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Introduction

The Louisiana Housing Corporation was created in 2011 and administers federal and state funds through programs designed to advance the development of energy efficient and affordable housing for low- and moderate-income families, drives housing policy for Louisiana and oversees the state's Disaster Housing Task Force. In keeping with its mission to ensure that every Louisiana resident can obtain safe, affordable, energy-efficient housing, the LHC prioritizes services to offer solutions to people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

On March 10, 2021, due to the nationwide impact of COVID-19, Congress through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) appropriated \$5 billion to communities across the U.S. to provide housing, services, and shelter to individuals experiencing homelessness and other vulnerable populations. These funds were then allocated by formula to jurisdictions that qualified for funding through the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME Program) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This special round of funding is called the "HOME-ARP" program. HUD published detailed guidance in the CPD Notice 21-10: Requirements for the Use of Funds in the HOME-ARP Program (September 13, 2021). This Notice establishes all HOME-ARP requirements, as well as the applicable suspensions, waivers and alternative requirements. Funding for this grant must be expended on eligible activities by the year 2030.

The allocation for the "LA Non-Entitlement" areas is administered by the LHC. Louisiana was also allocated funding for the "Entitlement" areas or major cities at noted in the table below, which will be administered by the local jurisdictions directly. The overall goal is to cooperate regionally across the state with all grantees to ensure the needs of the vulnerable populations are met in a coordinated way.

HUD-ARP ALLOCATIONS	TO LOUISIANA
Alexandria	\$937,270
Baton Rouge	\$5,104,454
Houma-Terrebonne	\$1,235,848
Lafayette	\$2,251,381
Lake Charles	\$1,416,211
Monroe	\$1,167,981
New Orleans	\$9,474,585
Shreveport	\$3,584,981
LA Non-Entitlement	\$39,286,662
CNSRT - Jefferson Parish	\$5,664,967

As part of the HOME-ARP requirements, the LHC must complete the prescribed grant requirements to access the State of Louisiana Non-Entitlement area award of \$39,286,662.

The HOME-ARP grant process includes:

- Community and stakeholder consultation,
- Development of a needs assessment and gap analysis,
- Finalization of a HOME-ARP Allocation **Plan** based on the analysis and public comment and submitted to HUD for approval.
- Completion of a substantial amendment to the Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Action Plan for review and acceptance.

II. Purpose and Eligible Use of Funds

The appropriation requires that the HOME-ARP funds must be used to primarily benefit individuals and families that meet the requirements for one or more <u>qualifying</u> <u>populations</u> (QPs). The QPs are defined as:

People experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness.

People currently housed and at the risk of homelessness.

Those fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking.

Other families requiring services, housing assistance, to prevent homelessness.

Those at greatest risk of housing instability or in unstable housing situations which includes households with: 1) Annual income ≤ 30% of area median income and is experiencing severe cost burden (i.e., is paying more than 50% of monthly household income toward housing costs); or 2) Annual income ≤ 50% of AMI and meets one of the conditions outlined in HUD's at risk of homelessness definition. The requirements also specify that grantees can only use the HOME-ARP funds for the following <u>eligible activities:</u>

- Affordable Rental Housing (HOME-ARP Rental Housing)
 - Production or Preservation of Affordable Housing (such as acquisition and rehabilitation)
- Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (HOME-ARP TBRA)
 - Assistance to qualifying populations to pay the rent, security deposits, utility payments, and utility deposits
- Supportive Services (HOME-ARP Supportive Services)
 - Provision of Supportive Services (such as housing counseling, homelessness prevention, childcare, job training, legal services, case management, moving costs, rental applications, and rent assistance).
 - This can be a stand-alone program or in combination with other HOME-ARP activities.
- Non-congregate Shelter (HOME-ARP NCS)
 - Acquisition and Development of Non- Congregate Shelter

 these structures can remain in use as a non-congregate shelter or can be converted to:
 - emergency shelter under the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program;
 - permanent housing under the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program; or
 - 3. affordable housing under the HOME Program.
 - Cost of conversion cannot be paid with HOME-ARP.
 - Includes private units or rooms for temporary shelter the serve individuals and families that meet one or more of the qualifying populations and do not require occupants to sign a lease or occupancy agreement.

• Non-profit Assistance and Administration

- Non-profit Operating (5% maximum allocation) (may not exceed the greater of 50 percent of the general operating expenses of the organization for that fiscal year).
- Non-profit Capacity Building (5% maximum allocation) (may not exceed the greater of 50 percent of the general operating expenses of the organization for that fiscal year).
- Administration and Planning for the HOME-ARP Program (15% maximum allocation).

III. Consultation Requirements

The community outreach and engagement process for the HOME-ARP grant provides multiple opportunities for subject matter experts within the community, stakeholders, and organizations to provide input to the assessment of the needs, gaps, and barriers relating to people experiencing homelessness.

In developing the Plan, in compliance with the requirements, LHC undertook extensive outreach and consultation with each of the groups specified and went further in outreach to several groups and representatives of vulnerable populations through several modes of communication and soliciting of input. Consultation methods included stakeholder meetings, the LHC website and extensive online survey, three public hearings -- one in person and two virtually via Zoom, and a 15 days public comment period for the LHC HOME-ARP Allocation Plan (AP). LHC thoroughly and successfully accomplished consultation to the following groups during the consultation period:

All Continuums of Care (CoCs) serving the State

Homeless and domestic violence service providers

Veterans' groups

Public housing agencies (PHAs)

Louisiana public agencies that address the needs of the qualifying populations, including but not limited to the Department of Health and Hospitals, Department of Children and Family Services; and, Department of Education

Public/private organizations that address fair housing, civil rights, and the needs of persons with disabilities

Persons with lived expertise

APPENDIX I contains a list of the stakeholders/organizations consulted through the several modes of consultation and outreach deployed by LHC and its partners. APPENDIX II

contains a list of focus groups and meetings and the responses.

APPENDIX III

contains all comments collected from the online survey. APPENDIX IV contains all public comments received during public hearings and in response to the posting of the Allocation Plan on LHC's website.

A. Stakeholder Meetings

LHC consulted with organizations and service providers to identify unmet needs and gaps in housing and service delivery systems, along with recommendations for the funding allocation. LHC utilized many methods of interaction: focus groups, surveys, and one on one interviews. In addition, LHC used standing meetings to spread the word about HOME-ARP, answer questions, and take comments by being added to the agenda for a variety of regular meetings such as statewide CoC calls, TA sessions, individual CoC meetings and other task force meetings. These took place between January and June 2022.



CONTINUUM OF CARE

A *Continuum of Care (CoC)* is a regional or local planning body that coordinates housing and services funding for homeless families and individuals. As guided by HUD's direction, a CoC provides a more strategic system by providing homeless people with housing and services appropriate to their range of needs.

Louisiana is divided into <u>7 Regional Continuum of Cares (CoCs)</u> as designated on the map below. A non-profit operation generally leads the CoC in the region. LHC serves a coordinating role for the

Balance of State CoC. The members of the CoC include representatives from state and local public agencies, local non-profits, homeless shelters, human services agencies and community members.

To gain input from the local CoCs and their participating organizations and entities, LHC managed this consultation through participation in:

- 5 CoC Meetings
- 7 Statewide CoC Meetings
- 12 Focus Group Meetings

In addition to meeting with CoCs, LHC met with task force groups focused on ending homelessness, such as:

HOMELESSNESS WORKING GROUP:

The *Homelessness Working Group* is a subcommittee of the Governor's Council on Homelessness, bringing together non-profits agencies, local municipalities and state agencies whose work impacts and/or addresses homelessness. This group works to identify potential system changes and coordination of services to enhance assistance to people experiencing homelessness, increasing coordination, and efficiency, enabling the state to address the most critical needs of its citizens who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless and makes policy recommendations to the Governor's Council on Homelessness.

This group is the largest state-wide convening of state agencies and non-profits serving the qualifying populations. Representatives from the following State agencies participate in these calls:

- Attorney General's Office
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Department of Children and Family Services
- Department of Health and Hospitals
- Department of Education
- Department of Transportation and Development



BALANCE OF STATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WORKING GROUP

This working group includes representatives from nonprofit organizations working with survivors of domestic abuse throughout the Balance of State CoC.

