stark County will use the CoC Coordinated Entry in conjunction with additional methods in identifying qualifying populations to be referred to the HOME-ARP project since the CE does not currently accept all HOME-ARP Qualifying Populations. In an effort to reach all Qualifying Populations and provide them with access to HOME-ARP activities, Stark County will require the use of additional referrals from outside organizations. These may include the homeless hotline and emergency assistance providers, among other entities. The referral method will be finalized as part of the implementation process through the development of a policy and procedure manual to administer the HOME-ARP program.

3. 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):

As indicated above, the CoC Coordinated Entry will not be used to admit applicants directly to a HOME-ARP assisted project, and the CoC CE prioritization will not be utilized to admit qualifying populations to projects. Rather, the Coordinated Entry System will be used as one method of referral to HOME-ARP assisted projects. Any referrals to the HOME-ARP assisted project(s) that come from the CoC's Coordinated Entry System would be prioritized according to the CoC's prioritization as follows:

1. Chronically Homeless Individuals and Families with the Longest History of Homelessness and with Severe Service Needs
2. Homeless Individuals and Families with a Disability and with Long Periods of Episodic Homelessness and Severe Service Needs
3. Homeless individuals or heads of household (in the case of families), as defined in 24 CFR 578.3, who are eligible for CoC Program-funded PSH and who have severe service needs. In the case of individuals or heads of households with equally severe service needs, those with the longest cumulative length of documented homelessness during the last three years will receive priority.
4. Homeless individuals and heads of households (in the case of families) who are:
 - a. Eligible for CoC Program-funded PSH and currently residing in a transitional housing project, where, before residing in the transitional housing, they had lived in a place not meant for human habitation, in an emergency shelter, or in a safe have; or

- b. Eligible for CoC Program-funded PSH and currently residing in a transitional housing project if they were fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence before residing in the transitional housing even if they did not live in a place not meant for human habitation, an emergency shelter, or a safe haven before entering the transitional housing.

Referrals made to HOME-ARP assisted projects from the CE will have gone through this prioritization; however, CE will not be used as the exclusive referral source for HOME-ARP assisted projects. Beyond establishing a preference for chronically homeless individuals and families, all other eligible QPs will be selected in chronological order for any housing or supportive services.

4.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):

As indicated above, Coordinated Entry will not be used to admit applicants directly to a HOME-ARP activity as it does not include all of the qualifying populations. Referrals will be accepted from other sources including the homeless hotline and emergency assistance providers, among other entities. Households eligible for the preference of chronically homeless households will be selected in accordance to the prioritization outlined above. All other QPs will be admitted in chronological order. The referral method will be finalized as part of the implementation process through the development of a policy and procedure manual to administer the HOME-ARP program.

Limitations in a HOME-ARP Rental Housing or NCS Project

1. 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:

Stark County will not include any limitations for eligibility for its HOME-ARP activity.

2. 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.

3. 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.

Appendix A: Stakeholder Consultation Materials

PUBLIC ORGANIZATION OR AGENCY NAME	HOME-ARP QUALIFYING POPULATIONS SERVED
Alliance for Children & Families	Homeless, At risk of homelessness, Other populations
American Red Cross	All QPs
Beacon Charitable Pharmacy	All QPs
Canton Christian Home	At risk of homelessness, other populations
Canton City Public Health	All QPs
Canton City School District	All QPs
Canton Police Department	All QPs
Catholic Charities	All QPs
Chesters Mop Inc.	At risk of homelessness, other populations
Coleman Professional Services	All QPs
Coming Together Stark County	All QPs(diversity/inclusion)
CommQuest	Homeless, At risk of homelessness, Other populations
Community Legal Aid	All QPs (civil / fair housing rights)
Domestic Violence Project, Inc.	violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking
Early Childhood Resource Center	All QPs (preschool childcare)
EDEN	All QPs (housing provider)
Equitas Health	All QPs (HIV/STI testing)
Family & Community Services	All QPs
Goodwill Industries	All QPs
Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio	At risk of homelessness, other populations
Homeless Outreach Team	Homeless
ICAN Housing	All QPs
Lifecare Clinic	All QPs
NAMI Stark County	At risk of homelessness, Other populations
Phoenix Rising	All QPs
Refuge of Hope	Homeless, At risk of homelessness, Other populations
Robert F Fay, CPA	All QPs (on the board of agencies assisting QPs)
Salvation Army (Alliance)	Homeless, At risk of homelessness, Other populations
Salvation Army (Canton)	Homeless, At risk of homelessness, Other populations
Salvation Army (Massillon)	Homeless, At risk of homelessness, Other populations
Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton	All QPs
Stark Community Foundation	All QPs
Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities	Homeless, At risk of homelessness, Other populations
Stark County Boards of Education (Educational Service Center)	All QPs
Stark County Community Action Agency	All QPs
Stark County Fair Housing	All QPs (civil / fair housing rights)
Stark County Family Council	All QPs
Stark County Health Department	All QPs
Stark County Houses of Worship	All QPs
Crossroads UMC/Canton for All People	All QPs
(Homeless Hotline/HMIS)	All QPs
Stark County Sheriff Department	All QPs
Stark County Veteran's Service Commission	All QPs involving veterans
Stark Housing Network Inc.	All QPs
Stark Jobs & Family Services	All QPs
Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority	All QPs
Stark Social Services Network	All QPs
United Way of Greater Stark County	All QPs
Vantage Aging	At risk of homelessness, other qualifying populations
Vertava Health	ALL QPs (addiction treatment in Carroll Cty)
Workforce Initiative	All QPs
YWCA of Canton	Homeless, At risk of homelessness, Other populations
Family Court	All QPs
Stark County Educational Service Center	All QPs
Community Restoration Centers of Stark County	All QPs
Greater Stark County Urban League	All QPs
The Stark Community Support Network	All QPs



HOME-ARP Stakeholder Discussions

Please join us to discuss the federal HOME-ARP funds received by the City of Canton and Stark County, the Qualifying Populations that may receive assistance, and eligible uses of program funding. Stakeholders will be asked how these funds may address community housing needs and gaps in services related to this program. For additional details about HOME-ARP, [view this video](#).

Stakeholder Session #1

July 20, 2022 | 2:00 - 3:30 PM

Meeting link: <https://meet.goto.com/769362373>

Join via phone: +1 (312) 757-3121

Access code: 769-362-373

Stakeholder Session #2

July 21, 2022 | 9:00 - 10:30 AM

Meeting link: <https://meet.goto.com/544124733>

Join via phone: +1 (872) 240-3412

Access code: 544-124-733

Stakeholder Session #3

July 21, 2022 | 2:00 - 3:30 PM

Meeting link: <https://meet.goto.com/625856581>

Join via phone: +1 (224) 501-3412

Access code: 625-856-581

For additional information, please contact:

City of Canton: Dawn Fish, dawn.fish@cantonohio.gov

Stark County: Diane Sheridan, dmsheridan@starkcountyohio.gov

Stark Housing Network: Marcie Bragg, mbragg@starkhousingnetwork.org

HOME-ARP ALLOCATION PLANS: STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS



Canton, OH
Stark County, OH
July 20-21, 2022

1

THE HOME- AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP)

SEC. 3205. HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PROGRAM.

Provides \$5 billion of supplemental HOME funds to assist individuals or households who are homeless, at risk of homelessness and other vulnerable populations by providing housing, rental assistance, supportive services, and non-congregate shelter.

City of Canton HOME-ARP Allocation \$2,573,468
Stark County HOME-ARP Allocation \$3,228,483

2

QUALIFYING POPULATIONS

Homeless, as defined in section 103(a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

At-risk of homelessness, as defined in section 401(1) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, as defined by the Secretary

Other populations who do not qualify under any of the populations above but meet one of the following criteria:

- (a) Other families requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness
- (b) Those at greatest risk of housing instability

3

HUD HOME-ARP DEFINITION HOMELESS



an individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence



an individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground



an individual or family living in shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements



an individual who resided in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation and who is exiting an institution where he or she temporarily resided



an individual or family who will imminently lose their housing, including housing they own, rent, or live in without paying rent, are sharing with others, and rooms in hotels or motels

4

HUD HOME-ARP DEFINITION AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

Income at or below 30% AMI,
Lacks sufficient resources to attain
housing stability **AND:**

1-person household – up to \$16,150
4-person household – up to \$27,750



Multiple Moves: Has moved because of economic reasons two or more times during the 60 days immediately preceding the application for assistance



Doubled Up: Is living in the home of another because of economic hardship



Hotel/Motel: Lives in a hotel or motel and the cost is not paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals



Overcrowded Housing: Lives in a single room occupancy (SRO) or efficiency apartment unit where two or more persons reside or where there are more than one-and-a-half persons per room



Exiting Institution: Is exiting a publicly funded institution or system of care (e.g., jail, prison, psychiatric hospital, etc.)

5

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES



PRODUCTION
OR
PRESERVATION
OF AFFORDABLE
HOUSING



TENANT-BASED
RENTAL
ASSISTANCE
(TBRA)



SUPPORTIVE
SERVICES,
HOMELESS
PREVENTION
SERVICES, AND
HOUSING
COUNSELING



PURCHASE AND
DEVELOPMENT
OF NON-
CONGREGATE
SHELTER



NONPROFIT
OPERATING
AND CAPACITY
BUILDING

6

DISCUSSION

7

NEXT STEPS

Comments from these stakeholder consultations will be considered when drafting the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

Round 2 of stakeholder outreach is anticipated in September

15-day public comment period and public hearing on Draft HOME-ARP Allocation Plan planned for late November/early December

Submission of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan anticipated in December

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

For additional information:

View a 21-minute narrated video with additional program info at:

[HOME-ARP Overview Video](#) or <https://vimeo.com/701705670/4b0f271d58>

A good overview of the eligible activities is available in a set of Facts Sheets on the HOME-ARP program on HUD's website at:

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/home-arp/factsheets

City of Canton: Dawn Fish, dawn.fish@cantonohio.gov

Stark County: Diane Sheridan, dmsheridan@starkcountyohio.gov

Stark Housing Network: Marcie Bragg, mbragg@starkhousingnetwork.org

Canton and Stark County, OH HOME-ARP Stakeholder Consultation

7/20/2022 2:00-3:30 pm

Organizations represented:

Stark County Veterans Service Commission
Domestic Violence Project, Inc.
Crossroads UMC / Canton for All People
Testa Companies
Vantage Aging
Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity
Workforce Initiative
Stark Metro Housing Authority
Stark Housing Network
Catholic Charities
Stark Community Foundation
Stark County Family Council
Alliance for Children & Families
Canton City Public Health
ICAN, Inc.
(4 unidentified)

Agency/Organization Type (required stakeholders in italics)

Veterans service provider
DV service provider
Homeless service provider
Business
Homeless service provider
Affordable housing provider
Public entity that addresses the needs of all QPs
Public housing authority
Continuum of Care
Homeless service provider
Philanthropic organization
Homeless service provider
Nonprofit organization
Public agency that addresses the needs of all QPs
Homeless service provider

1. What are the most critical gaps and needs in the local homeless and housing service system?

- The lack of unit availability in Stark County. There are higher barriers on the population. They are going back 3-5 years on criminal history. The treasurer's office is taking back land for back taxes. If we could buy that land for housing it would help.
- Why are they extending their background checks? When the governor said no one could be evicted people who had the money did not pay the rent. Now the landlords are going back 5 to 10 years with the recent eviction's landlords are not willing to take that chance.
- A lack of affordable housing is needed as are better landlords that do not mind working with affordable housing.
- Landlords are not equipped with handling the population. They need ongoing training to keep up with rental guidelines and information. Who are we going to fund to make sure their affordable housing is long-term, and they aren't going to be homeless? The landlords need wrap-around services to make sure individuals stay housed for the long haul.
- HUD has put out guidance with housing individuals with criminal backgrounds. Landlords need guidance on what they can and can't do. If we can get landlords to attend fair housing trainings that would help so they can know what they can and can't do.
- If there was a way to get all the providers and their resources in a room with the landlords that would help us to make everyone aware of the resources.

- The preservation of existing housing is important as well. Can we put more attention in this? Within a couple of years updates are needed to the current stock. Put the dollars in the hand of the organizations that know what are needed.
- We work with a smaller community. We are having a hard time housing the homeless population because the landlords don't need the subsidy or won't accept it if it comes from a social service organization. It would help to preserve what we do have to house them.
- It takes a lot to house families. Without creating a pathway to maintain that it is not as effective long term.
- There is a lot of need for housing inspection. Make sure we include this component as well. We need to serve all Stark County not just the city for extra services to the 18-24 age group population. Making the transitional aging population aware of the resources available to them.
- If we build a big affordable housing complex, things like that take a lot of pre-planning, a mix of funds, and the timeframe is longer. I'm not sure if we can do this in 6 years. Then the 20 years of affordability. If we do single family homes, there are shorter time frames and more affordable options. We should work with nonprofits that are going to be here tomorrow and not sell once they get tired.

2. What bedroom sizes are needed? What is in greatest demand?

- Mostly 1-bedroom for single persons and 3-4-bedrooms for families.
- Usually see bigger sizes requested. Need 2-3 bedrooms. It is hard to find them at affordable prices as well. It creates a problem of sustainability. We can cover for a couple months but then it is hard for on-going need.

3. What are the biggest risk factors among these populations?

- Income. Drug and Alcohol abuse as well. A lack of income is the issue. Is this related to lower wages or more training skills?
- Average rent is \$750. Yearly income downtown is \$24,000. 70% of the population are cost burdened and this was before the recent rent increases. The housing stock needed is just not there. \$15 hour is still cost burden not severely cost burden but still cost burden. What they are saying is inflation but it's just landlords taking advantage of what's going on. I have been trying to find someone to build affordable housing at a cheaper price but it's not possible. Cheapest build is 1,500 sq ft selling for \$320,000 new construction.
- Acquisition and renovation is something to consider because new construction is so expensive.
- It seems like there's a strong consensus that the funds should go towards affordable housing.

- I agree with what everyone has been saying so far. In terms of landlords in the community we are only seeing a drastic increase of landlords increasing rent amounts and also not being willing to work with tenants or some agencies for that matter. At times landlords are willing to accept rental assistance, but then immediately wanting to evict as soon as they're able to again. Affordable housing is drastically needed at this time for those we serve.

4. **What are the supportive services that would be most helpful for your clients?**

- We aren't answering because we don't think that is the solution.

Additional Questions:

- How much money would the city and county keep for operations? 15% maximum can be kept for administration.
- If we go for the 9% tax credit, we can serve more people. We can leverage private funds to put into affordable housing projects with tax credit projects. One project has a 2-year waitlist and is doing well. The two that got approved in Stark County were 4% tax credits.
- I would like to see scattered sites. We have enough multi-family apartments concentrated downtown. Scattered site works better for those who do not do well in multi-family.
- I think families need choices on where they live. I think we need to consider where people want to live and raise their children.
- For ongoing subsidies it would be ashamed to build something that would Rob peter to pay Paul just to operate new facilities. We don't want the current places to have to compete for funds if we build new projects.
- How will the plans be? Will there be two plans or individual plans?