B. Webpage and On-line Survey

LHC manages a website and social media used to communicate program opportunities and funding priorities. The HOME-ARP funding details and survey request for input was posted on the LHC website at: <u>https://www.lhc.la.gov</u> and via social media.

LHC and its partners distributed the survey to nearly 900 of LHC contacts. LHC received 154 survey results from across the spectrum of service providers, beneficiaries and stakeholders representing the targeted qualifying populations. The survey was conducted from April 11 through June 30, 2022. (Excerpts of the survey responses can be found in Appendix III).

- The survey was designed to be a way for organizations and individuals to give direct feedback and take less than five minutes to complete.
- Questions were written so that LHC staff could evaluate feedback to best understand the priorities among the eligible uses of the HOME-ARP funds.

THE FOLLOWING TABLES REPRESENT THE RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONS ASKED IN THE SURVEY:

QUESTION #1: Please identify the population with the highest need for services based on your organization's experience (check all that apply).

SUMMARY: The group identified as having the highest need is single adults (24%) followed closely by families (21%). Persons with disabilities was also ranked relatively high, at 17%.



QUESTIONS #2 THROUGH 5: Participants were asked to rank the importance of the 4 activities eligible for HOME-ARP funds on a scale of 1-5 (1 being Very Important and 5 being Not Important).



QUESTION #6: In the acquisition, construction, and rehabilitation of affordable rental housing, which do you think are the best options to provide permanent housing (select all that apply)?

SUMMARY: In the response to the question – 41% selected the Any Type of Affordable Rental Housing option and 38% of participants selected Rental Housing with Supportive Services.



QUESTION #7: For supportive services, which do you think are the most beneficial to people experiencing homelessness or those at risk of losing their housing (select all that apply)?

SUMMARY: Mental Health Services was ranked highest, at 17%, but the responses were evenly distributed amongst all the supportive services named in the survey.



QUESTION #8: For the acquisition and development of non-congregate shelters, which do you think are the best options to provide shelter (select all that

apply)?

SUMMARY: Most respondents selected Repurpose Existing Buildings at 28%, closely followed by Small, Scattered Sites at 21%.



QUESTION #9: Which of the following population groups does your organization work with (select all that apply)?

Households experiencing homelessness	108
Households at risk of homelessness	109
Households requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness	117
Households fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assualt, stalking, or human trafficking	92
Households with a veteran family member who experiences homelessness or is at risk of homelessness	77
Households with a disabled household member who experiences homelessness or is at risk of homelessness	100
No response	8

SUMMARY: The responses show an even distribution amongst the population groups, demonstrating that most of the respondents provide services to nearly all the qualifying population groups.

QUESTION #10: Please Share thoughts to help identify gaps in housing and supportive services and fair housing barriers that the qualifying populations might encounter.

SOME COMMON COMMENTS LHC RECEIVED:

- Lack of affordable housing in general
- Difficulty of people with criminal backgrounds finding housing
- Need for supportive services
- Poor condition of available affordable housing
- Landlords unwilling to accept vouchers

C. Public Hearings

One In-person Public Meeting was held at LHC on June 1, 2022. Twelve participants attended.

Two Virtual Public Meetings were held on June 2, 2022. One meeting at 1:00pm and one meeting at 6:00pm. Thirty-three participants attended the virtual meetings.

(See Appendix IV for Public Meeting comments).

The notice for the public hearings was published on the LHC website with 15 days advance notice of the meetings. In addition, LHC's social media shared the notice, and it was distributed to the seven CoCs for their distribution to contacts and membership as well.

D. Public Comment Period

LHC posted the Allocation Plan to its website for public comment for 15 days from July 14, 2022 to August 3, 2022. Public comments are incorporated with the Plan approved by LHC for submittal in September 2022.

IV. Unmet Needs Assessment

The needs assessment and gap analysis sections of this plan utilized multiple data sources and represent the entire state of Louisiana. These include, but are not limited to the 2020 Decennial Census; the 2020 Point-in-Time Count (PIT) for homeless individuals; and the local 2020 CoC's Housing Inventory Count (HIC). This data was supplemented by the numerous consultation with CoC's, Homeless and Domestic Violence service providers, Veterans Groups, Housing Authorities, Public Service Providers, and organizations that address fair housing, civil rights, and the needs of persons with disabilities.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION INCLUDES AN ANALYSIS OF THE HOME-ARP QUALIFYING POPULATIONS BASED ON THE LATEST AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND DATA.

A. Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless

In 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Continuums of Care (CoCs) across the nation were faced with challenges conducting a count of those experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Due to these challenges, the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) issued waivers that allowed CoCs to opt-out of conducting an unsheltered homeless count. For this reason, LHC is using the 2020 Point in Time (PIT) count. At the time of the writing of this plan, the 2022 PIT count results were not yet available.

The PIT count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. HUD requires that Continuums of Care conduct an annual count of people experiencing homelessness who are sheltered in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Havens on a single night.

SHELTERED AND UNSHELTERED HOMELESS POPULATIONS

POINT IN TIME COUNT 2020						
	Shelt	ered				
Persons in Each Household Type	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered	Total		
Persons in households without children	923	507	1,146	2,576		
Persons age 18 to 24	85	65	82	232		
Persons Over Age 24	838	442	1,064	2,344		
Persons in households with at least one adult & one child	420	155	7	582		
Children under age 18	273	102	6	381		
Persons age 18 to 24	27	16	0	43		
Persons Over Age 24	120	37	1	158		
Persons in households with only children	12	3	0	15		
TOTAL	1,355	665	1,153	3,173		

HUD 2020 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless populations and Subpopulations – Point in Time 2020 Count

DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY BY RACE					
	Shelt	tered			
Race	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered	Total	
Black or African American	873	376	659	1,908	
White	444	273	448	1,165	
Asian	9	0	12	21	
American Indian or Alaska Native	10	1	18	29	
Native Hawaiian or other pacific Islander	3	0	2	5	
Multiple Races	16	15	14	45	
TOTAL	1,355	665	1,153	3,173	

HUD 2020 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless populations and Subpopulations – Point in Time 2020 Count

DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY BY ETHNICITY						
	Shelt	tered				
Ethnicity	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered	Total		
Hispanic/Latino	38	19	31	88		
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	1,317	646	1,122	3,085		
TOTAL	1,355	665	1,153	3,173		

HUD 2020 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless populations and Subpopulations – Point in Time 2020 Count

DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY BY GENDER							
	Shelt	ered					
Gender	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered	Total			
Female	532	176	259	967			
Male	820	484	888	2,192			
Transgender	2	4	5	11			
Gender Non-conforming	1	1	1	1			
TOTAL	1,355	665	1,153	3,173			

HUD 2020 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless populations and Subpopulations – Point in Time 2020 Count

SUMMARY OF CHRONICALLY HOMELESS						
	Sheltered					
Chronically Homeless Persons in Each Household Type	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered	Total		
Chronically Homeless persons in households without children	147	24	223	404		
Chronically Homeless persons in households with at least one adult and one child	32	0	0	32		
Chronically Homeless persons in households with only children	1	0	0	1		
TOTAL	180	24	223	437		

HUD 2020 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless populations and Subpopulations – Point in Time 2020 Count

SUMMARY OF ALL OTHER POPULATIONS					
	Sheltered				
Other Populations Reported	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered	Total	
Severely Mentally III	234	99	286	619	
Chronic Substance Abuse	94	100	275	472	
Veterans	89	247	42	378	
HIV/AIDs	11	6	15	32	
Victims of Domestic Violence	210	74	90	374	
Unaccompanied Youth	96	68	82	246	
Unaccompanied Youth Under 18	12	3	0	15	
Unaccompanied Youth 18-24	84	65	82	231	
Children of Parenting Youth	23	14	0	37	
Parenting Youth under 18	0	0	0	0	
Parenting Youth 18-24	23	14	0	37	
Children of Parenting Youth	29	20	0	49	

HUD 2020 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless populations and Subpopulations – Point in Time 2020 Count

UNMET NEED:

The 2020 Point-in-Time Survey found a total of 3,173 people experiencing homelessness within Louisiana, with 1,153 of these individuals living unsheltered. Emergency shelters continue to be at or near capacity limits and several have been closed due to storm damage. Additionally, many rural areas of the State still have little to no emergency shelters. So the PIT count continues to be the best methodology to count people experiencing homelessness but still represents an undercount of the actual number of people experiencing homelessness in the State.

In addition, the qualifying populations also need access to community based services including but not limited to mental health and substance abuse services, case management, housing search and counseling services and financial counseling. Rental assistance remains an ongoing need primarily due to the affordable housing crisis in Louisiana that affects the qualifying populations more acutely than the general population. For example, landlords can choose to discriminate against people with rental assistance because there is no law that currently prohibits this in Louisiana. Landlords frequently require renters to have three times the monthly rent in income which severely limits housing options for persons on fixed income or with no income. And frequently, the rental housing stock this is available and affordable to people experiencing homelessness is substandard.



B. At Risk of Homelessness

As defined by HUD, (1) the term "at risk of homelessness" means, concerning an individual or family, that the individual or family—

- A. has income below 30 percent of median income for the geographic area;
- B. has insufficient resources immediately available to attain housing stability, and
- C. has one of the following:
 - i. has moved frequently because of economic reasons;
 - ii. is living in the home of another because of economic hardship;
 - iii. has been notified that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated;
 - iv. lives in a hotel or motel;
 - v. lives in severely overcrowded housing;
 - vi. is exiting an institution, or
 - vii. otherwise lives in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness. Such term includes all families with children and youth defined as homeless under other Federal statutes.

Additionally, people at imminent Risk of Homelessness are individuals and families who lose their primary nighttime residence, which may include a motel or hotel or a shared living situation, within the next 14 days and lack resources or support networks to remain in housing. To identify "at risk of homelessness," HUD created the *Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS)* data to demonstrate the number of households in need of housing assistance, as well as those that have specific housing problems. According to the 2014-2018 CHAS, *HUD Area Median Family Income (HAMFI) – HUD Area Median Family Income (Table 3) there are:

- 244,235 Louisiana households have incomes at or below 30% AMI.
- There are 152,370 (62%) renter households that earn at or below 30% AMI and have housing problems and are considered at risk of homelessness in the state.

HUD AREA MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME DISTRIBUTION						
	0-30% HAMFI*	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	>80-100% HAMFI	>100% HAMFI	TOTAL
Owner Households	91,865	100,200	153,755	97,390	639,870	1,133,085
Renter Households	152,370	108,135	114,225	56,150	172,055	602,935
Total Households	244,235	208,335	267,980	153,540	861,925	1,736,020

Data Source: 2014-2018 CHAS

UNMET NEED:

In addition to the large percentage of renter households at or below 30% AMI, there is a severe shortage of renter units available to these households.

Out of 602,935 total renter units, only 152,370, or 25%, are affordable for households with income less than 30% AMI. These shortages lead to households being costburdened, putting them at greater risk of homelessness (cost-burdened is defined as paying more than 30% of household income for housing).

The National Low Income Housing Coalition's Analysis of the 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) estimates a deficit of 102,785 affordable and available rental units for renter households at or below 30% AMI in Louisiana. The table below shows cost-burdened renters by income level. Nearly 70% of households at or below 30% AMI in renter units are cost-burdened. According to a report prepared by the Louisiana Budget Project on the 2019 Annual Community Survey Census data, Louisiana's federal poverty rate rose to 19%, making it the 2nd highest in the Nation.

 Among Louisianans, Black or African American households (29.4%) and Hispanic households (26.1%) are more likely to be poor than white-led households (13.4%).

COST-BURDENED RENTERS BY INCOME LEVEL							
	Total	Cost E	Burden				
Occupancy	Rental Units	30-50%	>50%				
Total Rental Units	602,935	271,775	142,295				
Units Occupied by Renters with Income less than 30% of AMI	152,370	105,615	88,260				
Units Occupied by Renters with Income >30% and 50% of AMI	108,135	82,475	42,205				
Units Occupied by Renters with Income >50% to 80% of AMI	114,225	61,935	10,245				
Units Occupied by Renters with Income >80% to 100% of AMI	56,150	13,615	975				
Units Occupied by Renters with Income >100% of AMI	172,055	8,135	610				

Data Source: 2014-2018 Louisiana CHAS Data

The data in these two tables demonstrate the large number of renter households at 30% AMI and the severe shortage of available, affordable housing for those households in Louisiana.

C. People fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking

The Louisiana Council Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) is the federally designated statewide coalition of shelters, non-residential programs and individuals working to end domestic violence in Louisiana. LCADV provides regular training on various best practices related to victim safety, traumainformed services, and victim-centered approaches to advocacy. LCADV coordinates resources among the sixteen (16) shelters in the state dedicated to domestic violence survivors. LCADV has advocated regularly for more support considering the great need in the state as demonstrated through the data. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 State Report (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), found that:

- 35.9% of women and 15.9% of men in the state of Louisiana have experienced domestic violence.
- In addition, in 2017, Louisiana had the second-highest rate of female homicide in the nation and the fifth highest in 2018, with approximately 60% of female homicide victims killed by intimate partners in each year.

UNMET NEED:

A 2021 Louisiana Legislative Auditor's report, Challenges in Louisiana's Effort to Address Domestic Violence, identified following:

- The biggest challenge identified by the report is the lack of domestic violence shelter beds and support services to meet the needs of all victims.
 - Shelters across Louisiana had an average of 2,659 unmet requests for shelter per year during federal fiscal years 2015 through 2020.
- In the survey the Louisiana Legislative Auditor authors conducted for the report, 14 (87.5%) of 16 domestic violence shelter providers stated that housing for victims is a challenge.

A 2017 Statewide Needs Assessment conducted by the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence summarized the results of surveys and interviews asking about the barriers to housing stability and reported:

"To assess barriers to survivor safety and stability in Louisiana, domestic violence program representatives were asked to report how problematic obtaining affordable housing, transitional housing, permanent housing and landlord discrimination are on a scale from not at all to always problematic. Most programs reported that obtaining affordable (87.5%), transitional (81.25%) and permanent housing (81.25%) are frequently or always problematic."

There is coordination of data among the CoCs and domestic violence (DV) service providers. There is a single software for all DV housing and service providers across Louisiana, EmpowerDB.

To summarize, the data, as well as the input LHC received from DV service providers, identified the barriers to meeting the needs of survivors as insufficient availability of safe and affordable housing, limited program resources, limited community resources, and limited program capacity.

D. Other Populations Requiring Services or Housing Assistance to Prevent Homelessness and Other Populations at Greatest Risk of Housing Instability

The COVID crisis in Louisiana revealed how many individuals and families were and continue to be atrisk of experiencing homelessness and in need of assistance to avoid eviction and remain in housing. Families incurred illness, reduced wages, and lost jobs. Families found it difficult or impossible to pay their rent and utilities over several months. The State of Louisiana's Emergency Rental Assistance Programs were much in demand and continues to serve a great need as COVID impacts are still being felt by households across the state.



I. COVID-19 IMPACTED HOUSEHOLDS – RENTERS AT-RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

Louisiana Emergency Rental Assistance Program (LERAP: ESG-CV; HOME)

LHC launched the Louisiana Emergency Rental Assistance Program (LERAP) in 2020 in light of pressing rental assistance needs across the state as a result of the impacts of COVID-19. LHC initially dedicated ESG-CV funds as well as HOME funds to respond to the needs.

NEED: LERAP received over 40,000 applications from renters.

RESULT: This program provided up to three months of urgent rental assistance to hundreds of households at-risk of eviction and homelessness.

Louisiana's U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)

As a result of the U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) allocation under the *Consolidated Appropriations Act,* the State, through LHC, created the *Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)*. This program has been available to assist renters who cannot afford to pay rent, utilities (such as electricity, gas, and water), or other housing expenses (such as late fees, security deposits, and application fees), and landlords.

The Louisiana U.S. Treasury ERAP is governed by the State, under LHC, in 57 rural parishes, while the larger metro parishes of Caddo, Calcasieu, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Lafayette, Orleans, and St. Tammany are administering their own programs.