Canton and Stark County, OH HOME-ARP Stakeholder Consultation

7/21/2022 9:00-10:30 am

Organizations represented:

Habitat for Humanity East Central OH
Stark Metro Housing Authority
Stark Housing Network
ICAN, Inc.
Mayor, City of Canton
Stark County HMIS
(3 unidentified)

Agency/Organization Type (required stakeholders in italics)

Affordable housing provider
Public housing authority
Continuum of Care
Homeless service provider
Local government
HMIS

1. What critical needs are not being met? What are the greatest needs for the population?

- Not being able to approve the private landlords' rent amounts. The development of affordable housing properties would be available and beneficial for families. We have more senior communities than families. If we could purchase the foreclosures in the city and renovate them for rent that would be good. The biggest need is actual affordable housing properties.
- HUD sets payment standards for 2022 and SMHA applied for a waiver for a higher standard. I can approve 120% of fair market rate right now. I would have to approve a lesser number with utility included. Landlords are asking for \$1,200 plus tenants have to pay their own utilities. The max I can approve is \$1,171 for a 3 bedroom. The ones I can approve are not in the best neighborhoods.
- SMHA has a separate thing with CoC for the homeless population. There is a new voucher emergency housing voucher that I can offer for people normally who would not be eligible for the program. One of the eligibility factors is they must be homeless or at a shelter. Surprisingly, it is doing better than the housing choice voucher due to owner incentives like extra security deposits if they give renters a chance. Another thing we offer is that we have a relationship with Habitat if they have housing we can use as rental units.
- We have been able to use the emergency program for the most vulnerable in the communities. We have a hard time housing rapid rehousing because of landlords going back on criminal history and rising rents.
- We have had landlords going back as far as 10 years on criminal records and just not giving people a chance.
- They know rapid rehousing is going to end and the jobs aren't there, so tenants won't have the jobs to pay their half of the rent.
- Landlords across the county are not renting to anyone with a voucher. We are finding it very difficult to rent. The credit scores, rental history, and criminal history are barriers. Since Covid began we have housed in the shelter 1,157 unique households many of them more than once. 5,383 households have been served.

- There has been an increase in the number of tenants not paying rent and it has worsened since COVID. Landlords went a long time without receiving rents. Then funding came in for the landlords to be made whole or partly paid. Millions of dollars came into Stark County. We were hoping it would make landlords whole with our rental assistance vouchers. They seem afraid that with regular voucher holders they will be left in the hole once again.
- Preservation of affordable housing is needed, maybe vacant land or the purchase of land to create affordable housing. I am interested in eligible activities and services that can be used for residents at the housing authority. We don't provide emergency housing and a lot of people think we do. What can we do from the supportive services side for those already in the housing?

2. What type of housing is most in demand for the qualifying population?

- Of the 1,500 on my waiting list at SMHA, 60% are 1-person families.
- It is a hit or miss to find them housing. Some landlords know when someone is moving out, they will let us know what's available. We try to have a good relationship with the landlords who rent to us in the past and sometimes people get a voucher and request a place a week later some are waiting 6 months.
- The voucher expires if they can't use it but we will extend it for 30 days for those with disabilities. We request proof they have attempted to find housing when they don't have a disability then we would give an extension. I expired 90 vouchers between December and July because they couldn't find units.
- Security deposits are going up and fraud is going up too so a lot of people who don't even live in the area or own a house are putting it for rent to collect the deposits.
- With TBRA it seems like it's hard to find housing if the housing isn't there, what will this do? It could be a technique where someone is building the units, and this is how they could pay for them.
- We did have a TBRA for pregnant women who were facing evictions and work with landlords through YWCA and come to an agreement they were working with a community health worker to work with social services needs and we had several families that worked in this program.

3. What type of supportive services are needed to get someone housed or keep them housed to make housing stability more successful?

- Employment, case management, counseling. Employment and education training are the top elements for best being successful and self-sufficient.
- ICAN has training programs for the YWCA, the rapid rehousing. We provide incentives if you stay employed for 60 days, 90days, and/or 1 year you can receive a check. A bigger thing is getting them to and from locations. We have a lot of bus passes. The system is changing we can't just buy a paper copy now they are getting passes and

we are working to see how we can do that for the bus pass. I won't have the luxury to purchase two 1- day passes anymore. There are a lot of people hiring in restaurants and people don't want to do the work.

- We have a lot of partners that will contact us when they are doing the training. We do outreach for residents who want the training. We also have a partnership with Goodwill which gives them training in soft skills for on-the-job training then go into providing the actual training for janitorial or other positions available at SMHA. We can pay for certification for residents. We also do Section 3 to help residents get hired on to jobs that qualify.
- We need more supportive services. We need more than beyond the Medicaid billable. More peer support individuals. Housing support where we try to work with the individual to maintain their home like budgeting. We can't force them and require services.
- When we get residents that are on the fence about working, we have programs like the earned income disallowance which helps get residents ready to pay more in rent when they start making more. The first 12 months it is disallowed at 12 months. At 24 months it is disallowed at 6 months. It helps them get ready mentally for the increase. It can be helpful across the board when they are on the fence about working.
- We can build more housing but the problem is operating the properties. How long can it last?

Additional Questions:

- Any activities regarding the programs we have talked about? Anyone seeking your services? Typically, in North Canton we have people requesting housing, but it is for more than the allowable rent amount.

Canton and Stark County, OH HOME-ARP Stakeholder Consultation

7/21/2022 2:00-3:30 pm

Organizations represented:

Stark Housing Network
Stark Co. Mental Health & Addiction Recovery
Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton
Testa Companies
CommQuest
Stark Co. Educational Service Center
Family & Community Services
ICAN, Inc.
(6 unidentified)

Agency/Organization Type (required stakeholders in italics)

Continuum of Care
Homeless service provider
Homeless service provider
Business
Homeless service provider
School district
Homeless service provider
Homeless service provider

1. Most critical gap in resources to help keep clients housed or get housing?

- A lot of at risk for homelessness because it is no longer affordable. What can we do that is affordable? We need scattered sites so people can choose to live where they go to school in the current market.
- I've seen a lot of voucher programs with COVID resources. There is a need to find landlords who are willing to work with these programs. More housing that can be used for homeless needs.
- More benevolent landlords that are willing to accept the vouchers. We have a portfolio of rapid rehousing vouchers that are important to the program. We are meeting with landlords and telling them the benefits. We need to keep them in our community and landlords accepting them is so important to the program and helping to end homelessness.
- I'm hearing that even when they find landlords the housing isn't up to standards. The preservation of housing is important because landlords we do find can use that to make sure the units are up to par and livable.

2. What are some of the biggest risk factors for housing instability that cause people to re-enter the system?

- A lot of research states that people need coaches to help get them on the right track for the long haul not just in the moment. Whether it's accessing childcare or finding the right job or apartment. That piece is harder to come by. Someone to just be there for the adult. We don't give that enough credit.
- Our CoC has been looking at the factor that puts someone closer to the shelter door and homelessness. It would be easier to identify these factors since we are doing that work already. From history of homelessness or folks doubled-up or living in the home of someone else are closer to entering the homeless cycle.
- We have two evaluators that look at the causes of homelessness since we received a large influx of money. People who are single or have a disability, Black/African

American are overrepresented in our communities, and those who double-up are primarily the folks at risk.

- The Canton City School District used HOME-ARP homeless funds to contract with a housing navigator employed by Canton For All People. They are in the early stages of this. All her referral comes from the school district to help them navigate housing while their children are in school.

3. What types of units are most in need to address the current situation?

- One of the things we feel with working with the homeless prevention program is that we would benefit from more single-family homes so individuals can be a part of the community. We notice those who suffer the most thrive with subsidies with landlords that withdraw rent each month from their SSI or other funds. The automatic payments help set them up for success.
- We asked people years ago what type of housing they wanted. They said they want housing near schools and their support systems and safe areas. How do we build housing in safe areas with greenspace and grocery stores?

4. What are some of the other gaps in supportive housing that are currently not provided in Canton/ Stark County?

- One of the most difficult things is that once individuals move out of shelter, they have no one to help them move. We have a program called Restore that helps them get new furniture for their place but no one to help them move to their new home. That's one gap we see.
- Funding we used for rapid rehousing allowed us to pay for moving expenses, but it is running out soon. For permanent support services we do have some programs that are billed by Medicaid. It would be nice if all programs had this available to them.
- Removing barriers to mistakes that they made at some point in time that gets them stuck in a cycle. Community Legal Aid is something parents say they wish they had more access to. At I Promise in Akron that is the number one service parents need. Greater access to Community Legal Aid to remove barriers.

Additional Comments:

- Under rental housing the notice also talked about operating funds for nonprofits and TBRA. Can we use these TBRA funds for subsidizing operating cost?
- If organizations want to receive the operating funds and TBRA, will it be a separate grant?
- Is this new operating or existing operating?
- When COVID happened we had to turn back a lot of money because it wasn't marketed towards the people who need it, just the providers.



City of Canton and Stark County, OH

HOME-ARP Stakeholder Consultations Round 2

Join us for the final round of stakeholder consultations focusing on a review of the key findings on the unmet housing and supportive service needs of the Qualifying Populations. Stakeholder comments will be included in the Draft Allocation Plan anticipated to be released in November for a 15-day public comment period.

For additional details about HOME-ARP, [view this video](#).

Stakeholder Session #1

Oct 3, 2022 | 1:00 - 2:30 PM

Meeting link: <https://meet.goto.com/665285117>

Join via phone: +1 (224) 501-3412

Access code: 665-285-117

Stakeholder Session #2

Oct 5, 2022 | 1:00 - 2:30 PM

Meeting link: <https://meet.goto.com/255478357>

Join via phone: +1 (224) 501-3412

Access code: 255-478-357

Stakeholder Session #3

Oct 6, 2022 | 10:00 - 11:30 AM

Meeting link: <https://meet.goto.com/271747589>

Join via phone: +1 (646) 749-3122

Access code: 271-747-589

For additional information, please contact:

City of Canton: Sherice L. Freeman, sherice.freeman@cantonohio.gov

Stark County: Diane Sheridan, dmsheridan@starkcountyohio.gov

Stark Housing Network: Marcie Bragg, mbragg@starkhousingnetwork.org

HOME-ARP ALLOCATION PLAN PUBLIC HEARING FEBRUARY 7, 2023



1

THE HOME- AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP)

SEC. 3205. HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PROGRAM.

Provides \$5 billion of supplemental HOME funds to assist individuals or households who are homeless, at risk of homelessness and other vulnerable populations by providing housing, rental assistance, supportive services, and non-congregate shelter.

Stark County HOME-ARP Allocation \$3,228,483
Deadline for spending all funds: September 30, 2030

2

QUALIFYING POPULATIONS

Homeless, as defined in section 103(a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

At-risk of homelessness, as defined in section 401(1) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, as defined by the Secretary

Other populations who meet one of the following criteria:

- (a) Families requiring services or housing assistance to **prevent homelessness**
- (b) Those at **greatest risk of housing instability**

3

STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFIED NEEDS / ISSUES

More affordable and accessible rental housing for households up to 50% AMI through new construction and preservation with smaller developments and scattered sites to expand choice for tenants

Many landlords refuse Housing Choice Vouchers because HUD's payment standard is lower than current higher market rents

Some landlords refuse tenants who are homeless, have criminal histories, record of evictions, poor credit, released offenders

Level of Housing Choice Vouchers is inadequate to serve families in need of subsidized rental housing

Subsidized housing has long waiting lists with little turnover among Permanent Supportive Housing and affordable rental units

4

STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFIED NEEDS / ISSUES

Inadequate level of supportive services that increase potential for returning to homelessness—legal, financial counseling, case management, employment training, and more

Better collaboration with landlords to increase Housing Choice Vouchers acceptance among those with criminal histories, mental illness, homeless

Need affordable housing that is accessible to transportation, amenities, good schools

5

DATA ANALYSIS

247	2022 PIT count of total homeless with 28 unsheltered
4,257	Homeless persons served between January 2021 thru June 2022
151	Veterans housed through CoC, of which 31 were chronically homeless
1,181	Persons who experienced homelessness for the first time
978	Households exited the homeless system to temporary destinations
91.7%	Homeless engaged in street outreach who exited to positive destinations
1,092	Households with history of domestic violence, of which 243 were fleeing
11,910	Housing Gap of rental units for households at 0-50% AMI (outside of Canton)
\$12,853	Average income of 1,445 households assisted with COVID-19 ERAP (Stark Co)
20%	Households with persons with disabilities on SMHA waitlist for public housing

6

PRIORITY NEEDS IN STARK COUNTY

Rental housing affordable and accessible to 0-30% households

Permanent Supportive Housing units

Supportive Services

Tenant-based Rental Assistance

7

PROPOSED HOME-ARP BUDGET

Eligible Activities	Amount
Supportive Services	\$ 300,000.00
Acquisition / Development of Non-congregate Shelter	---
Tenant-based Rental Assistance	---
Development of Affordable Rental Housing*	\$ 2,336,210.55
Nonprofit Operating Expenses**	\$ 54,000.00
Nonprofit Capacity Building**	\$ 54,000.00
Administration & Planning	\$ 484,272.45
Total	\$ 3,228,483.00

* City proposes to create 8-10 affordable rental units @ \$225,000

** Nonprofit organizations approved for other HOME-ARP activities may apply for these

8

PUBLIC COMMENT

9

NEXT STEPS

Oral comments received today will be acknowledged in the plan

All written comments must be received by February 7 to be included in the final plan

Email comments to dmsheridan@starkcountyohio.gov

Stark County Board of Commissioners is expected to take action on the plan on February ____

Submission to HUD is anticipated on or before February ____

10

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Stark County:

dmsheridan@starkcountyohio.gov

Stark Housing Network:

mbragg@starkhousingnetwork.org

Canton and Stark County, OH HOME-ARP Stakeholder Consultation

10/03/2022 1:00-2:30 pm

Organizations represented:

Stark County HMIS
Alliance for Children & Families
Stark Metro Housing Authority
Stark Housing Network
Testa Companies
Stark Co. Educational Service Center
ICAN, Inc.
(5 unidentified)

Agency/Organization Type (required stakeholders in italics)

HMIS
Nonprofit organization
Public housing authority
Continuum of Care
Business
School district
Homeless service provider

Following the presentation on a summary of the housing and service needs of the QPs, the following comments were made by participants:

- Can the funding be used to create new housing units? (yes)
- Who's developing housing in Massillon? (ICAN and a couple of other organizations)
- This is a very good summary of the HMIS data.

Canton and Stark County, OH HOME-ARP Stakeholder Consultation

10/05/2022 1:00-2:30 pm

Organizations represented:

Stark County HMIS

DVPI

Stark Co. Educational Service Center

ICAN, Inc.

(1 unidentified)

Agency/Organization Type (required stakeholders in italics)

HMIS

Domestic violence service provider

School district

Homeless service provider

Following the presentation on a summary of the housing and service needs of the QPs, the following comments were made by participants:

- Not all ERAP data may have been provided.
- (several comments and questions to explain the data)

Canton and Stark County, OH HOME-ARP Stakeholder Consultation

10/06/2022 10:00-11:30 am

Organizations represented:

Stark County HMIS

Stark Housing Network

United Way of Greater Stark County

Alpha Homes

Vantage Aging

Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton

DVPI

ICAN, Inc.

(4 unidentified)

Agency/Organization Type (required stakeholders in italics)

HMIS

Continuum of Care

Homeless service provider

Homeless service provider

Homeless service provider

Homeless service provider

Domestic violence service provider

Homeless service provider

Following the presentation on a summary of the housing and service needs of the QPs, the following comments were made by participants:

- NCS would make it safer to house homeless in future pandemics
- Survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, etc. can access the Stark County Coordinated Entry since it includes all QPs

Canton and Stark County, OH HOME-ARP Stakeholder Consultation

10/05/2022 2:00-3:00 pm

Organizations represented:

Canton Fair Housing Officer

Stark County Fair Housing Officer

Massillon Fair Housing Officer

Agency/Organization Type (required stakeholders in italics)

Public agency that addresses fair housing, civil rights, disability rights

Public agency that addresses fair housing, civil rights, disability rights

Public agency that addresses fair housing, civil rights, disability rights

1. What type of fair housing issues are you seeing among the homeless and other QPS?

- Increased rental rate impacting members of the protected classes and everyone else, placing them at risk of homelessness
- Landlords are increasing rents by \$100, placing the rents above the HUD FMRs and out of reach for tenants
- Tenants can't afford this and they're asking service agencies to assist them; some will leave their units before they get evicted to keep the eviction action off their record
- There is a high demand for affordable rental units for lower income households
- Many landlords do not provide reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities who have emotional support animals. One tenant who filed a discrimination complaint became homeless waiting for the case to be resolved because the landlord does not want to conciliate.
- Persons with disabilities are at a greater disadvantage because the supply of units that are affordable and available *and accessible* is hardly there
- Some displacement due to gentrification occurring in Canton and rents are rising there
- Persons with limited English proficiency can't find the resources they need: they don't understand the eviction process, they don't know about Legal Aid; they don't know how to use the homeless hotline, and interpreters are hard to find (Spanish, Asian languages, East European languages)
- Renters without subsidies are barely getting by—these are also at risk
- Leases are usually for two years then convert to month-to-month but this is when landlords increase the rent because it's easier to evict, including persons with disabilities
- Some landlords are increasing rents without making any improvements to the units
- Out-of-state investors are buying up units, increasing the rents but leaving the units in the same condition
- The main challenge is getting more info about resources available to those who are homeless and those at risk of homelessness

2. What are some recommendations that would be appropriate?

- Rent control but Ohio doesn't have a law for it
- Stronger laws that are enforced against slumlords. Currently, there is no penalty or deterrence for renting units in substandard condition. Even when rents are escrowed, other units in the building are not improved.
- There are rental registry programs but none of them have any teeth.
- Massillon code enforcement works to inspect units but has weak enforcement powers against landlords. Need a stronger state law.
- More education for landlords on reasonable accommodation for emotional support animals.