 State ERAP has distributed over \$110 million to over 22,000 households (as of September 1, 2022) to ensure that renter households avoid eviction and homelessness as a result of impacts due to COVID-19. There continue to be applications submitted and under review for funding. It is anticipated that the ongoing needs will outstrip the funds available.



II. DISASTER IMPACTED HOUSEHOLDS (HURRICANES AND FLOODS)

Another qualifying population requiring housing assistance to prevent homelessness is Louisiana's lowincome individuals and families affected by natural disasters. The most vulnerable in Louisiana are often those most negatively impacted by lost or damaged housing. Households at risk of homelessness and people experiencing homelessness are not only directly impacted by natural disasters, but they are also indirectly impacted. The indirect impact is felt when the rental market tightens after a natural disaster due to the number of homeowners and renters displaced and searching for new replacement housing. Landlords begin charging higher rents due to increased demand making it even more difficult for those with rental assistance or little to no income to afford. These displaced households also begin to access services that are traditionally provided for people experiencing homelessness, pushing those experiencing homelessness before the disaster out of the system all together.

A March 17, 2022 *Housing Impact Assessment* (DR-4611-LA) by the *Housing Recovery Support Function* provided an analysis of the effects of the multiple storms that have impacted Louisiana in recent years.

Since 2017, the State has received **12 Presidentially Declared Disasters (PDD)**, six of which have occurred between August 2020 and September 2021 amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic crisis. Of those six, four were for hurricanes (including Hurricane Ida). Since August 2020, 60 of the 64 Louisiana parishes have been included in at least one PDD. These storms have greatly affected both the availability of affordable rental housing and shelters for people experiencing homelessness.

According to the report, which conducted interviews with a wide range of community partners, the CoC stakeholders highlighted the challenge of insufficient housing units, made worse by homeless shelters offline due to storm repairs.

 Between 2020 and 2021, Louisiana had an 18% decrease in the number of beds for people experiencing homelessness. (2021 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress).

DECLARED INCIDENTS					
Incident	Incident Period				
DR-4559 Hurricane Laura	Aug. 22 – 27, 2020				
DR-4570 Hurricane Delta	Oct. 6 – 10, 2020				
DR-4577 Hurricane Zeta	Oct. 26 – 29, 2020				
DR-4590 Winter Storms	Feb. 11 – 19, 2021				
DR-4606 Severe Storms, Tornadoes, and Flooding	May 17 – 20, 2021				
DR-4611 Hurricane Ida	Aug. 26 – Sept. 23, 2021				

V. Current Resources and Resource Gaps

The LHC serves as the statewide coordinator of housing and services for people experiencing homelessness. All homeless programs administered by LHC follow the "Housing First" model. This approach prioritizes permanent housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Meeting the families' basic needs such as housing and food are the most critical. Once they achieve housing, other goals can be established. Housing First does not require participation in services as a condition, however, supportive services are offered to encourage housing stability and overall well-being.

- LHC administers statewide Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds and several Continuum of Care (CoC) Program projects totaling more than <u>\$20 million annually</u>, all of which are dedicated to people experiencing homelessness.
- LHC's Section 811 and Project-Based Voucher implementations totaling more than <u>\$19 million annually</u> also prioritize serving people experiencing homelessness.

LHC facilitates direct homeless assistance through funding local organizations through the programs above and serving as the Balance of State CoC clearinghouse of Coordinated Entry access information.

 LHC is the Collaborative Applicant for the Louisiana Balance of State Continuum of Care (LA BOSCOC), which covers more than half the state and applies for approximately <u>\$23 million</u> annually.



LHC serves as the Chair of the *Governor's Council on Homelessness* and convenes the statewide *Homelessness Working Group*. LHC is responsible for all statewide information collecting and reporting on homelessness, including during and after natural disasters. LHC, both as the statewide coordinator of housing and services and as the Collaborative Applicant for the LA BOSCOC, has spearheaded the state's implementation of homeless prevention, diversion, and rapid resolution practices to prioritize the return of people experiencing homelessness to housing via their existing support networks.

All ESG-funded programs are required to engage in these diversion practices. Homeless Prevention projects stabilize people at risk of homelessness in their existing housing. Outreach projects rapidly return people to housing without a public subsidy; Emergency Shelter projects divert participants back to housing on their date of entry. The LHC shall require all ESG funded programs to secure matching funds in an amount at least equal to its ESG grant amount.

The LHC, in partnership with the *Governor's Council to End Homelessness* and other state agencies will work with the Continuums of Care, nonprofit agencies and other identified stakeholders to achieve the goals of ending homelessness in Louisiana. Ending homelessness means that every community has a system in place to quickly respond to those experiencing homelessness and to quickly rehouse them

Throughout the state each CoC works to coordinate homeless services within their communities. All CoCs have adopted *Vulnerability Index and Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT)* assessment tool and a statewide definition of housing first to provide coordinated assessment to identify and address the individual's needs.

The LHC has worked to align the resources by prioritizing the use of **Rapid Re-housing (RRH)** with ESG funding. The focus of RRH is to decrease the length of time an individual or family spends in homelessness, as well as giving them access to sustainable affordable housing options. The LHC will continue to work with the CoC's and providers to align resources in their communities to maximize the services made available to people experiencing homelessness and at risk of homelessness.

Rapid Re-housing has become a tool utilized to provide services that allow for a family or individual to exit homelessness and not return. This model helps communities to decrease the number of people experiencing homelessness. The goal of rapid re-housing is to assist those that are already homeless: either sleeping in places not meant for human habitation or in a homeless shelter. Rapid re-housing places a priority on moving people experiencing homelessness into permanent housing as quickly as possible. The participants are assisted with housing search and placement, rental and utility assistance and case management services, the services are individualized; however, assistance is usually for a period of 4-6 months. LHC's ESG-CV program provided Rapid-Rehousing for up to two years to some people and as this program winds down people are still in need of long-term rental assistance.

- There are several parishes that do not have shelter facilities for those who experience homelessness, and some that have lost facilities due to storm damage.
- Many of the current shelters operating do not have adequate separate (non-congregate) sleeping quarters for individuals and families.
- Few of the current shelter programs can accommodate all household compositions, pets, and gender identities.
- The lack of shelter beds to accommodate the homeless population necessitates the need for development of Non-Congregate Shelters (NCS).

A common theme through all consultations was the need for <u>more affordable units</u>. In each consultation, the greatest need was for rental units for persons experiencing homelessness, primarily for deeply affordable Supportive Housing units. In addition, a common concern raised by stakeholders was the challenge in providing or accessing supportive services to promote mental health care and recovery. Among the gaps of the delivery system is the precarious financial situations of many nonprofit affordable housing developers and service providers. Many of these organizations are dependent on shrinking public funding and inconsistent corporate and foundation support. Without operating support and capacity building, these organizations struggle to create a viable financial model to sustain their operations.

Based on the consultations and data analysis, priority needs for the qualifying populations include:

- Deeply affordable quality housing (particularly for those with 0-30% AMI);
- Accessible units;
- Reduced barriers to entry to rental housing;
- Mental health and behavioral health services;
- Case management (geriatric case management, crisis case management, housing stability case management, financial case management, coordinating basic needs).

The priority needs among the qualifying populations are affordable and supportive housing as well as non-congregate, low-barrier shelters.

The level of need and gaps in shelter and housing inventory and service delivery systems was based on information and data presented in the State of Louisiana 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan, CHAS data, and the 2020 Point-in-Time Count data as well as reports cited throughout the Allocation Plan.

VI. HOME-ARP Activities – Implementation Method

LHC will primarily solicit applications through issuing a series of *Notices of Funding Availability (NOFAs)* seeking developers or subrecipients. LHC will manage the funds through contract awards or subrecipients.

All qualified applications will be ranked based on the scoring criteria identified in the Notices of Funding Availability (NOFA). The highest scoring applicants will receive a funding commitment from the LHC based on project needs, up to the amount of funds available.

Funds will be made available competitively statewide. The allocations may include a set-aside, allocation, or priority for rural applications.

VII. LHC HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

A. Activities and Distribution of Funds

LHC has engaged two consultant teams CSRS, LLC and TAC for assistance with the unmet needs analysis, consultation, drafting of the Allocation Plan, and to administer the program. Both firms will participate in the design and the administration of the HOME-ARP program activities.

LHC has determined a distribution of funds plan that distributes the HOME-ARP funds in accordance with the priority needs identified in the needs assessment and gap analysis. The following table shows the breakdown among the eligible activities by activity type of the State's HOME-ARP allocations.



Activity Type	Funding Amount	Percent of the Grant	Statutory Limit
Supportive Services	\$8,000,000		
Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelters	\$9,000,000		
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	\$4,000,000		
Development of Affordable Rental Housing (PSH)	\$9,000,000		
Nonprofit Operating	\$1,493,663	5%	5%
Nonprofit Capacity Building	\$1,900,000	5%	5%
Administration and Planning	\$5,892,999	15%	15%
Total HOME-ARP Allocation	\$39,286,662		

USE OF HOME-ARP FUNDING

- Development of Non-Congregate Shelter (NCS) will provide needed units for people experiencing homelessness. A significant portion of the QP experiencing homeless are the single adults followed closely by families.
- Tenant-Based Rental Assistance will provide rental assistance to the QP that are experiencing homelessness and at risk of homelessness providing relief to households that are severely cost burdened. This assistance will allow them to maintain their housing, prevent them from becoming homeless or end their homelessness.
- Affordable and accessible housing is a constant need for the qualifying populations. Development of affordable one-bedroom units across the state is needed to transition individuals into a permanent housing solution.
- Feedback provided from consultations and survey results emphasized priority needs around supportive services.

LHC was allocated **\$39,286,662** in HOME-ARP funding. Below is a breakdown of how that money will be allocated, as well as a rationale for each funding amount.

- Development of Affordable Rental Housing: \$9,000,000; 35% of the funding will be allocated to the development of affordable rental housing. This activity was identified and prioritized by nearly all stakeholders, as well as being confirmed during the data analysis.
- Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate-Shelters: \$9,00,000; 35% of the funding, will be allocated to the acquisition and development of non-congregate shelters. This activity was prioritized based on the need for more non-congregate shelters to both supplement traditional emergency shelters, being the preferred type of shelter, as well as create NCS in locations where these are lacking.
- Supportive Services: \$8,000,000; 31% of the funding will be allocated to the provision of supportive services.
 87% of the survey respondents ranked Supportive Services as Very Important and Important among the eligible activities. Also, during the consultation process, this use was identified as being most critical to supporting qualifying populations find housing and remain stable, as well as support populations at risk of experiencing homelessness.
- Administration and Planning: \$5,892,999; 15% of the funding is allocated to administration and planning due to the HOME-ARP statutory limit.
- Non-Profit Operating: \$1,493,663; 5% of the funding is allocated to non-profit operating expenses due to the HOME-ARP statutory limit.
- Non-Profit Capacity Building: \$1,900,000; 5% of the funding is allocated to non-profit capacity building expenses due to the HOME-ARP statutory limit.

LHC will monitor the expenditure of supportive services, non-congregate shelter, non-profit operating, and non-profit capacity building. By December 2025, if these are not being utilized as anticipated, LHC reserves the right to reallocate the funds other eligible activities.

VIII. HOME-ARP Production Housing Goals

LHC program staff anticipates that the HOME-ARP Program will assist 150-250 households through housing, rental assistance and supportive services. Priority will be given to housing developers that leverage HOME-ARP funds with local, state and federal funding.

LHC anticipates that **150 new rental units** will be produced with HOME-ARP funding. It is anticipated that HOME-ARP will be leveraged with the state's 4% and 9% Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) programs and possibly, Section 8 Project-Based Vouchers. While eligible projects may be financed solely with HOME-ARP rental housing, all opportunities to leverage the funding with other resources available will be pursued. These units will help address the identified need for more affordable rental housing throughout the state.

LHC does not intend to give preference to any specific qualifying population groups per activity but will track and ensure that each of the populations receive targeted outreach and are served to the fullest extent by the programs under HOME-ARP funds.

LHC will not limit eligibility for a HOME-ARP rental housing or NCS project to a particular qualifying population or specific subpopulation of a qualifying population identified the Notice.



IX. HOME-ARP Refinancing Guidelines

LHC will not be using HOME-ARP funds for refinancing. Other evaluated needs serve as a priority for this qualifying population.

Appendices

Appendix I: List of Organizations and Entities Consulted

ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED AND/OR RESPONDED TO THE SURVEY

- Acadiana Legal Service Corporation
- BGC
- Beechwood Residential
- Berwick Housing Authority
- Blake Oser
- Brass construction LLC
- Breaux Bridge Housing Authority
- Brooklyn Heights Emergency and Transitional Living
- Calcasieu Parish Police Jury Human Services Department
- Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless
- Catholic Charities of Acadiana
- City of Shreveport
- City of Tallulah Section 8
- Civic Leadership Association
- Community Christian Concern
- D.A.R.T. Domestic Abuse Resistance Team
- East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority
- Easter seals Louisiana
- Endeavors
- Faith House Inc.
- Family Promise of St. Tammany
- Family Violence Program of St. Bernard
- Florida Parishes Human Services Authority
- Goodwill Industries of North Louisiana
- HOME Coalition
- HOPE Connections
- Habitat for Humanity St. Tammany West
- Health Care for the Homeless

- Healthy Blue
- Heavens Care
- Hellfighters Motorcycle Ministry
- Home by Hand
- Housing Authority
- Housing Authority City of New Iberia
- Housing Authority of the City of Shreveport
- Inner-city Revitalization Corp.
- Iowa Housing Authority
- Iris Domestic Violence Center
- Jasmine Consulting LLC
- Jena Housing Authority
- Juneteenth UMOJA
- LA Probation & Parole
- LDG Development
- LDH
- LaFleur Industries, LLC
- Lake Providence Housing Authority
- Leesville Housing Authority
- Let There Be Light Electric LLC
- Louisiana Department of Health
- Louisiana Housing Authority
- Louisiana Housing Corporation
- Louisiana Workforce Commission
- MGM Development Group LLC
- Marksville Housing Authority
- Merakey
- Mt. Pleasant Community Development Corporation, Inc.

- NAMI ST. Tammany
- Natchitoches Coalition on Homelessness
- Northlake Homeless Coalition
- Northwest Louisiana Community Development Corporation
- Office of Behavioral Health
- Olla Housing Authority
- Open Doors Louisiana
- Options for Independence
- Ouachita Parish Section 8 Housing
- Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office, Ouachita Correctional Center
- Ouachita Parish Workforce Development Board
- People's Organization For Social Equality, Inc
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Pitre Law Firm
- Police Jury
- Probation and Parole/Adult
- Restoration Re-Entry Programs And Services
- Restoring Gods Glory Ministries Inc
- Safe Harbor Domestic Violence Program
- Safe Harbor, Resident who met with Tamara
- Simmesport Housing Authority
- Social Worx Institute, EBRPPRC, LA-PRI, CAPARC

- Southeast Louisiana Legal Services
- Southwest Louisiana Independence Center
- St. Mary Community Action Agency, Inc.
- St. Tammany Parish Government
- St. Vincent de Paul
- Start Corporation
- State of Louisiana/Louisiana Housing Corporation
- TPCG
- Terrebonne Parish Consolidated
 Government
- The Christian Outreach Center
- The Renewal Center
- The Wellspring Alliance for Families
- Tonya Outreach and Women Ministry
- UNITED WAY OF SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA
 INC
- UNITY of Greater New Orleans
- Union Parish Section 8 Housing
- United Way of Central Louisiana
- Volunteers of America GBR
- WEB of Recovery LLC in collaboration with Rays of Sunshine
- YWCA of Greater Baton Rouge
- New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity

Appendix II: Summary Table of Consultation Responses

Name of Organization	Type of Org/ Services Provided	Method of Consultation	Feedback
Monroe HOME CoC	One of the seven CoCs in the Louisiana	Focus Group Meeting	When securing affordable rental housing, it is hard to find units that pass inspection The ESG hotel/motel program has worked well Great need for shelters to accommodate families Need utility assistance Transportation is difficult from rural areas to shelters Need much more supportive services with all transitional housing Need transitional housing for mothers and children under 12 Biggest issue is permanent housing Need more permanent affordable housing
Balance of State CoC	One of the seven CoCs in Louisiana	Focus Group Meeting	Consulted regarding the "Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis" section of this Plan
Shreveport CoC	One of the seven CoCs in Louisiana	Focus Group meeting Survey	Landlords reluctant to accept vouchers Utility assistance needed Increase in clients with extreme mental health issues – need extensive supportive services, hard to keep them current with meds-maybe group homes an option Need more shelters with no barrier entry New Iberia converted a former high school into non- congregate – could be a model Need more affordable housing
Governor's Homeless Working Group	Gov agencies	Focus Group Meeting	Non Congregate shelters a good option for people with mental illness Need more facilities that are low barrier and allow guests Jefferson Parish needs a low barrier shelter DV service providers have a good model of one or two units scattered throughout Parishes Master leasing is good – can facilitate roommate situations Fiscal Agent model has been working well for CARES funds Hurricane damage has reduced housing stock in certain areas, making is necessary to relocate individuals further, which they are reluctant to do- would rather stay in tent near damaged housing than relocate far Very few options for individuals moving from mental health care in hospitals to housing
Northlake CoC	One of seven CoCs in Louisiana	Focus Group Meeting	Lack of homelessness resourced in St Tammany Parish – often have to transport to Orleans Landlords may be willing to rent to formally homeless Veterans but unwilling to work with gov on vouchers "too much red tape"

Domestic Violence Working Group- Balance of State CoC	DV survivor services provider	Focus Group meeting	Members stated that TBRA and other flexible tenant based vouchers were important to DV survivors since location is often a critical issue – DV survivors are often leaving a community where the abuser lives or moving to be close to family. Job training and readiness supportive services are needed Need more housing options once emergency 45 day shelter		
			time is finished Many shelters closed due to hurricane Ida		
			Supportive services needed for long term housing stability		
	Homelessness	Focus Group Meeting	Emergency Shelters hard to find in rural areas		
(non protite local			Many individuals are still unemployed and struggling with housing due to COVID despite 15 mos. of ERAP		
	service providers		Criminal Background are major barriers to rental leases		
			So much housing instability flux due to 2020 and 2021 storms		
			Great need for disaster resilient affordable housing		
			Pjs are consulting with local CoCs		
	P.J with own		Need for low barrier shelters high		
Other Participating Jurisdictions in	allocation – meeting to encourage HOME- ARP coordination	Focus Group Meeting	Orleans Parish is looking at converting City Owned properties		
Louisiana			Shreveport identified capacity building as priority –need to develop capacity of developers		
			Lafayette interested in building non-congregate shelter		
	Nonprofit Civil Rights Org	Focus group Meeting	Criminal backgrounds and disabilities are main basis for discrimination.		
			Developers are allowed to define "reasonable accommodation"		
Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center			Affordable housing is often located in high poverty, low opportunity areas – lacking access to groceries and transportation		
			Landlords are unwilling to accept vouchers		
			Disputes about code violations (tenant complains about poor conditions) can lead to eviction		
Housing NOLA: A public-private partnership working to end	Affordable housing advocacy	Focus group meeting	Major problem with landlords accepting vouchers, Section 8, etc		
			NCS is good idea for HOME-ARP funds because can always be converted to affordable studio apartments		
New Orleans'			More housing options needed for formerly incarcerated		
affordable housing crisis.			TBRA's can be used to move individuals from NCS to PSH		
			Non-Profit capacity building is needed, especially CHDOs		

Appendix III: Written Comments from Survey

Please share thoughts to help identify gaps in housing and supportive services and fair housing barriers that the qualifying populations might encounter?

Previously incarcerated individuals with children.

1. demand greatly exceeds resources. 2. private landlords take advantage of and overcharge low-income and minorities because they have few alternatives.

1. housing location specialist for the entire coc. due to low funding for case management, agencies do not have funds or expertise to locate flexible housing options. this delays housing placement even if there is an opening at an agency.

2. the greatest barrier that we have identified during the last two years, is the amount of housing/utility debt someone owes that keeps them from qualifying for housing.

3. the greatest fair housing barrier is related to lack of tolerance/education of mental illness.

1. obtaining housing for felons

2. lack of mental and physical health programs

3. lack of supportive services and employment opportunities

4. lack of prevention programs to reduce the number of persons experiencing homeless

5. more affordable housing and vouchers

A gap in accessible housing. extensive use of evictions and the lack of affordable housing. getting new landlords to understand the housing choice voucher program.

access to mental health services

accessibility

affordable housing options exacerbated by hurricane Ida; unwillingness of private landlords to "work with programs/accept vouchers"; virtually non-existent shelter options for all populations.

availability

available units in popular regions like new Orleans and baton rouge.

barriers such as criminal backgrounds, credit, prior evictions, income guidelines even if the individual has a voucher can prevent individuals/families from qualifying for housing directed specifically to serve that population.

baton rouge in particular has a very large chronically homeless population. this group has not been a priority population since I started work here in 2020, however this is the population that is most visibly underserved. according to our longitudinal system analysis, 464 people were continuously homeless for an entire year. most balance of state coc funded permanent supportive housing programs (PSH) are legacy programs. they do not seem to be functioning like an intervention for chronic homelessness the way they are intended to. a data based system improvement would be to offer more project based rental assistance (no need to hunt for landlords) with intensive supportive services, tailored to high-needs long-term unsheltered clients. maybe it's possible to accomplish the same thing with tenant based rental assistance. however, many clients who are housed with coc and esg funds are evicted. our data team hears about numerous evictions in the course of our daily work. additional supportive services are considered in intervention for evictions. fewer landlords in the mix would really help though. thanks.

being able to find safe and affordable housing. before the pandemic we already had a shortage in our existing housing stock. their is a serious lack of affordable rental homes for low income households.

it's important to look at the why - why we barriers to housing"

our local economy has not caught up with the housing costs."

covid-19 cost related escalations.

creating jobs

credit and criminal background checks

credit barriers, eviction issues low income due to job loss and low pay rates childcare and transportation

credit history, criminal record, rental history, unemployment

criminal background checks and debts owed to previous landlords and utility companies are the biggest fair housing barriers I see. in terms of housing, much of the available housing is substandard and even folks at risk of homeless don't want to live in certain buildings.

currently have more supportive services for affordable housing than affordable housing units

currently there is a gap in non-congregate sheltering in central Louisiana, specifically avoyelles parish.

development of affordable/low income housing.

educating clients in financial stability

future home ownership

various workshops and life skill training

elderly housing is needed in our area.

emergency housing, more affordable housing, affordable child care

fair housing barriers: most of the properties that will work with rapid rehousing and psh are in less desirable, more crime ridden areas. the safer, more desirable properties are usually above fmr , and refuse to work with rental assistance programs.

financing and rehab services.

gaps in services are adequate emergency shelter in all parishes. the 11 rural parishes need at minimum hotel/ motel rooms for unsheltered persons with no alternative. emergency shelter for persons with serious mental illness is needed -- none here except for that funded by esg-cv. outreach needed in all 12 parishes but esp. in the rural ones. fair housing barriers to exist -- persons of color and/or persons with mental health disabilities and/or poor rental history struggle to find landlords who will rent to them.

group homes are a good idea, however they are not regulated. this leads to unfair treatment of people with disabilities, high rental assistance costs, little autonomy, and a lack of occupancy rights for people with disabilities who live there.

help people stay in there homes long as the home has no holes an substantial heating n cooling keep families together n single women safe young and old divorced married are single every situation n person is different I have two pits for my protection and in need for help to keep my home and can't find it

housing assistance for sex offenders who are attempting to remain complaint with registration requirements and stigma that prevents housing by public/community, convicted felons who are just releasing from incarceration, and people who lack job skills/education also paired with substance abuse issues.

location, rental payment assistance for certain populations, transportation, lack of knowledge of available assistance, lack of knowledge on how to apply, lack of computer skills to do applications online, access to computers limited/return phone number often not available for a homeless person to respond to callbacks/ emails, and/or offers education/substance abuse assistance either nearby or onsite.

housing authorities and their affiliates are the best opportunities to accomplish lhc's home goals of significantly impacting "qualifying population". intentional steps should be taken to properly align and deploy lhc's home capital with the mission and capabilities of innovative housing authorities in Louisiana. this strategic capital deployment will ensure prompt, impactful and compliant of home funds.

housing availability

HUD vouchers are not readily available for justice-involved individuals who don't meet the standard chronic homeless. landlords are not educated on the laws regarding justice-involved persons. credit worthiness is also a barrier when seeking affordable housing. criminal backgrounds are still eliminating justice involved individuals from renting an apartment. they are often times taken advantage of by slumlords.