- Fair housing training for all program subrecipients to decrease the likelihood they will discriminate against tenants.

Canton and Stark County, OH HOME-ARP Stakeholder Consultation

10/06/2022 1:00-2:00 pm

Organization represented:

Domestic Violence Project, Inc.

Agency/Organization Type (required stakeholders in italics)

Domestic violence service provider

- From July 2021-June 2022, we tracked 759 DV survivors whose shelter needs could not be met (i.e., they called the DV hotline but their shelter needs could not be met)
- In 2021, there were 576 unmet housing needs, the decrease probably being due to COVID
- DVPI tried to transition them out of shelter after 90 days
 - The average stay has been 45 days
 - The length of stay is increasing due to not being able to find affordable units even with vouchers
 - DVPI would like TBRA vouchers to help re-settle survivors because they are waiting too long on the SMHA HCV waiting list, which may mean they have to return to their abuser while waiting; having their own vouchers would allow them to circumvent the SMHA HCV list
 - The SMHA HCV waiting list is closed so survivors can't apply for vouchers
- Many survivors who have jobs and can pay rent (if they find units) still need rent and utility deposits to move in

Canton and Stark County, OH HOME-ARP Stakeholder Consultation

10/07/2022 9:00-10:00 am

Organization represented:

Northeast Ohio VA Healthcare System,
Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC)

Agency/Organization Type (required stakeholders in italics)

Veterans group

1. What type of services are being provided to homeless and at risk homeless veterans in the county?

- The existing structure in Stark County includes PSH, RRH, TH—all of which have openings
- If a veteran head of household without children presents with an eviction notice, we can provide RRH or TH.
- Our agency has funding and we want to use it first (i.e., before other agencies or organizations use their funding to house/service veterans)
- We have VASH vouchers but the challenge here is to find rental units in the market
- For larger families with veteran members, we need 4- and 5-bedroom units, which are very difficult to find
- Stark County might have a gap in providing services to veterans

Appendix B: Public Participation Materials

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
STARK COUNTY, OH**

**A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD FOR THE 2021 ANNUAL ACTION
PLAN AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT.**

The Annual Action Plan is Stark County's application and distribution plan for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD) Block Grant Programs (HOME and CDBG). Stark County received an additional funding allocation through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to be administered through the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) to perform activities that must primarily benefit qualifying individuals and families who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or in other vulnerable populations. These funds are governed by HUD CPD Notice 21-10: Requirements for the Use of Funds in the HOME-American Rescue Plan Program issued September 13, 2021.

Stark County conducted a stakeholder consultation process to identify unmet housing and service needs among qualifying individuals and families who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or in other vulnerable populations. Based on this information, Stark County identified the following priority needs:

- Rental housing that is affordable and accessible to 0-30% AMI households
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Supportive services
- TBRA

Stark County's HOME-ARP Allocation Plan proposes the following eligible activities and budget amounts.

Supportive Services	\$ 300,000.00
Development of affordable rental housing	\$ 2,336,210.55
Non-profit operating	\$ 54,000.00
Non-profit capacity building	\$ 54,000.00
Administration and planning	\$ 484,272.45
Total Allocation	\$ 3,228,483.00

A public hearing will be held for the purpose of obtaining public input on February 7, 2023 beginning at 7:00pm EST before the Stark Regional Planning Commission. A draft of the Substantial Amendment, which includes the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan, will be available for public comment beginning on January 10, 2023. Oral and written comments will be accepted during the public hearing. Written comments can also be emailed to Diane Sheridan, dsheridan@starkcountyohio.gov or Lisa Snyder, lsnyder@starkcountyohio.gov. The amended 2021 Annual Action Plan containing the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan also will be available January 10, 2023 online at www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov. The draft Plan will be shared with the county's stakeholder contact list, asking them to place it on their website, social media sites, in lobbies and waiting areas. The draft Plan will be sent to the CoC to be distributed to their membership. To be considered for inclusion in the final Allocation Plan, all oral and written comments must be received by the county no later than February 9, 2023 at 4pm EST.

The public hearing on February 7, 2023 at 7pm will take place in person at 201 3rd Street NE, Suite 201, Canton, Ohio 44702. The building is ADA accessible. If any individual requires special accommodation contact Diane Sheridan at 330.451.7031 or dsheridan@starkcountyohio.gov prior to February 7, 2023.

The Stark County Board of Commissioners is expected to take action on the draft Substantial Amendment, which includes the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan, at its regular meeting on February 15, 2023 at 1:30 pm. The county anticipates submitting the approved plan to HUD on or before March 31, 2023.

Equal Housing and
Equal Employment Opportunity

The Repository
1-9-23

Memorial

Continued from Page 3A

ton, "...a strong promoter of good dental hygiene, and every child and grandchild could expect gifts of toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss at Christmas time."

Unique tales and exploits

Arthur E. Conn, 81, of Kimbolton. "Arthur was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting, fishing, and camping. He was also an adventure seeker, accumulating over 4,000 skydiving jumps with Canton Air Sports."

Nick Eustathios. "Canton's tiniest healthy baby weighed just 31 ounces when he was born on March 30, 1932." After emergency measures, "he reportedly responded perfectly in his capacity to absorb nourishment," a trait his wife says he never outgrew.

Robert Lantz, 93. "At the age of 93, he completed a 5K in downtown Canton and crossed the finish line holding hands with his three-year-old great-grandson."

Mark H. Malavite, 68, of East Sparta, was employed by Malavite Excavating for 50 years. "He was known as being the best bulldozer operator east of the Mississippi."

Margaret Ellen Hutchens Hahn, 94, of Alliance. "If you grew up in Alliance in the 1960s-1970s and learned to swim, it's likely Peggy was your instructor! The little lady with the big whistle taught over 1,000 Alliance-area residents over 20 years."

Rodney A. DeVore, 55, of Paris Township. "He loved fishing, hunting and loving every day. He even once killed a deer with his bare hands."

Betty Lou Foringer, 90, of Canton. "Traveling the country autonomously, Betty confidently pulled her fifth wheel camper to meet friends old and new, even finding a second chance at love."

Gary Gerber, 74, of Canton. "Alongside the many great things he was known for, he will be remembered as he who had many tools. Knowing Gary, he probably lent you a tool a time or two."

Robert Mack Warehime, 87, of Beach City. "Bob graduated from the former Beach City High School and had perfect

attendance all twelve years of school." Kenneth (Pastor Ken) Earl Ferguson, 75. "While he had many loves, family, friends, nature, travel, his love for God and His Word reigned supreme. His 5 chapter a day reading program allowed him to read the Bible through every 8 months..."

Anthony Vitale of Canton. Grew up during Depression, "on Henry Avenue, a bustling neighborhood of Italians, Slovaks, Polish, Spanish, and other ethnic groups. Back then, people lived, walked, worked, shopped and played in the neighborhood."

Mr. Organized

William B. McKinley, 76, of Canton. "From the Christmas Santa collection to vacations and grocery lists you could expect Bill to have a spreadsheet for everything. He was incredibly organized and also very passionate about living life to the fullest."

Lloyd Robert Bagley Jr. (Coach Wimp), 87. Longtime coach at Canton St. Peter's; Aquinas sports activist. "He was well known for his pre-game motivational speeches, organized locker room and providing mentoring to youth throughout Stark County."

The little things mean a lot

Betty D. Hancock, 80, of Canton, known for the power of her smile, to "...grace us all with joy of life and hope along our way. We all can learn a lesson here, to get up when we fall, to pick ourselves up off the floor and work to heal it all."

Carol Jo (Hixon) Gravius, 84. "Nana loved her family more than anything. She was known for her long goodbyes; walking you out and waving until long after you'd turned the corner."

Frank Joseph Weinstock, 89. "His family will remember him most for his giant hugs and his repeated reminders that, 'family is what's most important.'"

Robert A. Moser Jr., 69, of Minerva. "He was a friend to the friendless, was kind hearted and always ready to help others down on their luck."

Michael Shumard, 58. "In lieu of flowers ... In honor of Michael, please take a moment to be thoughtful toward someone with a developmental disability. We'll appreciate it greatly."

Elvera Jane Cindea, 91, of Canton. "A prolific card sender, she never skipped a holiday or life event, and once you were on her list your birthday was never forgotten."

Kathryn F. Thomas, 92, of North Canton. "Kathryn would go shopping 364 days a year for Christmas because she enjoyed making Christmas very special for the family."

Carl A. Martin, 84, of Canton. "Everyone knew Carl loved his corner at 12th and Arlington SW where he provided a bench with a cover from rain for kids waiting for the school bus and giving away vegetables from his garden."

Cynthia (Malavite) Solenthaler, 71. "Cynthia had a remedy for everything. There wasn't a problem she couldn't solve with a prayer, a hug, or more likely, a little Dawn dish soap and vinegar."

Nancy Jane Toney, 95. "One of her favorite holidays of the year, was Memorial Day when she would rise at the crack of dawn, remembering with gratitude, our fallen soldiers by spending the day placing flags on the graves of Stark County veterans."

Mary Anne Meola, 64. "There were things Mary couldn't do. She could not talk, she could not feed herself, she could not care for herself ... those who cared for her day after day showed us the true meaning of love and dedication."

Richard James Rigaux, 75, formerly of Massillon. "A hard worker with a love for life, he appreciated his world and encouraged others to do the same by often exclaiming, 'Look at that sky!'"

Military service and sacrifice

William "Bill" Emmet Adley, 92, Army veteran of Korean War. "Bill received the following service awards: Purple Heart, Combat Badge, Defense of Country, Marksman Badge, Expert Rifle, and Korean Veterans Medals."

Patrick V. Kelly, 94. "He graduated from McKinley High School in 1946 and later served with the 3rd Infantry Division as a Sergeant First Class in the Korean Conflict, receiving a Purple Heart with Oak leaf cluster."

Gerald B. Michel, 89, of Canton. "He served in the U.S. Army, during the Korean Conflict and was a Purple Heart recipient."

Norbert Burleson, 73, New Philadel-

phia. Army veteran of Vietnam. His two Purple Hearts are only a small piece of what he endured there and after.

James "Jim" Corbett, 76, of Louisville. "Jim was in the Army and fought in Vietnam from 1968-1969, earning a Bronze Star, Air Medal and a Purple Heart."

Ronald Richard DuVal, 89, of Canton. "Ronald was a veteran of the US Marine Corps during the Korean War receiving the Purple Heart."

Harry Ernest Blasiman, 92, of Louisville. "Harry proudly served in the US Army, 2nd Infantry Unit, in the Korean War. He was a Purple Heart recipient." James Simmons, 98, "proudly served in The United States Army receiving the 'PURPLE HEART METAL'. He enjoyed spending countless hours sharing stories of his time in World War II."

George C. Buch Jr., 77, formerly of Malvern, U.S. Army veteran. "From 1966-1967 George was in (Cu Chi), Vietnam serving part of the time as a tunnel rat. He was a Purple Heart recipient."

William T. Allan, 98, of East Canton. "Bill was a U.S. Army World War II Veteran where he was a machine gunner in the Northern France-Rhineland Battle, and he was awarded with a Purple Heart and 3 bronze stars."

Allan L. Carpenter, 73, of Jackson Township, U.S. Marines, "passed away on Tuesday, August 2, 2022 following complications of being exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam."

Dean L. Meier, 99, a B-17 bomber pilot in WWII. "He flew 52 missions and 35 sorties. Dean once landed his 'Flying Fortress' with only the skin left on one wing hanging from the frame. He counted 72 bullet holes upon inspecting his aircraft."

Samuel Donald Gordon, 97, formerly of Canton. "During World War II he served in Patton's Third Army in Europe and helped to liberate Buchenwald concentration camp."

M. Charles Innis, 90, founded Innis Maggiore Group. "Having enlisted in the military at age 19, he was one of an elite few chosen to become the bodyguard of the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, in France, post WWII."

Reach Tim at 330-580-8333 On Twitter: @tbotosREP

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD STARK COUNTY, OH

A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD FOR THE 2021 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT.

The Annual Action Plan is Stark County's application and distribution plan for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD) Block Grant Programs (HOME and CDBG). Stark County received an additional funding allocation through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to be administered through the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) to perform activities that must primarily benefit qualifying individuals and families who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or in other vulnerable populations. These funds are governed by HUD CPD Notice 21-10: Requirements for the Use of Funds in the HOME-American Rescue Plan Program issued September 13, 2021.

Stark County conducted a stakeholder consultation process to identify unmet housing and service needs among qualifying individuals and families who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or in other vulnerable populations. Based on this information, Stark County identified the following priority needs:

- Rental housing that is affordable and accessible to 0-30% AMI households
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Supportive services
- TBRA

Stark County's HOME-ARPA Allocation Plan proposes the following eligible activities and budget amounts.

Supportive Services	\$ 300,000.00
Development of affordable rental housing	\$ 2,336,210.55
Non-profit operating	\$ 54,000.00
Non-profit capacity building	\$ 54,000.00
Administration and planning	\$ 484,272.45
Total Allocation	\$ 3,228,483.00

A public hearing will be held for the purpose of obtaining public input on February 7, 2023 beginning at 7:00pm EST before the Stark Regional Planning Commission. A draft of the Substantial Amendment, which includes the HOME-ARPA Allocation Plan, will be available for public comment beginning on January 10, 2023. Oral and written comments will be accepted during the public hearing. Written comments can also be emailed to Diane Sheridan, dmsheridan@starkcountyohio.gov or Lisa Snyder, lsnyder@starkcountyohio.gov. The amended 2021 Annual Action Plan containing the HOME-ARPA Allocation Plan also will be available January 10, 2023 online at www.rpc.starkcountyohio.gov. The draft Plan will be shared with the county's stakeholder contact list, asking them to place it on their website, social media sites, in lobbies and waiting areas. The draft Plan will be sent to the CoC to be distributed to their membership. To be considered for inclusion in the final Allocation Plan, all oral and written comments must be received by the county no later than February 9, 2023 at 4pm EST.

The public hearing on February 7, 2023 at 7pm will take place in person at 201 3rd Street NE, Suite 201, Canton, Ohio 44702. The building is ADA accessible. If any individual requires special accommodation contact Diane Sheridan at 330.451.7031 or dmsheridan@starkcountyohio.gov prior to February 7, 2023.

The Stark County Board of Commissioners is expected to take action on the draft Substantial Amendment, which includes the HOME-ARPA Allocation Plan, at its regular meeting on February 15, 2023 at 1:30 pm. The county anticipates submitting the approved plan to HUD on or before March 31, 2023.

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Residential & Commercial

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
STARK COUNTY, OH**

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The Independent
1-9-23

STARK COUNTY

Stark County drafts plan to address homelessness, lack of housing with \$3.2M funding boost



Paige Bennett
The Repository

Published 5:01 a.m. ET Dec. 14, 2022

CANTON – Stark County has been allocated about \$3.2 million in federal dollars to help address homelessness and housing insecurity.