I am trying to find a program to help repair home been trying 20+ years no help have son with disability

I feel the time gap that a person has to encounter before being placed in hmis is a huge problem. If a client is sleeping on the streets and finds out about the program, they are required to report to the agency two to three times (two-week period between times) before they will be entered into the system. some clients have no cellular phone to be reached on. I feel if they come in, they should be entered and processed within a certain period of tome

I lost my home of five years from volunteering without a paid position for two years, working in criminal justice reform. I was homeless with my two sons, had housing assistance approved through the one-stop, living in my van, but could not get approved anywhere to get in. rep. pat smith took me under her wing and got me in a house on brice. the property went through inspection from assistance organization, and cost me everything I had to get it ready. they paid the \$1600 to get us in, and I went to turn on utilities, and house wasn't up to code. took meters upon inspection. landlord wouldn't take responsibility, and we lived there for over a year without water or electricity. then during pandemic, he evicted me, after pouring a ton of money into that place. there is a gap in case management, landlord accountability, high rent, lack of opportunities to purchase own home, judicial responsibility, access to rental assistance through city whose requirements are unrealistic & most times unattainable. please feel free to contact me at . I have been through 7 homes in 10 years. thank you for all that you are doing.

I will identify that the need of service primarily for my area is housing! housing requiring assistance payment, housing for homeownership, shelter with kitchen/pantry for homeless and emergency housing for burned-out or disaster victims.

inadequate affordable rental housing. if it existed, there'd be significantly fewer homeless persons.

increasing prices of insurances and taxes make rental prices outrageous. barrier to affordable housing.

individuals experiencing or fleeing a domestic violence situation. the process is not as helpful as it could be. some women rather return to the violent situation rather than endure the seek help.

lack of connection via working groups and collaborations of state agencies and non-profits.

landlords who refuse to take vouchers has a disproportionate impact on people with disabling conditions and African Americans. lack of timely access to behavioral health services. we also need greater geographic diversity in the location of affordable housing while developing such housing in areas close to jobs, services and transportation. displacement by Airbnb's has had a large impact in our community.

long term case management and life skills training to aid in maintaining permanent housing

low income people experience so many different things it's really hard to pin point one thing.

most of the homeless population we serve have issues with background checks, bad credit reports or no credit at all. the aforementioned often times closes the door before they step through it. I am of the opinion most have given up. there is an obvious shortage of affordable housing in the united states that's a given, now add no credit or bad credit and or something on a background check. rejection gets old and is very discouraging.

need funding for division services. there is very little funding to operate emergency shelters. we would love to operate more beds but can't afford to do it. housing choice vouchers and psh have worked well to transition clients out of shelters but we are having trouble finding affordable housing that meet housing quality standards. there should also be funding to assist the landlords with tenant damages and bed bug remediation. that is frequently the cause of eviction and subsequent homelessness. long term motel renters have no protections against eviction, same day eviction. consider similar protections as tenants who are renters in traditional housing. many people lost their motel rooms and became homeless after hurricanes when there is more of a demand for motel rooms and evacuees are willing to pay more money for a room.

not enough funding for housing and services

not enough services to go around equally to include elderly, non-elderly, family, single, disabled, working, etc.

passing criminal and background checks

voucher disparity in length of assistance, location, and amount of rent subsidy

persons with felony backgrounds

rental units priced above the fmr, income requirements are high and lack of landlords willing to rent to unemployed survivors of dv.

resources for more developed diversion could also be beneficial for keeping our lower needs guests more stable. recent data suggests the one stop has about a 9% diversion success rate. this comes out to about 400 people diverted simply through staff conversations. a more robust diversion toolkit could push that higher and presents a lower cost per person helped proposition rather than just housing development alone.

I think the survey touches on this already, but combining the above suggestion with a sustained concentration on our single chronic populations (perhaps even prioritizing our most chronic for ncss first, as those clients are difficult to track and they often find the relative freedom of an ncs more desirable) has potential to go a long way.

shelter for those that are in crisis after normal business hours/weekends

spoke to affordable housing in ascension and all they were awarded was 20 vouchers which even he said is not enough.

cost of living is a lot higher

no access to public transportation

no homeless/emergency shelter

no transitional housing

income barriers (some people barely make enough to pay rent and other bills)

support for construction of affordable homes for low-moderate income buyers.

zero housing for sex offenders

Terrebonne lacks available housing, especially 1 bedroom units.

the affordability of property

producing identification

housing complex

landlords

the agencies in our area have expressed a need for housing location/landlord engagement employee as part of the coordinated assessment program.

using esg-cv funding, we had great success with clients with severe mental health issues using non-congregate shelter. these clients are unable to live in congregate shelter and have a history of inability to maintain a unit in psh. we are primarily talking about those who could be institutionalized if that option were available. we predict that onsite case management would improve outcomes to an even greater extent.

the biggest barriers to housing in our region are not fair housing issues. they are client rental/utility debt owed and criminal background.

the area of 71282, madison parish, Tallulah, louisiana is extremely limited to housing options and availability is very lacking.

the availability of housing units in general and landlords willingness to rent to the population we serve. there is also a gap as it relates to the ease of signing up to be a landlord. the qualifications for participants to be able to be a part of the housing programs. availability of different housing grantors i.e. not every thing going through unity. the lack safe, affordable and clean housing

the largest gap in northeast Louisiana is not enough emergency shelters for homeless families with children and the general homeless population; the salvation army located in Monroe, la is the only shelter for the general homeless population and homeless families and even they do not allow families with children under the age of two or large families with more than 2/ 3 children.

the largest gap in services is not having enough space. there is not enough temporary shelter and not enough housing units available to assist people on disability.

the mold is really bad

the need for emergency housing is very important and is very vital. also, to be able to make livable what is already in existence would be very beneficial. the education of landlords and residents related to housing needs, affordability, and care of the property is also a crucial need for the individuals and families to obtain quality and affordable housing.

the office of behavioral health is looking to expand transitional housing program for homeless individuals with serious mental illness to prevent going or exiting out of mental health facility. our contract will cover operations. start up cost for agency to find affordable buildings has delayed the process.

the stigma attached to domestic violence survivors. affordable housing. limited transportation.

there are few emergency housing options in the area, and the housing market for affordable housing is insufficient to meet the needs of the low income community. affordable childcare is scant and also very problematic for families and single parents who wish to look for work. this limits their ability to independently provide for their families.

those with criminal records and sex offenders have limited opportunities and many times are kept behind bars until housing can be secured.

time to be more strategic with targeting population types following more thoughtful public and multigenerational cost/benefit. examples: housing with wraparound services targeting teen mothers, kids aging out of foster care. multigenerational cost of doing something versus cost of doing nothing. naturally can't forget other housing needs, but time to zoom in on targeting some housing this way and I would love to help.

transportation to jobs/job training and education because we do have public transportation so we are in the process of getting company vans to assist with this barrier.

transportation, health care.

we are very new. homelessness is on the rise. Louisiana is number 2 in statistics. we also sometimes forget about the ones that fell through the cracks that are couch surfing. homelessness can happen to anyone. we can be one paycheck from being homeless. some homeless people have mental illness and just need to see a doctor. human trafficking is a problem in the u.s. and can also cause homelessness. homeless veterans needs to be addressed also.

we have had several mayors specifically tell us they do not want a homeless shelter in their town so zoning approval and permitting for homeless shelters or group homes could be problematic

therefore we recommend the development of low and very low income affordable housing with project-based vouchers or some form of support in order to make the economics work in this environment and in order to meet the needs of at risk market segments.

where feasible existing buildings could be repurposed for homeless shelters, but the ongoing operation of the shelter is the key issue to address from a financial management standpoint. there has to be a viable nonprofit partner to run the day-to-day aspects of the shelter and that requires funding. we believe smaller, midsize shelters are easier to manage.

we need to help veterans

we serve 5 parishes but services are clustered into most populated parishes; small, rural, poorer parishes St. Helena and washington) have few services available. Tangipahoa parish is in great need for a centralized shelter with one-stop services. will provide separate e-mail on gaps in housing and services and fair housing barriers

women often go through a hard ship and work to regain the children back but when they do get them the don't know where to go. usually they go back to with what they use to do and ends up in a mess. we are the only place in this region that allows a mother to bring her child or children with her while learning to parent and function after the hardship all while in a structured environment. we are slowly closing the doors dure to lose of clients during covid. I have been giving the opportunity to keep the doors open. I am currently working on the finances but its not easy. I pray its doable.