The one-time allocation came from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's \$5 billion HOME-American Rescue Plan program. These funds are separate from the county's nearly \$72 million American Rescue Plan dollars and can only be used to help individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless or those attempting to leave domestic violence situations.

The program is being overseen by the Stark County Regional Planning Commission.

"The goal of this program is to reduce homelessness and increase housing stability," said Diane Sheridan, chief of community development at the Stark County Regional Planning Commission, during a work session this week with the Stark County commissioners.

Stark County: Poverty rate higher than Ohio, U.S. rates, report says

Sheridan presented a draft allocation to the commissioners that included \$2.3 million for the development or rehabilitation of affordable rental housing, \$484,272 for administration and planning, \$300,000 for support services, \$54,000 for nonprofit operating expenses and \$54,000 for nonprofit capacity building.

Sheridan said the agency worked with the Stark Housing Network and the city of Canton — which received about \$2.5 million in HOME-ARP funds — to meet with nonprofits and service providers across Stark County over several months to identify needs and issues within the community.

Housing issues and homelessness in Stark County

Some of the biggest problems included a lack of affordable and accessible rental housing for households earning up to 50% the area median income, long waitlists for subsidized housing, inadequate levels of support services (legal, financial counseling, etc.) for individuals who are homeless and landlords refusing tenants who are homeless or have criminal histories.

"We're required by HUD to create a priority list, a priority funding list, from the feedback that we heard," Sheridan said.

The priority list identifies the needs in Stark County for:

- rental housing affordable and accessible to households at zero to 30% of the area median income
- permanent supportive housing units
- supportive services
- tenant-based rental assistance

Sheridan said the project will function similarly to other programs administered by the Regional Planning Commission. Nonprofits and private developers looking to create housing will have to apply for funds.

If awarded money, the nonprofit or private developer would have to follow certain reporting requirements.

Commissioner Bill Smith asked how the agency plans to get in touch with people in need of housing. Sheridan said the plan is to use the Stark County's coordinated entry system. Individuals and households experiencing homelessness call the county's homeless hotline at (330) 452-4363 to get screened for services and be placed on a waiting list for housing.

What's next?

The county has until March 31 to submit a plan to the Department of Housing and Urban Development and will have until Sept. 30, 2030, to spend the funds.

"Once HUD approves our plan, we can then start doing our normal (Community Development Block Grant), HUD work," Sheridan said. "So we have an application workshop. We accept applications. We provide technical assistance. We'll have a committee to score the applications, and then eventually it will come to (the commissioners) with recommendations."

Before that can happen, it must go through the public hearing process. The Stark County Regional Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the plan during its regular meeting on Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. at 201 Third St. NE in Canton.

The public comment period will run from Jan. 10 and Feb. 9. All written comments must be received by Feb. 9 to be included in the final plan.

Sheridan said the agency plans to ask the commissioners to take action on the plan in mid-February.

Reach Paige at (330) 580-8577, pmbennett@gannett.com or on Twitter at @paigembenn.



Jan 26, 2023

Proposed TIP Amendment for February

[Read More](#)



Jan 18, 2023

Draft of the FY 2024-27 TIP Is Available

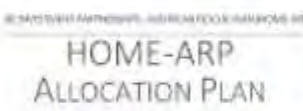
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Jan 17, 2023

Billboard Coloring Contest

[Read More](#)



Jan 05, 2023

HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

[Read More](#)



Jan 04, 2023

Save the Date - CDBG Workshop



Jan 04, 2023

Save the Date - HOME Workshop



Jan 03, 2023



FY 2023 ESG Application Workshop – Posted November 30, 2022

ARCHIVE: FY2022 ESG Competition Information

View more ESG competition information on the [City of Canton](#) website.

**CITY OF CANTON-COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
HOME ARP**

Citizen Input Notice of Virtual Public Hearing- HOME-ARP
December 14, 2022 Citizen Input Virtual Public Hearing- HOME-ARP
DRAFT- City of Canton HOME-ARP Allocation Plan
Community Development | Canton, OH (cantonohio.gov)

**STARK COUNTY-REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
HOME ARP**

Notice of Public Hearing/Public Comment Period
DRAFT-Stark County, OH-HOME- ARP Allocation Plan
Regional Planning Commission-Stark County, Ohio

HOME-ARP ALLOCATION PLAN PUBLIC HEARING FEBRUARY 7, 2023



1

THE HOME- AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP)

SEC. 3205. HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PROGRAM.

Provides \$5 billion of supplemental HOME funds to assist individuals or households who are homeless, at risk of homelessness and other vulnerable populations by providing housing, rental assistance, supportive services, and non-congregate shelter.

Stark County HOME-ARP Allocation \$3,228,483
Deadline for spending all funds: September 30, 2030

2

QUALIFYING POPULATIONS

Homeless, as defined in section 103(a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

At-risk of homelessness, as defined in section 401(1) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, as defined by the Secretary

Other populations who meet one of the following criteria:

- (a) Families requiring services or housing assistance to **prevent homelessness**
- (b) Those at **greatest risk of housing instability**

3

STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFIED NEEDS / ISSUES

More affordable and accessible rental housing for households up to 50% AMI through new construction and preservation with smaller developments and scattered sites to expand choice for tenants

Many landlords refuse Housing Choice Vouchers because HUD's payment standard is lower than current higher market rents

Some landlords refuse tenants who are homeless, have criminal histories, record of evictions, poor credit, released offenders

Level of Housing Choice Vouchers is inadequate to serve families in need of subsidized rental housing

Subsidized housing has long waiting lists with little turnover among Permanent Supportive Housing and affordable rental units

4

STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFIED NEEDS / ISSUES

Inadequate level of supportive services that increase potential for returning to homelessness—legal, financial counseling, case management, employment training, and more

Better collaboration with landlords to increase Housing Choice Vouchers acceptance among those with criminal histories, mental illness, homeless

Need affordable housing that is accessible to transportation, amenities, good schools

5

DATA ANALYSIS

247	2022 PIT count of total homeless with 28 unsheltered
4,257	Homeless persons served between January 2021 thru June 2022
151	Veterans housed through CoC, of which 31 were chronically homeless
1,181	Persons who experienced homelessness for the first time
978	Households exited the homeless system to temporary destinations
91.7%	Homeless engaged in street outreach who exited to positive destinations
1,092	Households with history of domestic violence, of which 243 were fleeing
11,910	Housing Gap of rental units for households at 0-50% AMI (outside of Canton)
\$12,853	Average income of 1,445 households assisted with COVID-19 ERAP (Stark Co)
20%	Households with persons with disabilities on SMHA waitlist for public housing

6

PRIORITY NEEDS IN STARK COUNTY

Rental housing affordable and accessible to 0-30% households

Permanent Supportive Housing units

Supportive Services

Tenant-based Rental Assistance

7

PROPOSED HOME-ARP BUDGET

Eligible Activities	Amount
Supportive Services	\$ 300,000.00
Acquisition / Development of Non-congregate Shelter	---
Tenant-based Rental Assistance	---
Development of Affordable Rental Housing*	\$ 2,336,210.55
Nonprofit Operating Expenses**	\$ 54,000.00
Nonprofit Capacity Building**	\$ 54,000.00
Administration & Planning	\$ 484,272.45
Total	\$ 3,228,483.00

* City proposes to create 8-10 affordable rental units @ \$225,000

** Nonprofit organizations approved for other HOME-ARP activities may apply for these

8

PUBLIC COMMENT

9

NEXT STEPS

Oral comments received today will be acknowledged in the plan

All written comments must be received by February 9 to be included in the final plan

Email comments to dmsheridan@starkcountyohio.gov

Stark County Board of Commissioners is expected to take action on the plan mid February 2023

Submission to HUD is anticipated late February 2023

10

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Stark County:

dmsheridan@starkcountyohio.gov

lcsnyder@starkcountyohio.gov

Stark Housing Network:

mbragg@starkhousingnetwork.org

MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
February 7, 2023

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission met in regular session Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 7:30 p.m., in the Stark County Regional Planning Commission Conference Room.

RPC Members or Alternates

Tony Peldunas, County Appointee
Dave Thorley, County Appointee
Dave McAlister, County Appointee
Dan Moeglin, Stark Parks
Joe Skubiak, County Appointee

Kris Vincent, County Appointee
Chris Hardesty, City of Canton
Bob Sanderson, County Appointee
Tim Tarbet, Village of Minerva
Cliff Varian, Osnaburg Twp.

Staff

Sean Phillips
Jill Gerber
Robert Nau
Jonelle Melnichenko
Fulton Benya
Sarah Peters
Malia Burgasser
Jeff Brown
Patrick Shaw
Curtis Bungard
Jeff Dotson

Others

Carl Bell, Gregory Industries
Tom Hartnett, Gregory Industries
Crus Tarr, Land Owner/Applicant
Julie Sparks, ICAN Housing
Dean Roach, Phoenix Recovery Support Services

1) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Joseph Skubiak, Vice Chairman, opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2) MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 3, 2023 MEETING

McAlister moved, Thorley seconded, and the motion carried to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2023 meeting.

3) FINANCIAL REPORT

There being no questions or additions, the financial report for January 2023 will be filed for audit.

McAlister moved, Thorley seconded, and the motion carried to go into a public hearing at 7:02 p.m.

4) STAFF REPORT / PUBLIC HEARING

a. HUD HOME-ARP Allocation Plan: Bill Wasielewski, M & L Consultants

Mr. Wasielewski presented an overview of the HUD HOME-ARP Allocation plan. The Home American Rescue Plan (ARP) is a separate allocation of HOME funds under the federal ARP program that was established over a year ago. It is a separate off-set of the ARP funds and provides about \$5 billion of supplemental HOME funds to assist individuals or households who are homeless, at risk of homelessness and other vulnerable populations by providing housing, rental assistance, supportive services, and non-congregate shelter. Stark County HOME-ARP has been given an allocation of \$3,228,483, and the deadline for spending all the funds is September 30, 2030. This plan needs to be submitted to HUD for review and approval on or before March 31, 2023.

Individuals that can benefit from these funds are called *qualifying populations*. There are four qualifying populations. Those homeless or at-risk of homelessness as defined under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, those fleeing, or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking or human trafficking, or other populations who meet one of the following criteria: 1) families requiring services of housing assistance to prevent homelessness, or 2) those at greatest risk of housing instability.

A series of Stakeholder sessions were conducted throughout the course of the summer and fall, and with the assistance of these Stakeholders, key issues and needs were identified. There is a need for more affordable and accessible rental housing, especially for households up to 50% AMI through new construction and preservation with smaller developments and scattered sites to expand choice for tenants. Many landlords refuse Housing Choice Vouchers because HUD's payment standard is lower than current higher market rents. Some landlords refuse tenants who are homeless, have criminal histories, record of evictions, poor credit or released offenders. The existing level of Housing Choice Vouchers is inadequate to serve families in need of subsidized rental housing. Subsidized housing has a long waiting list with little turnover among Permanent Supportive Housing and affordable rental units. There is an inadequate level of supportive services that increase potential for returning to homelessness such as legal, financial counseling, case management, employment training and more. There needs to be better collaboration with landlords to increase Housing Choice Vouchers acceptance among those with criminal histories, mental illness and the homeless. There is also a need for affordable housing that is accessible to transportation, amenities and good schools.

In addition to the Stakeholders input, there was a significant data and gaps needs analysis that was carried out that looked at the county's homeless population, or shelter population. A summary of some key findings of the data analysis was provided which counted homelessness resulting from various situations and the housing gap of rental units. Based on the stakeholders input as well as the data analysis, the county established some priority needs. The following were listed as priority needs in Stark County: affordable rental housing accessible to 0-30% households; permanent supportive housing units; supportive services and tenant-based rental assistance.

The proposed HOME-ARP budget is a one-time allocation of federal HOME funds aimed to serving these special populations. The county is proposing to allocate their HOME-ARP of \$3,228,483 in the following manner: supportive services - \$300,000; development of affordable rental housing - \$2,336,210; nonprofit operating expenses - \$54,000; nonprofit capacity building - \$54,000; administration & planning - \$484,272.45. This program must continue on through 2030, so that will require oversight and reporting requirements over a number of years.

Public Comments:

Comment:

Lisa Snyder and Diane Sheridan were thanked for their leadership in putting this plan together.

Q. – Who do they contact if somebody needs assistance?

A. – Once this plan is completed, submitted to HUD and is approved, at that point the county can begin to implement its program. Their intention at this point is, if HUD accepts our plan, to have an RFP process where we will open up the funds to nonprofits or organizations in the community so they can submit applications to request funding, and then we will score the applications and go from there.

Q. – When do you see that happening?

A. – We intend to submit the allocation plan to HUD by the end of February. It's technically due to HUD by March 31, 2023, and then HUD has 45 days to approve the plan. It may be early spring when we should have more concrete steps in place.

Comment:

The government departmentalizes their money and their sources of funds and where they are allowed to be used, but it seems like we continue to throw money at treating the symptoms, lack of housing, not that it's not needed, but ignore the root causes of the homelessness in the first place. But there are probably other programs to do that.

Q. – Will this be involved in transitional housing if there is substance abuse or drug addiction and they wanted to go to transitional housing first before they got their own place?

A. – The way we envision this working, and we've provided detail in the allocation plan, is our intention is to use Stark County's coordinated entry system. We intend to give preference to those who are homeless. HUD states you must meet the specific homeless criteria in order to qualify for housing that's considered permanent supportive housing. Not to rule that out completely, but there's still a lot of logistics that we need to work out, so maybe we could work together and talk about that more in the future. We're not sure how all the details will look right now.

Mr. Wasielewski stated these comments received tonight will be acknowledged in the plan, and we're required to provide all input on comments. All written comments must be received by February 9th to be included in the final plans. You have the opportunity to provide written comments and so does the public, but they must be given prior to the submission of the plan. You can email comments to Diane Sheridan at

dmsheridan@starkcountyohio.gov. The Stark County Board of Commissioners expect to take action on the plan mid February, and we will submit the plan in late February 2023.

Q. – What is the role of Stark Housing Network in this process?

A. – Stark Housing Network is the lead entity for the Stark County Continuum of Care. Stark Housing Network has worked with us in the development of this allocation plan. Our intended use is for us to partner with them through future development of this implementation. Since they work directly with the coordinated entry system, we will have a strong working relationship with them. That is how Stark Housing Network is hooked into this Continuum of Care.

McAlister moved, Hardesty seconded, and the motion carried to close the public hearing and return to regular session at 7:15 p.m.

McAlister moved Sanderson seconded, and the motion carried to recommend the approval of the HUD HOME-ARP allocation plan to Stark County Commissioners.

5) TOWNSHIP ZONING AMENDMENTS

Fulton Benya presented the staff recommendations on the following zoning amendments:

CA #2 - Proposed rezoning from B-2 Neighborhood Business to B-3 Commercial Business–

One tract, approximately 9.18 acres, located on the east side of Trump Ave. and north of Lincoln St./US 30/SR 172 in the SE ¼ Section 12, Canton Township (legal description on file with the Township). Owner/Applicant: Joseph J. & Joanne A. Fedevich/Guster Tarr; Current Use: Vacant, Proposed Use: Business

Thorley moved, Vincent seconded, and the motion carried to recommend approval of the proposed rezoning to B-3 Commercial Business. It should be noted the Township has named the zone change request CA #1, 2023 due to starting the previous request in 2022; however, RPC documents will reference CA #2, 2023 for the zone change. The following facts were presented to the Commission for consideration:

1. There are a mix of uses that surround the subject tract. To the north are tracts being utilized for single-family agricultural and residential purposes. To south, at the intersection of Lincoln/US 30/SR 172 and Trump, are business uses which transition to residential as you travel further east and west along Lincoln/US 30/SR 172. Immediately east is tract being utilized for business purposes, which transitions into residential continuing east. To the west beyond the roadway are tracts of business uses, which transition into vacant land and residential uses beyond the commercial area. There are sections of public service which contain the road right-of-way and are owned by the State of Ohio and Stark County Commissioners.
2. The existing zoning consists of R-R Rural Residential to the north and east. To the west is a section of R-R, however this is within the road right-of-way and was likely not addressed when a previous zone change took place. Beyond the R-R to the west is B-3 Commercial Business. To the south is B-2 Neighborhood Business and B-3 Commercial Business along the Lincoln/US 30/SR 172 corridor.
3. The tract proposed for rezoning is approximately 9.18 acres. Currently, the tract is vacant and the applicant is looking to purchase the land to relocate their trucking business.

4. The Stark County 2040 Comprehensive Plan designates the future land use of this area as Commercial along to the Lincoln/US 30/SR 172 corridor, which transitions to Developed Suburban to the north.
5. In 1991, RPC reviewed a zone change request for the adjacent tract to the south. The tract was proposing to be rezoned from Residential to Retail. RPC recommended approval of the rezoning and encouraged the Township to proceed with an overall rezoning for the corridor, citing anticipated development due to public utilities being available and the extension of US 30.
6. In 1997, RPC reviewed a zone change request for a tract to the southwest, encompassing approximately 5 acres, to be rezoned from the R-R and B-2 districts to B-3. This application was submitted after 2 similar applications for the area were submitted and reviewed by RPC in 1995 and 1996. The zone change requests from 1995 and 1996 were withdrawn from consideration at the township level. When RPC reviewed the zone change requests for all 3 applications, staff recommended denial, taking into consideration the county's comprehensive future land use map, changes in the township's zoning resolution and the creation of spot zoning. In the recommendations for the zone change requests, RPC suggested an overall rezoning and land use study for the intersection of Lincoln/US 30 and Trump. Although RPC recommended denial, the Township approved a modification of the 1997 zone change amendment request to rezone approximately 2 acres at the Trump/Lincoln/US 30 intersection to B-3 and the approximately 3 acres further north to B-2.
7. In June 1999, RPC conducted a land use and zoning study for various areas of the township, including the Trump/Lincoln/US 30 intersection. An overall rezoning layout was provided to the township in conjunction with the study. Later in 1999, a zone change request was submitted by the Zoning Commission to rezone the area following the proposed layout provided by RPC. This included a B-3 corridor along Lincoln and south of Lincoln along Trump to the US 30 interchange. The B-3 district also extended approximately 500' north of Lincoln on Trump, and then transitioned to the B-2 district, which included the subject tract under consideration today. RPC recommended approval of the request. There been have no other zoning requests for the subject parcel.
8. In 2021, RPC reviewed a zone change request for the adjacent parcel to the west from B-2 Neighborhood Business to B-3 Commercial Business. RPC recommended approval of the rezoning, and the Township approved the zone change request.
9. Rezoning the area to a B-3 district would be in keeping with the existing surrounding zoning. Staff believes this change would not have a detrimental effect to the surrounding areas.

LEX #1 - Proposed rezoning from R-R Rural Residential to R-2 One- and Two- Family Low-Density Urban Residential – One tract, approximately 15.63 acres, located on the east side of McCallum Ave. and south of Besson St. in the SE ¼ Section 29, Lexington Township (legal description on file with the Township). Owner/Applicant: David & Kristine Conway; Current Use: Single-Family Agricultural, Proposed Use: Two-Family Dwelling

McAlister stated a correction should be made under facts to be considered. The last sentence in Item #1 which states, To the northwest is a tract identified as public service, which is *Washington Elementary School*, should be changed to Marlinton High School. Thorley moved, Peldunas seconded, and the motion carried to recommend denial of the proposed rezoning to R-2 One and Two Family Density Urban Density. The following facts were presented to the Commission for consideration:

1. The uses surrounding the subject tract are predominately single-family agricultural/residential. To the north, south and east are tracts identified as single-family agricultural. To the south and west

are tracts identified as single-family residential. To the northwest is a tract identified as public service, which is *Marlington High School*.

2. The existing zoning reflects the land as the R-R Rural Residential District surrounds the subject tract.
3. The tract proposed for rezoning is approximately 15.63 acres. Currently, the subject tract has a single-family dwelling on the site. The applicant is proposing a zone change to R-2 One - and Two-Family, Low-Density Urban Residential. According to the application the applicant wants to convert the single-family dwelling into a duplex.
4. The Stark County 2040 Comprehensive Plan designates the future land use of the subject tract as Rural/Agricultural.
5. The site appears to be zoned R-R Rural Residential since the 1970s and RPC has not reviewed any zone change requests for the parcel.
6. According to the Lexington Township Zoning Resolution, the purpose of the R-2 district is to provide for single- and two-family residences at a density of up to two dwelling units per net acre in areas served with, or which as a part of the development are to be served with, centralized sewer and water facilities. According to the Sanitary Engineer, the nearest sanitary sewer is 9,500 feet away and expansion of sanitary sewer is not planned for this area.
7. Rezoning the area to R-2 would result in spot zoning which usually is not recommended.
8. Staff finds the existing zoning is appropriate for the subject considering the surrounding zoning and land uses, as well as the future land use. If the Township is interested in increasing the R-2 district, staff recommends that Township consider a revised zoning scheme to include the R-2 district within more appropriate areas of the Township.

6) **SUBDIVISION ACTION**

Fulton Benya presented the Subcommittee's recommendations on the following projects:

RENEWAL OF SITE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

**Pleasant View Amish Mennonite Church
(Approx. 980 sf bldg. addition and 484 sf canopy)**

NW ¼ Section 15, Lake Township (A: 1/2021)

Approval

McAlister moved, Hardesty seconded, and the motion carried to accept the Subcommittee's recommendation of renewal of the above-noted site improvement plan.

SITE IMPROVEMENT PLAN REVIEW

**Belden Center
(10,640 sf addition, dumpster enclosure,
walkways, paving, parking & access drive)**

NW ¼ Section 25, Jackson Township

Cond. Approval

Employers Health
(Approx. 10,500 sf bldg., patio, dumpster enclosure, walkways, paving & parking)
NW ¼ Section 25, Jackson Township Cond. Approval

Gregory Industries – Frank/Jackson
(Approx. 24,000 sf bldg., 2 patios, dumpster pad, walkways, paving & parking)
SW ¼ Section 1 & NW ¼ Section 12, Jackson Township Cond. Approval

Meijer HTV – Edison/SR 619/Lake
(89,988 sf bldg., dumpster enclosure, loading dock, walkways, paving, parking & 2 access drives)
SE ¼ Section 9 & SW ¼ Section 10, Lake Township Cond. Approval

Stark County Humane Society
(2,304 sf bldg. & paving)
NW ¼ Section 30, Nimishillen Township Approval

Ziegler Bolts
(12,000 sf bldg., walkways, paving & parking)
SW ¼ Section 13, Perry Township Cond. Approval

Vincent moved, Thorley seconded, and the motion carried to accept the Subcommittee's recommendations for the above-noted site improvement plans.

PRELIMINARY PLAN REVIEW

Flagstone
SE ¼ Section 19, Lake Township Cond. Approval

McAlister moved, Peldunas seconded, and the motion carried to accept the Subcommittee's recommendation for the above-noted preliminary plan. The Commission also approved the following various requests of Section 410 (contiguous holdings sketch to the north and to the west) and Section 520.1 (street arrangement to the west and to the north).

FINAL PLAT REVIEW

Heather Heights Allotment No. 2
(replat of lot 14 & part of lot 20 in Heather Heights Allotment)
SE ¼ Section 10, Lake Township Approval

Oak Park Estates No. 3 (Rev.)
(Replat of lots 32-47 in Oak Park Estates No. 1)
SW ¼ Section 18, Canton Township Approval

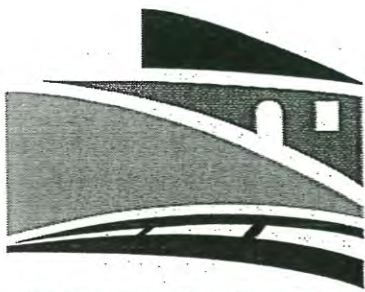
McAlister moved, Vincent seconded, and the motion carried to accept the Subcommittee's recommendations on the above-noted final plat.

7) OTHER BUSINESS

Nau reminded the Commission the annual dinner will be held on March 15th, and the speaker will be Dan Moeglin, Director of Stark Parks.

Joseph Skubiak, Vice Chairman

David Thorley, Secretary



STARK COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Meeting RPC Date 2/7/23
Place _____ Time 7:00

Sign in below, showing interest represented. Please Print.

Name	Representing
Curtis Bungard	RPC
Sean Phillips	RPC
Fulton Bengt II	Staff
Tim Tarbet	Mayor Village of Minerva
David McArthur	STARK CITY
Bob Sanderson	County appt.
Chris Hardesty	City of Canton
Jeff Dotson	Staff
Patrick Shaw	Staff
Deon Road	Phoenix Recovery Support Services
Malina Bengtson	Staff
Gus Tarr	Land owner / Applicant
Joe Stuchlik	City Appt.
JEFF BROWN	STAFF
Sarah Peters	Staff
Cliff Varian	Cosburg Township Trustee
Julie SPARKS	ICAHY Housing
Jonelle Melnichenko	Staff
CARL BELL	GREGORY INDUSTRIES.
Dan Meeglin	Stark Parks
Jan Hartnett	Gregory Industries
Don Shoh	County Appt.
TONY PELDUNAS	COUNTY APPT.
Kris Vancut	County Appt.
Tom y Paldunas	County appointee

Calendar

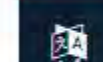


FEB 20, 2024

CDBG and HOME Public Hearing and Comment Period



SARTA TIP Amendment

[See All News](#)
SHARE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD STARK COUNTY, OHIO

The Consolidated Plan covers various programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs. Stark County is an "Urban County" under the CDBG program and a "Participating Jurisdiction" (PJ) under the HOME program. The county receives direct allocations of funding for these two programs and is the lead agency for the HOME Consortium, which includes the cities of Alliance and Massillon.

Stark County has prepared an Annual Action Plan for FY24 which includes a budget for the CDBG & HOME programs. The FY24 plan represents the 1st year of the 2024-2028 Consolidated Plan for Stark County. The Consolidated Plan also provides an area-wide assessment of housing and homeless needs, housing market analysis, and a strategic plan for the allocation of housing resources within the consortium area. In addition, the Consolidated Plan describes the County's priority community development needs eligible for assistance under the CDBG & HOME programs. This includes an assessment of the needs for public facilities, infrastructure improvements, public services, accessibility, historic preservation, economic development, fair housing and planning needs. The Plan provides the County's long-term and short-term community development goals and objectives that have been developed to address the national goals of the CDBG and HOME Programs, which include:

- The provision of safe, sanitary and affordable housing for lower income residents.
- The provision of creating suitable living environments by increasing the quality of life for lower income residents.
- The provision of economic opportunities, primarily for lower income residents.
- The provision of updated or new public facilities and/or infrastructure improvements, primarily to benefit lower income residents.

In preparing the FY24 Action Plan, the County addressed those needs which met one of the three statutory objectives of the CDBG program: to benefit low- and moderate-income persons, elimination of slum and blighting conditions, or an urgent community development need.

CDBG

Stark County is proposing to undertake the following housing and community development activities during FY24-28. The anticipated FY24 budget of \$1,390,232.00 is based upon the funding received for FY23. All proposed activities' budgets will be proportionally increased or decreased from the estimated funding levels to match actual allocation amounts based upon approval by the Board of Stark County Commissioners.

Proposed Activity	Proposed FY24	Proposed FY25	Proposed FY26
CDBG Planning & Administration	\$101,000.00	-	-
Fair Housing	\$84,000.00	-	-
2050 Stark County Comprehensive Plan	\$35,000.00	-	-
Housing Rehabilitation Administration	\$99,000.00	-	-
Housing Rehabilitation	\$273,462.00	-	-
Revolving Loan Fund (est.)	\$270,220.81	-	-
Alliance for Children & Families AER Office/Case Manager	\$20,320.00	-	-
CommQuest Services Inc Family Living Center	\$18,000.00	-	-
Stark MHAR Stark County Coordinated Entry System	\$20,000.00	-	-
Beacon Charitable Pharmacy Access to Medications & Clinical Pharmacy Services	\$30,000.00	-	-
The Stock Pile Salary Assistance	\$40,000.00	-	-
Community Building Partnership of Stark County Pre-purchase Housing Counseling for LMI Residents	\$7,500.00	-	-
StarkFresh Affordable Food Access Through Individualized Grocery Delivery	\$10,000.00	-	-
Early Childhood Resource Center Perry Local Schools SPARK Program	\$20,000.00	-	-
Early Childhood Resource Center Fatherhood Mentorship Project	\$20,000.00	-	-
Kent State University Microenterprise Development Program	\$32,000.00	-	-
City of North Canton Woodrow-Lola Waterline Replacement	\$499,950.00	-	-
Village of Brewster - Pump Station	\$40,000.00	-	-
Village of Navarre - Playground Equipment for Underwood Park	\$40,000.00	-	-
Stark County Engineer's Office - Perry Drive Reconstruction	-	\$100,000.00	-
City of North Canton Elberta Avenue SW Waterline Replacement	-	\$499,995.00	-
TOTAL (excludes RLF)	\$1,390,232.00	\$599,995.00	-
Reallocation of prior year funds to contingencies	\$10,016.00	-	-

Estimated RLF monies in the amount of \$270,220.81 will be used for owner-occupied rehabs. Anticipated program income in the amount of \$3,000.00 is to be used for rehab administration which includes soft costs and infrastructure/public facility improvements.

If any activity listed above has cost savings, slows down spending, discovers a barrier to completion or is not recommended for funding by the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the remaining funds will be reallocated to housing rehabilitation.

HOME

Stark County, as the lead agency for the HOME Consortium, is proposing the following HOME budget for FY24. The anticipated FY24 budget of \$1,029,006.00 is based upon the funding received for FY23. All proposed activities' budgets will be proportionally increased or decreased from the estimated funding levels to match actual allocation amounts based upon approval by the Board of Stark County Commissioners.

Proposed Activity	Proposed FY24
Administration	\$102,900.60
CHDO Set-Aside for future CHDO projects	\$154,350.90
City of Alliance - Housing Rehabilitation	\$105,321.55
City of Alliance - Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity - 1 new single-family home	\$70,000.00
City of Massillon - Housing Rehabilitation & Homebuyer Assistance	\$125,321.55
City of Massillon - Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio - 1 new single-family home	\$50,000.00
Stark County - Housing Rehabilitation	\$421,111.40
TOTAL	\$1,029,006.00

Anticipated program income of \$25,000.00 and prior years program income (no less than \$31,198.20) will be utilized for new construction or housing rehabilitation activities.

If any new construction activity has cost savings, fails to begin or complete construction, or is not recommended for funding by the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the remaining funds will be reallocated to the respective jurisdiction's housing rehabilitation activity.

Two public hearings will be held for the purpose of obtaining public input on the above-mentioned budgets and draft FY24-28 Consolidated Plan. The first public hearing will be March 5, 2024 at 7:00pm at the Stark County Regional Planning Commission office located at 201 3rd Street NE Suite 201 Canton, OH 44702. The second public hearing will be March 20, 2024 at 11:00am at the Stark County Regional Planning Commission office located at 201 3rd Street NE Suite 201 Canton, OH 44702.

The draft FY24-28 Consolidated Plan and draft FY24 Action Plan will be available for public comment beginning March 6, 2024 through various methods: 1) digitally upon request; 2) hard copy via US Mail upon request; 3) in-person at the Stark County Regional Planning Commission office at 201 3rd Street NE, Suite 201, Canton, OH 44702; or 4) via the RPC website at rpc.starkcountyohio.gov. To submit a request for a digital copy or hard copy, contact icsnyder@starkcountyohio.gov or call 330-451-7247. Comments are due no later than 4:00pm on April 8, 2024.