Appendix IV: Public Comments

Public Comments/Questions received during public meetings and in writing during public comment:

Lawrence De Hart – TCU Food Bank Houma

- Q: Our biggest issue is that the hotels that were not damaged in the storm are in high demand and we can't house enough of our homeless population. We ideally need flexible shelter or emergency housing that is not dependent on hurricane patterns. Can these funds be used to purchase hotels and dedicate them to use by the homeless? Also, mental health is a real struggle, and we need supportive services to do things like provide transportation to pharmacies.
- A: Yes, these funds can be used to purchase hotels and to be used as non-congregate shelters. And these funds can also be used for supportive services.

Terry Jones - Endevors

Comment: Our team has been very impressed with LHC's outreach to front line providers during this process, through the surveys and meetings. We believe you will be able to allocate the funds in ways that are really needed.

Greg Landry – Acadiana Legal Services Corporation

- Q: What are the plans for using these funds for rural areas?
- A: We are aware of the need of the rural parishes. LHC will be mindful this during the crafting of our RFP's.
- Q: After Laura and Delta, we saw large amounts of rental housing, both affordable and market rate, destroyed. Can these funds be used to create a special category of TBRA?
- A: We will be considering geography when the funds are allocated but I don't think we can limit the HOME ARP TBRA program to victims of disasters.
- Q: We deal with a lot of evictions where the tenant was short a small amount, such as \$100 or \$200. Can we a create emergency rental assistance program for this:
- A: I don't think HOME ARP is the best source, but this is a good point and we could look to other sources.

Shameka – Brooklyn Heights

- Q: Is there an application for these funds?
- A: Not yet. LHC will submit this plan to HUD, and if approved, issue RFPs to award these funds.

<u>Alfredo Cruz – Housing Louisiana</u>

- Q: Can HOME ARP funds be used to fund the Affordable Housing Trust Fund? I know other communities are doing that.
- A: I believe that might be possible with American Rescue Plan funding that goes directly to states and cities, not the HOME ARP program.

Brandy Nugent – Federal Correctional Institutional Facility in Pollack LA

Q: Would released inmates be eligible to use these funds?

A: Yes, they would probably be included in one of the Qualifying Populations that these HOME ARP funds are intended for. Let's make sure you are connected to your local CoC.

Joe Hanenuler – Unity of Greater New Orleans

- Q: We are seeing another surge of homelessness in the greater New Orleans area and while affordable housing is desperately needed, we are concerned that this surge will grow larger while waiting for the development of any affordable units that come out of these funds. Can we make sure we are funding emergency rental housing as well?
- A: Yes, our proposed distribution will dedicate funds for TBRA. This can also be supplemented by existing LHC programs.

Brooklyn Heights:

- Q: Are the funds going to be awarded through a competitive process?
- A: Yes. Make sure you are signed up for all of LHC's notices

Sarah Johnson – Monroe Home Coalition CoC

- Q: Will geographic diversity factor into the awards? We see a disparity between the urban and rural parishes.
- A: Yes, we are aware of the need in the rural communities, and we will consider geography in our RFPs.

Amanda Stapleton – Northlake Homeless Coalition CoC

- Q: Will you be awarding technical assistance and capacity building funding with this program? Our community developed a lot of capacity during the ESG-CV program, and we would like to do something similar with this.
- A: Yes, we will be using some of LHC's allocation for capacity building.

Marth Kegel, Unity of Greater New Orleans:

I hope I am not too late with these comments. But we very much want to urge the state to set aside at least 1/3 of the HOME ARP allotment for Rapid Re-Housing. Given that these are the last of the COVID homeless resources and all the rest of the COVID dollars for the homeless has either been spent or is already assigned to specific named clients, we will not be able to stem the rising tide of homelessness without access to immediate Rapid Re-Housing funds. The number of people on the street in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish are rising now that we are running out of rent assistance. The current number is 380 people on the street and it is expected to continue rising, given the outrageous rents. People in New Orleans are paying an astonishing 61 percent of their income for rent, which is one of the very highest percentages in the country, and that is driving the homeless crisis.

It's important to emphasize that even though units are much harder to find given the shortage of apartments with landlords willing to accept Fair Market Rents, we are still finding units; it just takes a bit longer, but we are finding units every day but now have only turnover PSH to give to the people currently on the street. Also it's important to note that the treasury rental assistance funds are not available to the homeless because an existing lease is required. Finally, it would be important to ensure that those applying for funds to develop properties into NCS should show that they actually have the funds to operate those properties and provide services to the clients there; otherwise the state's investment in those would be for naught.

We do very much support the use of HOME-ARP funds for development of bricks and mortar affordable housing for those experiencing homelessness, but it would take several years to develop those properties and in the meantime we need Rapid Re-Housing resources to help the people on the street today and in the months to come. We'd also like the state to ensure that the owners of the affordable housing created with HOME-ARP be required by the state to use a CoC's HUD-mandated Coordinated Entry system to receive referrals for tenant selection; otherwise, these units could be used by people who self-certify as homeless who may not actually be homeless or may not be the person with the highest priority need for the housing.

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 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 Joshua G. Hollins LHC Executive Director

15/2027

Title

OMB Number: 4040-0004

Expiration Date: 12/31/2022

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424				
* 1. Type of Submiss	sion:	* 2. Type of Application:	* If	Revision, select appropriate letter(s):
Preapplication		New		
Application		Continuation	* 01	Other (Specify):
Changed/Corr	ected Application	Revision		
* 3. Date Received:		4. Applicant Identifier:		
09/13/2022				
5a. Federal Entity Id	entifier:		4	5b. Federal Award Identifier:
State Use Only:		с		
6. Date Received by	State:	7. State Application	Ide	entifier:
8. APPLICANT INF	ORMATION:			
* a. Legal Name:	Louisiana Hous	ing Corporation		
* b. Employer/Taxpa	yer Identification Nun	nber (EIN/TIN):	*	* c. UEI:
454619102 G9MAZAU3T661				
d. Address:				
* Street1:	2415 Quail Dr.	ive		
Street2:				
* City: Baton Rouge				
County/Parish:				
* State: LA: Louisiana				
Province:				
* Country:	USA: UNITED ST	TATES		
* Zip / Postal Code:	70808-0000			
e. Organizational L	Jnit:			
Department Name:				Division Name:
			Г	
f. Name and contac	ct information of pe	erson to be contacted on m	atte	ers involving this application:
Prefix:		* First Name	ə:	Winona
Middle Name:				
* Last Name: Connor				
Suffix:				
Title:				
Organizational Affilia	tion:			
* Telephone Number: 225-763-8700 Fax Number:				
* Email: wconnor@)lhc.la.gov			
			-	

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Application for Federal Assistance SF-424
* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:
A: State 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:
CFDA Title:
* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:
14.239 * Title:
Home - ARP
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:
Providing Housing and Homeless Services
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 ALL * b. Program/Project ARPA			
Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.			
Add Attachment Delete Attachment View Attachment			
17. Proposed Project:			
* a. Start Date: 11/01/2022 * b. End Date: 09/30/2028			
18. Estimated Funding (\$):			
* a. Federal 39,286,662.00			
* b. Applicant			
* c. State			
* d. Local			
* e. Other			
* f. Program Income			
* g. TOTAL 39,286,662.00			
* 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: Joshua G.			
Middle Name:			
* Last Name: Hollins			
Suffix:			
* Title: Executive Director			
* Telephone Number: 225-763-8770 Fax Number:			
* Email: jhollins@lhc.la.gov			
* Signature of Authorized Representative:	10		