Stark County proposes to amend its approved HOME-ARP Allocation Plan. The current Allocation Plan outlines the County will provide access to all Qualifying Populations with a preference for chronically homeless individuals and families for its HOME-ARP activities. The proposed amendment would be to change the preference for those literally homeless. This proposed amendment will be discussed during the public hearing on March 5, 2024 at 7:00pm at the Stark County Regional Planning Commission office located at 201 3rd Street NE Suite 201 Canton, OH 44702. The draft, amended Allocation Plan will be available for public comment beginning March 6, 2024 through various methods: 1) digitally upon request; 2) hard copy via US Mail upon request; 3) in-person at the Stark County Regional Planning Commission office at 201 3rd Street NE, Suite 201, Canton, OH 44702; or 4) via the RPC website at rpc.starkcountyohio.gov. To submit a request for a digital copy or hard copy, contact icsnyder@starkcountyohio.gov or call 330-451-7247. Comments are due no later than 4:00pm on April 8, 2024.

The County will make reasonable accommodations for sensory-impaired or disabled residents at public meetings. Translation services may be offered upon request and availability. Individuals requiring such accommodations should contact 330.451.7031 or 330.451.7247 five business days prior to the meeting. Ohio Relay can be reached at 800.750.0750 for English or 800.269.0678 for Spanish.

Printed in The Repository on February 20, 2024

Report: Claims against Ohio teachers pension fund director unfounded

Laura A. Bischoff
State Bureau
USA TODAY NETWORK

State Teachers Retirement System Executive Director Bill Neville sometimes tells old stories and raises his voice at work but he's not throwing furniture, degrading women, retaliating against critics or creating a hostile workplace, investigators concluded.

An anonymous letter purporting to be from STRS staff accused Neville of violence, harassment and other misconduct. The STRS Board placed Neville on paid leave in November while an outside law firm investigated the allegations.

A five-page executive summary of the investigation said the accusations are "largely without merit." Two experienced employment law attorneys interviewed 23 STRS employees who have regular contact with Neville as well as two former pension fund employees.

Attorneys David Kessler and Stephen Postalakis concluded that the anonymous letter contained multiple untrue allegations.

They found that some employees think Neville has a tendency to raise his voice when he's angry. And some reported that Neville likes to re-tell old stories that reference past girlfriends, but the stories didn't rise to the level of creating a hostile work environment, they concluded.

Kessler and Postalakis didn't uncover who wrote the anonymous letter.

Despite being told that the allegations were without merit, the STRS board opted to keep Neville on paid leave through mid-May and offer him performance coaching in the meantime.

Neville's attorney, Rex Elliott, said "... the investigation found no evidence of unlawful behavior by Neville. It is even suggested that the false claims may have originated from someone external to STRS. Despite this, the author of the false email remains unidentified, and the STRS Board has yet to reinstate Mr. Neville, who should promptly resume his role as executive director to continue his commendable work for Ohio's teachers."

STRS Ohio is governed by an 11-member board that includes appointees and elected members. The board oversees \$90 billion invested for 500,000 teachers and retirees.

Activists have been mounting a board takeover, electing board members who are more sympathetic to their complaints about transparency, senior leadership, staff bonuses, and the suspension of the cost-of-living allowances for retirees. Some of the reformers have called for Neville to be ousted.

Neville, who makes \$318,000 a year, has been director for nearly four years and an STRS employee for nearly two decades.

Laura Bischoff is a reporter for the USA TODAY Network Ohio Bureau, which serves the Columbus Dispatch, Cincinnati Enquirer, Akron Beacon Journal and 18 other affiliated news organizations across Ohio.

U.S. Route 30 in Massillon reopens after traffic crash closure

Robert Wang
Canton Repository | USA TODAY NETWORK

MASSILLON - The collision between a car and semitractor-trailer Monday afternoon closed the east-bound lanes of U.S. Route 30 near state Route 21 for about five hours, the Massillon Fire Department said.

The crash took place on Route 30 near the Richville Drive SE exit shortly before 1:38 p.m.

The 17-year-old driver of the car was transported to a hospital with injuries that were not serious, said Massillon Fire Assistant Chief Pat Rhodes. The driver of the truck, which had departed the nearby Shearer's Foods facility, was not hurt. Neither had passengers.

About 100 gallons of diesel spilled from the truck onto the highway, grass by the highway and the nearby embankment. The cleanup and towing the severely damaged truck from the southern side of Route 30 resulted in the five-hour closure of Route 30's eastbound lanes, said Rhodes, who was among the roughly 10 city firefighters who responded.

No fire resulted from the crash.

The lanes reopened to traffic around 6:40 p.m.

The 17-year-old girl was driving west on Route 30. For a reason that is not clear, she drove across the median and into the eastbound lanes, colliding with the eastbound truck. The car ended up back on the median. And the truck went off the right shoulder of the highway.

Rhodes said he contacted the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Stark County hazmat team to get their guidance for how to handle the leaking of the diesel fuel.

The hazmat team sent out a vehicle. But the agencies agreed that full deployment of the team was not necessary and the use of a contractor to clean up the fuel spill would be sufficient. Rhodes said the fuel did not get into any nearby waterways.

A RED Center dispatcher referred questions about the accident to Massillon police. A message seeking more information was left for Massillon Police Chief Jason Santeney.

MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
March 5, 2024

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission met in regular session Tuesday, March 5, 2024, 7:00 p.m., in the Stark County Regional Planning Commission Conference Room.

RPC Members or Alternates

Bob Sanderson, County Appointee
Tony Peldunas, County Appointee
Joseph Skubiak, County Appointee
Dave McAlister, County Appointee
Bob Leach, County Appointee
Dave Thorley, County Appointee

Cliff Varian, Osnaburg Township
Tim Tarbet, Village of Minerva Mayor
J.R. Rinaldi, City of Canton Appointee
Wayne Schillig, Marlboro Township
Michael Miller, Village of Brewster

Staff

Bob Nau, Secretary
Heather Cunningham
John Anthony
Corine Valentine
Patrick Shaw
Lisa Snyder
Diane Sheridan
Jonelle Melinchenko
Malia Burgasser
Sarah Peters
Dan Slicker
Valerie Watson
Jennifer Bayer

Others

Samuel Alihassan
Bayan Alihassan

1) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Joseph Skubiak opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2) MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 6, 2024 MEETING

Leach moved, Sanderson seconded, and the motion carried to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2024 meeting.

3) FINANCIAL REPORT

There being no questions or additions, the financial report for February 2024 will be filed for audit.

4) STAFF REPORT

Presented by: Diane Sheridan, Chief of Community Development
Lisa Snyder, Senior Community Development Planner

Diane presented the Fiscal Year 2024-2028 Stark County Consolidated Plan. It begins July 1 and ends June 30, 2029. For a project to be funded, it must meet one of three national objectives and be consistent with one of four provisions. HUD's Consolidated Plan (CP) goal is to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities for lower-income persons. The CP is a planning document that builds on public participation from stakeholders. It is a grant application to HUD for CDBG and HOME funds. The CP is a strategy to be followed in funding projects. The CP is a management tool for assessing performance and tracking results. All funded projects must be consistent with the CP. The three national objectives of the CP are to benefit lower-income persons, prevent or eliminate blight, and meet urgent needs. The four provisions are to provide safe, sanitary and affordable housing for low-to-moderate-income individuals, suitable living environments by increasing the quality of life for low-to-moderate-income individuals, economic opportunities for low-to-moderate-income individuals, updated or new public facilities and/or infrastructure improvements for low-to-moderate-income individuals. From FY 2019 to FY 2022 the funding has helped 9,221 public service beneficiaries, 2,641 infrastructure beneficiaries, 211 single-family rehabs, assisted 76 businesses, and rehabbed 27 CHDO units.

Lisa Snyder presented the Proposed FY 2024-2026 CDBG Budget. Stark County's allocation for FY 2024 has not yet been released. The figures provided are estimates based on the County's FY 2023 allocation of \$1,390,232.00. Final recommendations will be increased or decreased from the estimated amounts to match the allocation announcement. The Board of Stark County Commissioners will adopt the final amounts. A workshop was held on August 25, 2023 with applications due November 3rd. A total of 11 eligible applications were received and scored. A breakdown by activity type was provided. All activities for CDBG funding must meet one of the three National Objectives: benefit low-to-moderate-income individuals, prevent or eliminate slum & blight, address an urgent need. All activities must be consistent with the Consolidated Plan. The eligible applications were reviewed by three RPC staff members and one member of the Review Committee.

There is a 20% cap on Planning and Administration activities. The proposed budget for Administration and Planning is \$220,000.00. Of that amount, \$84,000 is for Fair Housing, \$101,000 for Planning and Administration, and \$35,000 for the 2050 Stark County Comprehensive Plan. The proposed housing budget includes \$273,462 for Housing Rehab and \$99,000 for the administration of that program. There is a revolving loan balance of \$270,220.81, which is an accrued balance that accumulates from loan payoffs from housing rehab projects, but that amount is not calculated in the total of \$372,462.

The proposed Public Service Budget includes nine applications. Public Service activities have a 15% cap per federal regulations. They are proposing to fund Public Service for a total of \$185,820. The proposed Economic Development Budget totals \$32,000. The proposed Infrastructure Budget for FY

2024 totals \$579,950 for three projects and \$599,950 for FY 2025 for two projects. There were no applicants for FY 2026.

Reallocation of prior year funds to contingencies totals \$10,016.00. This will be set aside for any cost overruns or to support additional expenses for infrastructure/public facility projects. If any previously listed activity has cost savings, slows down spending, discovers a barrier to completion or is not recommended for funding by the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the remaining funds will be reallocated to housing rehabilitation. Anticipated program income in the amount of \$3,000.00 to be used for soft costs and infrastructure/public facility improvements.

Diane Sheridan presented the proposed FY 2024 HOME Consortium Budget. Stark County's allocation for FY 2024 has not yet been released. The figures provided are estimates based upon the County's FY 2023 allocation of \$1,029,006.00. Final recommendations will be increased or decreased from the estimated amounts to match the allocation announcement. Final amounts will be adopted by the Board of Stark County Commissioners. The County formed a HOME Consortium with the cities of Massillon and Alliance in 1995, sharing the annual allocation between the communities.

HOME funding is provided by HUD for the purpose of creating affordable housing for lower income households. An application workshop was held on October 6, 2023 with applications due December 1, 2023. Four applications were received and reviewed. The proposed 2024 HOME program will be receiving a total allocation of \$1,029,006. They are proposing Administration at \$102,900; CHDO set-aside is at \$154,350; the remaining funds will be distributed to Alliance for \$175,321.55; Massillon at \$175,321.55 and Stark County at \$421,111.40. If any new construction activity has cost savings, fails to begin or complete construction, or is not recommended for funding by the Board of Stark County Commissioners, the remaining funds will be reallocated to the respective jurisdiction's housing rehabilitation activity. Anticipated program income of \$25,000.00 and prior years program income (no less than) \$31,198.20 to be used for new construction or housing rehabilitation. The next steps include a draft Action Plan available for a 30-day comment period from March 6, 2024 - April 8, 2024. Plans are available on the website and via hardcopy if requested. A second public hearing is March 20, 2024 at 11:00am at Stark County Regional Planning Commission. Plan will be submitted to HUD once allocations are announced and plan is adopted by the Board of Stark County Commissioners.

Lisa Snyder presented the proposed amendment to Stark County's HOME-ARP Allocation Plan Amendment. As a result of the American Rescue Plan (ARP), five billion dollars of supplemental HOME funds were distributed to participating jurisdictions. Funds must be used to assist those who are homeless, at-risk of homelessness, and other populations by providing housing, rental assistance, supportive services and/or non-congregate shelter. Stark County received \$3,228,483.00. Stark County worked with community partners in the development of the Allocation Plan and determined based upon need, to utilize funds in the following manner: \$300,000 in supportive services, \$2,336,210 in the development of affordable rental housing, \$54,000 in non-profit operating, \$54,000 in non-profit capacity building and \$484,272 in administration and planning.

The Allocation Plan was approved by HUD. RPC, the Board of Stark County Commissioners and M&L Associates Inc. entered into contract in November 2023 for program implementation. M&L Associates has been working closely with Stark Housing Network, Inc through the beginning stages of implementation. M&L suggested that the current Allocation plan be amended. The current language reads "Stark County will provide access to all Qualifying Populations with a preference for chronically homeless individuals and families for its HOME-ARP activities.". The proposed amendment would read as: "Stark County will provide access to all Qualifying Populations with a preference for literally homeless individuals and families for its HOME-ARP activities." Chronically homeless is defined as a homeless individual with a disability who lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven or in an emergency shelters and has been homeless in said situation for at least 12 months or 4 or more times in the last 3 years which total 12 months of homelessness. Literally homeless is defined as an individual who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residents such as a place not meant for human habitation, living in a hotel or motel paid for by a charitable organization or is existing an institution where they have resided for 90 days or less and who was in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering the institution. Proposed amendment is available for a 30-day

comment period from March 6, 2024 - April 8, 2024. It will be presented to the Board of Stark County Commissioners for approval. Once approved, the amendment will be submitted to HUD.

Valerie Watson, Fair Housing Manager, presented strategies and actions to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing. As part of the Consolidated Plan, local government must certify that they will affirmatively further fair housing. They do that by conducting an Analysis of Impediments (AI), take appropriate actions to overcome the effects of any impediments identified, take meaningful actions to overcome patterns of segregation, promote fair housing choice, foster inclusive communities free from discrimination. AI is defined as a review of a jurisdiction's laws, regulations, policies, procedures, and practices affecting the location, availability and accessibility of housing, as well as an assessment of conditions, both public and private, affecting fair housing choice. In 2018, the cities of Alliance, Canton, Massillon and Stark County, for the Board of Stark County Commissioners, joined forces to conduct the AI to satisfy the requirements of this federal law. Participants are required to update the AI every five years so it's that time again. However, January 19, 2023, HUD announced a new proposed "AFFIRMATIVELY FURTHERING FAIR HOUSING" rule. Under the proposed rule, program participants would need to submit to HUD for review and acceptance an Equity Plan every five years. The Equity Plan would replace the AI. Until HUD announces the final rule for the Equity Plan, jurisdictions must continue to address the impediments in the current AI.

Stark County Fair Housing Department will take the following actions on an ongoing basis to eliminate the barriers to fair housing identified in the ***Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice***.

Potential Impediment: The County does not yet have an official Language Access Plan (LAP). A four-factor analysis was completed and a LAP draft exists, however, it has not yet been approved and implemented in its entirety. Until there is a written policy approved and implemented, Spanish-speaking persons in the County will not receive the same standard of service with each interaction with the County. Action Plan: The Fair Housing Department drafted a LAP and it was approved. The plan identifies county programs and services available to individuals within the county.

Potential Impediment: All County government personnel have not received fair housing training. All employees of Stark County should receive some form of fair housing training. Action Plan: The staff plans to conduct presentations at the Governmental Law Seminar where county governmental officials attend. Also, to educate all county government personnel, the staff developed and launched a quarterly fair housing newsletter. This educational newsletter is emailed to all county employees.

Potential Impediment: The Consolidated Plan continues to require updates. Action Plan: The County amended the Consolidated Plan to include a definition for areas of minority concentration, however, the definition is not sufficient. The new definition compares households rather than all residents. The staff amended the definition for areas of minority concentration in the Consolidated Plan to include "residents" rather than households. The staff is continuing it throughout.

Potential Impediment: The increase of fair housing complaints indicates that discrimination still occurs in Stark County. Fair housing activities should continue in order to keep residents aware of their rights, and keep landlords aware of their responsibilities. Action Plan: The educational newsletter is emailed to social service agencies and landlords. The newsletters will provide ongoing education related to the Fair Housing Act. The staff will continue to conduct presentations to the Stark County Real Estate Investor's Association. The staff conducted a Tester Training Session to obtain a pool of testers to help ensure that people are not denied housing due to unlawful discrimination. Provide additional advertisements in the local newspapers to address discrimination and how and where to report illegal acts of housing discrimination. Expand the distribution of the Fair Housing Newsletter to those in the real estate industries. Continue training presentations to landlords, tenants, realtors, students, property managers, zoning inspectors, public officials and representatives from social service agencies.

The Stark County Fair Housing Department will continue its goals to ensure equal housing opportunity. Necessary actions will be taken to certify that the fair housing law is properly and fairly enforced throughout the County. The fair housing department will continue to take the appropriate steps necessary to eliminate the potential impediments listed in the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice.

Thorley moved and Sanderson seconded to recommend to the Board of Stark County Commissioners the approval of the recommendations for the FY 2024-28 Consolidated Plan, FY 2024-2026 CDBG Budget and FY 24 HOME programs; the amendment to the Stark County's HOME ARP plan allocation; A vote was taken and carried.

5) TOWNSHIP ZONING AMENDMENTS

Patrick Shaw presented the staff recommendations for the following zoning amendments:

CA #1 Proposed text amendment that would: add regulations pertaining to sexually oriented businesses.

Leach moved, McAlister seconded and the motion carried to recommend approval of a modification of a proposed text amendment. The following facts were presented to the Commission for consideration.

1. The proposed amendment would add a new section to the zoning resolution for sexually oriented businesses. The proposed amendment closely follows language that was recently added to the Plain Township Zoning Resolution.
2. As the zoning resolution currently reads, sexually oriented businesses are discussed in Article II Definitions, Article IV District Regulations and Article VIII Conditional Zoning Certificates. The proposed amendment would create a new section in the zoning resolution for Sexually Oriented Businesses. It is unclear where this section is being proposed or if the language in the other sections is being removed. Staff recommends the Township forgo creating a new section and add a portion of the proposed text as a subsection in Article III General Provisions and modify the language in the existing sections to maintain uniformity throughout the resolution.
3. The proposed amendment states "a sexually oriented business is permitted in the I-1 Light Industrial Districts and I-2 Heavy Industrial Districts;" however, the text indicates that there are conditions when proposing these establishments. Staff recommends the Township keep these businesses as a conditionally permitted use and incorporate the conditions imposed into Section 800.3 Regulations Pertaining to Conditionally Permissible Uses. Additionally, the names of the industrial districts in the amendment do not match the district names in the Canton Township Zoning Resolution.
4. A few minor grammatical corrections and recommendations have been addressed in a marked-up copy of the proposed amendment, which will be provided to the Township. Staff would encourage the Township to ensure that their legal counsel has reviewed the amendment for sufficiency and compliance with applicable laws.

LAW #2 Proposed text amendment that would: add definitions pertaining to accessory solar energy systems and modify regulations pertaining to solar energy systems.

Schillig moved, Leach seconded and the motion carried to recommend approval of a modification of a proposed text amendment. The following facts were presented to the Commission for consideration:

1. As proposed the amendment would add new definitions for different types of accessory solar energy systems and modify regulations pertaining to principal solar energy production facilities and accessory solar energy systems.
2. The proposed amendment would allow all accessory solar energy systems as permitted uses in all zoning districts; however, the text indicates that there are conditions when proposing ground mounted accessory solar energy systems. Staff recommends permitting roof mounted solar energy systems and conditionally permitting ground mounted solar energy systems in these districts. Additionally, principal solar energy production facilities are listed as permitted uses in the I-1 and I-2 districts; however, there are conditions associated to these uses. Staff recommends removing principal solar energy production facilities from permitted uses in the industrial districts and include these uses as conditionally permitted.
3. A few minor grammatical corrections and recommendations have been addressed in a marked-up copy of the proposed amendment, which will be provided to the Township. Staff would encourage the Township to ensure that their legal counsel has reviewed the amendment for sufficiency and compliance with applicable laws.

LAW #3 Proposed rezoning from B-1 Neighborhood Business to B-3 Community Business – One tract, approximately 1 acre, located at the southwest corner of Orrville & Manchester/SR 93 in the SE ¼ Section 28, Lawrence Township (legal description on file with the Township).
APPLICANT/OWNER: Timothy Oser **CURRENT USE:** Business **PROPOSED USE:** Business

Sanderson moved, Schillig seconded and the motion carried to recommend the denial of the proposed rezoning to B-3 Community Business District. The following facts were presented to the Commission for consideration:

1. The land use of the area consists of multifamily residential to the south and west which contains a mobile home park. Beyond the mobile home park and to the north and east are single-family agricultural and residential uses with some areas of vacant land.
2. The zoning consists of a B-1 Neighborhood Business District surrounding the subject tract, with an R-R Rural Residential District extending beyond the business area.
3. The subject tract and area surrounding the Orrville/Manchester/SR 93 intersection appear to have been zoned in a business capacity since the 1960s.
4. The Stark County 2040 Comprehensive Plan designates the future land use of the area as a rural/agricultural.
5. In 1986, an amendment was submitted to rezone the subject parcel to the B-3 Community Business District in order to operate a car sales business. RPC recommended denial stating that although the area is currently zoned in a business capacity, only the subject tract is operating as a business and the surrounding area is generally consists of single-family agricultural and residential uses. The Township also denied this request.
6. In 1987, a second amendment was submitted to rezone the subject parcel to the B-3 district to operate a car sales lot. RPC reiterated the same facts stated previously and recommended denial. The Township denied this request as well.
7. When considering a zone change, the most intensive permitted uses in that district must be considered, such as transportation terminals, hotels, motels and automobile, truck, trailer and farmer implementation sales, service and storage, which could have a detrimental effect on the surrounding residential dwellings.

Corine Valentine presented the staff recommendations for the following zoning amendments:

LEX #1 Proposed text amendment that would: add definitions pertaining to solar energy systems and add or modify regulations relating to solar energy systems, advertising, architectural review, administration fees and enforcement and single-family dwellings.

McAlister moved, Leach seconded and the motion carried to recommend approval of a modification of a proposed text amendment. The following facts were presented to the Commission for consideration:

1. The proposed amendment would add definitions and regulations for solar energy systems. As proposed, the systems would be conditionally permitted uses in various districts. Staff recommends the township add these uses under each district in which they are conditionally permitted.
2. As proposed, the amendment would add a section in Article III General Provisions for Architectural Review, which is authorized through Section 519.171 of the ORC. Architectural Review will be implemented for all structures and fencing both new and major modifications and/or substantial expansion. This review will be done by the Zoning Inspector and Zoning Commission. Staff recommends the Township ensure they have the capacity to review these requirements.
3. The amendment proposes to expand upon requirements in order to obtain a Zoning Certificate, which includes providing exterior design elements for architectural review. Staff recommends referencing this section in Article III when discussing architectural review.
4. As proposed, the resolution expands upon what is defined as a single-family dwelling. This is added to each zoning district that permits these uses. Staff recommends modifying the definition in Article II Definitions to include the updated language rather than providing a definition for the use in each district.
5. The amendment proposes to limit off-premises advertising to only those uses which are permitted or conditionally permitted within the zoning district of the property on which the advertisement is placed. Staff recommends the Township review this regulation to ensure the requirement does not violate the First Amendment and maintains content neutrality.
6. There are a few grammatical changes and comments that staff is recommending, which will be provided to the Township in a marked-up copy. Staff would encourage the Township to ensure that their legal counsel has reviewed the amendment for sufficiency and compliance with applicable laws.

PL #1 Proposed rezoning from R-2 One and Two-Family Residential to B-2 General

Business – Three tracts, approximately 3 acres, including lot 6 and 7 in North Avondale Heights Allotment No. 2, located on the north side of 50th, east of Whipple in the NW & SW ¼ Section 19, Plain Township (legal description on file with Township).

APPLICANT/OWNER: Enterprise Holdings on behalf of Pinegree 2000, LLC/ Kim Mee Kyung

CURRENT USE: Vacant Land/ Business PROPOSED USE: Business

Leach moved, Tarbet seconded and the motion carried to recommend **denial** of the proposed rezoning to B-2 General Business District. The following facts were presented to the Commission for consideration:

1. The land use of the area consists of a commercial corridor along Whipple just west of the subject tracts. Immediately north are the I-77 on/off ramps, which transitions into business beyond the highway. South and east of the subject tract consists of single-family residential homes, with some tracts of vacant land.
2. The zoning generally follows the land use as the B-2 General Business District exists to the north and west. The R-1 Single-Family Residential District exists to the east and south, beyond the commercial corridor along Whipple.
3. The subject tracts are approximately 3 acres in total and are currently zoned R-2 One and Two-Family Residential. According to the application, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, currently operating to the west, is planning to expand the business. The expansion would consist of consolidating all of the lots (including the subject tracts) to add truck leasing and vehicle sales. If consolidated, the applicant does not want to have a split-zoned property and is requesting the zone change to have a uniform zoning district for the tract.
4. The Stark County 2040 Comprehensive Plan designates the future land use of the area as a commercial corridor along Whipple, transitioning to developed urban to the east, south of the I-77 ramps.
5. The subject tracts appear to have been zoned in a residential capacity since zoning was initiated in Plain Township. Over the years the adjacent and subject lots have had several zone change requests proposing to rezone the area from residential to business, which has resulted in opposition from the adjacent neighborhood and court action. RPC's reviews of the proposed changes consistently reiterate the importance of protecting the established neighborhood to the east.
6. In 1969, the area south of the subject tracts proposed to rezone the area from R-1 and R-3 to B-2. RPC recommended denial; however, the Township approved the request. In 1974, the Township sent a letter to RPC regarding the 1969 zone change. The letter stated the area was rezoned to the B-2 district; however, a ruling from the Fifth District Court of Appeals declared the amendment null and void because of the deed restrictions stating that only the lots fronting Whipple may be used for purposes other than single-family residences. Due to the ruling, the Township allowed the B-2 district to remain, but prohibited issuing any permits for business uses for lots other than those with frontage on Whipple.
7. In 1978, the Township approved a zone change for a 1.93-acre area to the west of the subject tracts along Whipple to the B-1 district. This included lots 1, 2 and 3 of the North Avondale Heights No. 2 allotment, along with acreage to the north along the I-77 ramp. In 1986, lot 1 and parts of lots 2 and 4 were rezoned to the B-2 district.
8. In 1989, the subject tracts were proposed to be rezoned to B-2 General Business. The Trustees approved a modification to the R-2 district, as they felt the modification provided reasonable usage of the parcels while protecting adjacent single-family residential uses to the east. In 1994, the Township approved a rezoning to the B-2 district for all tracts fronting Whipple and extended the business area an additional 100 feet to the east, which resulted in the current configuration.
9. When considering a zone change, the most intensive permitted uses in that district must be considered, such as transportation terminals, mini-warehouses and storage facilities, hotels, motels and automobile, truck, trailer and farmer implementation sales, service and storage, which could have a detrimental effect on the surrounding residential dwellings. Since parking lots are conditionally permitted uses in the R-2 district and according to the applicant's application, appears to fit what the intended use would be for the business, RPC finds the current zoning of R-2 One and Two-Family Residential acceptable, as any further intensive rezoning may be detrimental for public health and safety and not be considerate of public interest.

6) SUBDIVISION ACTION

Corine Valentine presented the Subcommittee's recommendations on the following projects:

SITE IMPROVEMENT PLAN REVIEW

Diehl Automotive – Kia/Hyundai

(29,445 sf bldg., 17,547 sf bldg., walkway, paving & parking)

SW ¼ Section 11, Perry Township

Conditional Approval

GMT Resources – Trump Storage

(6,256 sf bldg., 6,000 sf bldg., 2- 5,000 sf bldgs., 2,000 sf bldg., walkways, paving, parking & access drive)

SE ¼ Section 12, Canton Township

Conditional Approval

Honor Home

(Approx. 5,200 sf addition, walkway, paving & parking)

SE ¼ Section 26, Plain Township

Conditional Approval

Messerly Duplex

(Approx. 4,000 sf duplex, paving, parking & access drive)

SW ¼ Section 10, Perry Township

Approval

Northstar Towers – Canal Fulton/Lawrence/Cutten

(190 ft monopole tower, equipment compound, concrete pad & access drive)

NW ¼ Section 21, Lawrence Township

Conditional Approval

Ryan's Lawn Care

(3,600 sf bldg., walkway, paving & parking)

SW ¼ Section 33, Sugarcreek Township

Conditional Approval

Stark County Engineer – Hartville Outpost

(1,760 sf bldg.)

SW ¼ Section 7, Marlboro Township

Approval

Vasco

(Supply yard & 3 access drives)

NW ¼ Section 6, Pike Township

Conditional Approval

Willowberry Farm

(Approx. 1,600 sf bldg., approx. 1,000 sf deck, walkway, paving, parking & access drive)

SW ¼ Section 32, Marlboro Township

Conditional Approval

McAlister moved, Sanderson seconded, and the motion carried to accept the Subcommittee's recommendations of the above-noted site improvement plan reviews. The Commission also approved the variance request of Section 550.3 (construction plans submission) for Messerly Duplex.

FINAL PLAT

Amodio Allotment No. 2

(replat of lots 6 & 7 in Amodio Allotment)

NW ¼ Section 6, Lake Township

Approval

Berkshire Farms No. 7

(replat of lots 77 & 78 in Berkshire Farms No. 3)

SW ¼ Section 8, Jackson Township

Approval

Carrington No. 14

(replat of lots 242 & 243 in Carrington No. 9)

SW ¼ Section 17, Jackson Township

Approval

Colony Circle Allotment No. 4

(replat of lots 21-26 in Colony Circle Allotment No. 1
and part of the SW ¼ Section 2, Washington Township)

SW ¼ Section 2, Washington Township

Conditional Approval

Greenbrier Allotment No. 6

(replat of lot 20 & part of lot 21 in Greenbrier Allotment No. 1)

SE ¼ Section 26, Plain Township

Conditional Approval

Saratoga Hills No. 7

NW ¼ Section 12, Plain Township

Conditional Approval

Summit Hill No. 2

(replat of lots 7-10 in Summit Hill)

SE ¼ Section 35, Lawrence Township

Approval

Leach moved, Schillig seconded, and the motion carried to accept the Subcommittee's recommendations on the above-noted final plats. The Commission also approved the variance request of Section 250.1 (street arrangement) for Colony Circle allotment No. 4; and conditionally approved Section 420 (conforms with preliminary plan) and Section 530.1 (width to depth ratio) for Saratoga Hills No. 7.

7) **SUBDIVISION REVIEW MEETING**

Subdivision Review Meeting has been moved to April 9, 2024 at 10:30 am.

Sanderson moved, Miller seconded and the motion carried to approve the Subdivision Review meeting.

8) **PERSONNEL**

McAlister moved and Thorley seconded to adjourn into executive session to discuss the employment and/or compensation of a government employee. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Voting Aye: Sanderson, Skubiak, Thorley, Schillig, Tarbet, McAlister, Varian, Leach, Miller, Rinaldi

McAlister moved, Sanderson seconded, and the motion carried to adjourn from executive session

McAlister moved, Miller seconded, and the motion carried to hire Angela Sterling to the position of Fiscal Clerk with a start date of March 25, 2024, at an annual salary of \$40,000.

8) OTHER BUSINESS

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Joseph Skubiak, Chairman

Bob Nau, Secretary

HOME-ARP Allocation Plan Amendment

No comments received.

Resolution

Distribution

Stark County Commissioners

RPC / LSnyder w/a
Journal
File

Adopted April 24, 2024

Subject **A Resolution adopting the amended HOME American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) Allocation Plan.**

Commissioner Regula moved for the adoption of the following Resolution which was seconded by Commissioner Smith:

WHEREAS, this Board and the Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) have a complete HOME-ARP Allocation Plan and;

WHEREAS, this Board desires to amend the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan, which was advertised and provided for a 30-day comment period and is attached hereto and made a part hereof as though written in full.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Board hereby adopts the amended HOME-ARP Allocation Plan as referenced above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this Board authorizes the SCRPC to submit the amended HOME-ARP Allocation Plan on its behalf to HUD.

Upon roll call the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Smith - yes Mrs. Creighton - yes Mr. Regula - yes

C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E

I, the undersigned, hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct record of the Resolution adopted by the Board.

Richard Flory

Calendar

This Plan is in draft form until adopted by the Board of Stark County Commissioners.



STARK COUNTY, OH
HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

Submitted to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
as a Substantial Amendment to the
2021 Annual Action Plan

Allocation Plan Amended April 2024

JUN 03, 2026

HOME-ARP Draft Amended Allocation Plan



MAY 29, 2026

Nimishillen Creek (LEAP) CleanUp



MAY 28, 2026

Fair Housing Expo - Save the Date

[See All News](#)

Notice of 30-Day Comment Period and Public Hearing

Stark County, Ohio

Proposed HOME-ARP Allocation Plan Amendment

In March 2021, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) was signed into law providing \$1.9 trillion to address the impact of COVID-19. Congress appropriated five billion dollars in ARP for homelessness assistance and supportive services. HOME-ARP funds must be used to assist those who are homeless, at-risk of homelessness, and other populations by providing housing, rental assistance, supportive services and/or non-congregate shelter.

The County has received an additional allocation of HOME-ARP funds. It is necessary to amend the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan to notify the public of the proposed use of these additional funds. The County proposes to allocate the additional HOME-ARP funds in the amount of \$4,841.00 to the Supportive Services line item. All other line items remain unchanged.

Table 6	Funding Amount	Percent of the Grant	Statutory Limit
Supportive Services	\$304,841.00		
Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelters	---		
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (9TBRA)	---		
Development of Affordable Rental Housing	\$2,336,210.55		
Non-Profit Operating	\$54,000.00	1.7%	5%
Non-Profit Capacity Building	\$54,000.00	1.7%	5%
Administration and Planning	\$484,272.45	14.98%	15%
Total HOME ARP Allocation	\$3,233,324.00		

The draft amendment will be available for review and comment beginning June 9, 2026 through various methods: 1) digitally upon request; 2) hard copy via US Mail upon request; 3) in-person at the Stark County Regional Planning Commission office, weekdays 8:00 am – 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm at 201 Third Street NE Suite 201, Canton, OH 44702; or 4) via the RPC website at rpc.starkcountyohio.gov. To submit a request for a digital copy or hard copy, contact Lcsnyder@stark-countyohio.gov or call 330-451-7247. Written comments will be received until 4:00 pm on July 9, 2026 and should be addressed to Lisa Snyder, Community Development Administrator, Lcsnyder@starkcountyohio.gov, 201 Third Street NE, Suite 201, Canton, OH 44702. Questions may be directed to the e-mail provided above.

The proposed amendment is being reviewed at a public hearing during the Stark County Regional Planning Commission meeting on June 9, 2026 at 7:00pm at 201 Third Street NE Suite 201 Canton, OH 44702.

The County will make reasonable accommodations for sensory-impaired or disabled residents at public meetings. Translation services may be offered upon request and availability. Individuals requiring such accommodations should contact 330-451-7031 or 330-451-7247 five business days prior to the meeting. Ohio Relay can be reached at 800.750.0750 for English or 800.269.0678 for Spanish.



Published in The Repository on Tuesday, May 26, 2026

MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
June 9, 2026

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission met in regular session Tuesday, June 9, 2026, 7:00 p.m., in the Stark County Regional Planning Commission Conference Room.

RPC Members or Alternates

Dave Thorley, President
Dan Moeglin, Vice President
Michael Miller, Village of Brewster
Bob Sanderson, County Appointee
Tony Peldunas, County Appointee
Wayne Schillig, Marlboro Twp
Kris Vincent, County Appointee

Staff

Bob Nau, Secretary
Curtis Bungard
Jonelle Melnichenko
Diane Sheridan
Lisa Snyder
Dan Slicker
Jennifer Bayer
Barb Buonaspina
Abdullah Alanazi
Malia Burgasser
Heather Cunningham
Nicole Blunk
Sarah Peters
Corine Valentine
Sean Phillips

Other

1) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dave Thorley opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2) MINUTES OF THE MAY 5, 2026 MEETING

Miller moved, Sanderson seconded, and the motion carried to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2026 meeting.

3) FINANCIAL REPORT

There being no questions or additions, the financial report for May 2026 will be filed for audit.

4) STAFF REPORT

HOME-ARP Allocation Plan Amendment – Public Hearing
Presented by: Diane Sheridan, Chief of Community Development

Sanderson moved, Miller seconded to go into a Public Hearing for the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan Amendment.

Diane Sheridan presented the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan Amendment. In April of 2021, the county received approximately \$3.2 million in HOME-ARP, which is American Rescue Plan funding. The goal of the HOME-ARP program is to reduce homelessness and increase housing stability. The county was required to develop an allocation plan which would outline how the HOME-ARP funding would be utilized. The county developed an allocation plan with robust public participation in 2022. The commissioners approved the allocation plan in the HOME-ARP budget on March 15, 2023. HUD also approved the allocation plan in the HOME-ARP budget on April 5, 2023. All grant funds must be expended by September 30, 2030.

The HOME-ARP budget was passed by the commissioners and approved by HUD for the development of affordable rental housing for literally homeless. The budget is approximately \$2.3 million for the development of affordable rental housing and the supportive services line item for those living in the new rental units, \$300,000. Capacity building and operating funding for the developer of said units budgeted at \$108,000 and grant administration at approximately \$485,000.

The reason for this public hearing is to amend the plan because the county received an additional \$4,841 of HOME-ARP funding. The allocation plan needs amended to show HUD how the funding will be spent. Staff recommendation is to increase the supportive service line item to \$304,841.

HUD defines what can be funded as supportive services. Supportive services are tools utilized to assist in stabilizing tenants, promoting self-sufficiency, and decreasing individuals' chances of returning to homelessness. These services include legal assistance, workforce development and employment training, case management, basic life skills, health care, childcare, food and utilities, transportation, and financial literacy and counseling. The next step of this amendment is the 30-day public comment period which begins June 9 and concludes July 9, 2026. Next the revised allocation plan will be submitted to HUD after the commissioner's approval in July of this year.

Peldunas moved, Sanderson seconded and the motion carried to approve the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan Amendment.

5) TOWNSHIP ZONING AMENDMENTS

Nicole Blunk presented the staff recommendations for the following zoning amendment:

BE #2 Proposed Text Amendment that would modify regulations pertaining to parking and storage of vehicles; accessory buildings; and sign regulations

Vincent moved, Schillig seconded and the motion carried to recommend approval of the proposed text amendment. The following facts were presented to the Commission for consideration:

1. An amendment has been proposed that would prohibit the parking or storage of commercial vehicles, commercial construction equipment or semi-tractor or trailers in residential areas, unless used by an occupant of the dwelling as transportation to and from work. If used for transportation to and from work, up to two (2) vehicles will be permitted.
2. As proposed, the height for accessory buildings in residential districts will be increased from twenty (20) feet to twenty-five (25) feet.
3. The proposed amendment increases the signage area for a home occupation from three (3) square feet to sixteen (16) square feet to match what is permissible for farm markets.

Corine Valentine presented the staff recommendations for the following zoning amendment:

LA #2 Proposed rezoning from R-2 Medium Density Residential/C-2 General Commercial to R-3 High Density Residential - Three tracts, approximately 17.51 acres, located on the east side of Cleveland, south of State in the SE ¼ Section 30, Lake Township (legal description on file in office).
OWNER/APPLICANT: Randy R. & S. Renee Saler/Redwood Living
CURRENT USE: Agricultural & Vacant Land PROPOSED USE: Multi-Family Residential
PPN: 2000168; 2002710; & 2015508

Schillig moved, Harold seconded, and the motion carried to recommend approval of a proposed rezoning to R-3 High Density Residential. Vincent opposed and Sanderson abstained. The following facts were presented to the Commission for consideration:

1. There are a mix of land uses surrounding the subject area. North of the subject area consists of single-family residential, multi-family residential, public service owned by a church and vacant land. Immediately south are agricultural and business uses with one tract of single-family residential further south. East of the subject area is a multi-family residential condominium development, with single-family residential extending further east. To the west of the subject area is comprised of single-family residential and agricultural uses.
2. The zoning consists of the R-2 Medium Density Residential, VR Village Residential and VC Village Commercial Districts to the north. The VC district continues along the Cleveland corridor further north. To the south is the C-2 General Commercial District which continues along the Cleveland corridor. Approximately 1,350 feet south of the subject area transitions to a C-1 Light Commercial District on the west side of Cleveland adjacent to a PRD Planned Residential Development. East of the subject area is R-3 High Density Residential with R-1 Low Density Residential beyond the condominium development. To the west are the C-2 General Commercial and VC Village Commercial Districts.
3. The area being proposed for rezoning is comprised of three tracts that total approximately 17.51 acres. All three tracts were a part of the Township's revised zoning scheme in 2024 to help

establish and support future commercial development along the Cleveland corridor while transitioning to a residential district that protected the existing residential dwellings.

4. One tract, approximately 5.77 acres, is currently split-zoned R-2 and C-2. Although split-zoned tracts are typically not recommended, the tract was rezoned in 2005 to help buffer the more intensive C-2 permitted uses along the corridor from the possible detrimental effects it could have on the surrounding residential districts. The approximately 0.52-acre tract and approximately 10.74-acre tract are both zoned as C-2. In 2024, staff recommended that the 10.74-acre tract also be split-zoned to allow the same buffer to residential dwellings, but the Township zoned the tract C-2 in its entirety.
5. The Stark County 2040 Comprehensive Plan indicates this area as Developed Suburban. While a portion of the property is within the commercial corridor, the surrounding land uses are predominately residential. The R-3 district appears to be compatible with surrounding land uses and should have no detrimental effect on the area, as the proposed rezoning to the R-3 allows lesser intensive uses than the C-2 district.
6. While a concept plan has been submitted for the site, staff is only reviewing the proposed zone change at this time. Any future development of this site will require compliance with the Stark County Subdivision Regulations, and other applicable agencies.

6) SUBDIVISION ACTION

Valentine presented the Subcommittee's recommendations on the following projects:

SITE IMPROVEMENT PLAN REVIEW

6517 Promler

(11,840 sf bldg., retaining wall, ramp, paving & parking)

NE ¼ Section 13, Jackson Township

Conditional Approval

Bennetts Express

(8,432 sf bldg.)

SW ¼ Section 35, Tuscarawas Township

Conditional Approval

Harold moved, Miller seconded, and the motion carried to accept the Subcommittee's recommendations of the above-noted site improvement plan reviews.

PRELIMINARY PLAN REVIEW

Belden Reserves

SE & SW ¼ Section 25, Jackson Township

Conditional Approval

Vincent moved, Harold seconded, and the motion carried to accept the Subcommittee's recommendations of the above-noted preliminary plan review. The Commission also approved the variance request of Section 520.3 (Street Right of Way Widths), and conditionally approved variance requests of Section 520.8 (Dead End Streets, Cul-de-sacs, and Turnarounds) and Section 520.8.A.1 (Permanent Dead End street Length) for Belden Reserves.

FINAL PLAT REVIEW

Berkshire Farms No. 8

(replat of lot 56 in Berkshire Farms No. 2 & lot 89 in Berkshire Farms No. 6)

SW ¼ Section 8, Jackson Township

Approval

Dimmerling Estates No. 3

(replat of lots 20 & 21 in Dimmerling Estates No. 1)

SW ¼ Section 34, Nimishillen Township

Approval

Downs & Hinton's Acreage Allotment No. 4 (Rev – 2)

(replat of part of lots 6 & 7 in Downs & Hinton's Acreage Allotment)

SW ¼ Section 26, Plain Township

Conditional Approval

Portview No. 4

(replat of lot 16 and part of vacated Astrojet St. NW in Portview No. 2)

SW ¼ Section 2, Jackson Township

Conditional Approval

Sparwood Farms No. 3

(replat of Blocks A & B in Sparwood Farms No. 1 and part of the NE ¼ section 2, Plain Township)

NE ¼ Section 2, Plain Township

Approval

Sanderson moved, Vincent seconded, and the motion carried to accept the Subcommittee's recommendation for the above-noted final plat reviews.

VARIANCE REQUESTS

Lake Highlands, Ltd.

Proposal to create more than five lots without a plat and sale of land within Lake Highlands Subdivision.

NW ¼ Section 17, Lake Twp

By: GBC Design, Inc.

Note: Violation of Sec. 310.A.4 – Minor Subdivisions (lot splits)

Conditional Approval

720 – Sale of Land within Subdivisions

Approval

Ryan A. & Hannah B. Raber and Gabriel J. Weaver

Proposal to permit a parcel to have less than the required lot frontage

SW ¼ Section 32, Tuscarawas Township

By: Ryan Raber

Note: Violation of Sec 312. A.4.5.a – Large Lot Development (lot splits) Conditional Approval

Vincent moved, Schillig seconded, and the motion carried to accept the Subcommittee's recommendation for the above-noted variance requests.

7) AGREEMENTS

a. Prevailing Wages Agreement with Stark Parks – not to exceed \$10,000

Miller moved, Schillig seconded, and the motion carried to approve the agreement. Moeglin abstained.

8) PURCHASE ORDERS

a. Purchase of copiers

Bob Nau recommended the purchase of two Sharp BP 71C-65 with the individual price being \$9,002.77. Three proposals were received including Doing Better Business (DBB), Copier Consultants and OBM. He recommended the purchase of two copiers from DBB at an amount of \$18,005.54.

Vincent moved, Schillig seconded, and the motion carried to purchase the copiers from DBB.

b. Purchase of plotter

Nau explained that three quotes were received from DBB, OBM and AA Blueprint. The lowest purchase price was with DBB which was \$11,277.68

Harold moved, Miller seconded, and the motion carried to purchase the plotter from DBB.

9) ACCEPT PARTICIPATION IN THE STARK COUNTY AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING BOARD CYBERSECURITY PROGRAM AND ADOPT THE POLICY AND PROCEDURES OF THE PROGRAM

Nau stated that in response to recent advisories from the State Auditor's Office, staff requests the Board to consider a motion to accept participation in the Stark County Automatic Data Processing Board Cybersecurity Program and to adopt its associated policies and procedures.

It was noted that the Stark County Commissioners approved these policies and procedures in December, establishing a countywide cybersecurity program. Legal counsel reviewed the matter and determined that RPC qualifies as a county office under the relevant definition, and is therefore covered under the Commissioners' program. In the interest of full compliance, however, it was determined appropriate to independently adopt the program by formally accepting participation and adopting its policies and procedures.

Harold moved, Miller seconded, and the motion carried to accept participation in the Stark County Automatic Data Processing Board Cybersecurity Program and adopt its policies and procedures.

10) ADOPT REVISIONS TO EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

Harold moved, Moeglin seconded and the motion carried to adopt the revisions to the employee handbook.

11) OTHER BUSINESS

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

David Thorley, President

Bob Nau, Secretary

HOME-ARP Allocation Plan Amendment 2026

Citizen Comments

No comments received.

Resolution

Distribution

Stark County Commissioners

RPC / L Snyder
Journal
File

Adopted July 15, 2026

Subject **A Resolution adopting the amended HOME American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) Allocation Plan.**

Commissioner Harold moved for the adoption of the following Resolution which was seconded by Commissioner Smith:

WHEREAS, the Board of Stark County Commissioners is a grantee and recipient of funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the HOME-American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) to provide homelessness assistance and supportive services; and

WHEREAS, this Board and the Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) have a complete HOME-ARP Allocation Plan and;

WHEREAS, due to the County receiving an additional allocation of HOME-ARP funds from HUD in the amount of \$4,841.00 this Board desires to amend the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan, which was advertised and provided for a 30-day comment period and is attached hereto and made a part hereof as though written in full.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Board hereby adopts the amended HOME-ARP Allocation Plan as referenced above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this Board authorizes its President to sign all necessary documents and the for the SCRPC to submit the amended HOME-ARP Allocation Plan on its behalf to HUD.

Upon roll call the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Regula - yes Mr. Smith - yes Mr. Harold - yes

C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E

I, the undersigned, hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct record of the Resolution adopted by the Board.

Jennifer R. Oley