



WYOMING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
▪ EST. 1975 ▪

**HOME-American Rescue Plan
(HOME-ARP)
Allocation Plan**

Consultation

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

After HUD’s issuance of HOME-ARP CPD Notice 21-10 on September 13, 2021, Wyoming Community Development Authority (WCDA) began the consultation process with external partners and current and possible future stakeholders throughout the state for additional feedback informed by HUD’s program guidance. WCDA provided several opportunities for consultation regarding the HOME-ARP plan.

Specifically, in September 2021, WCDA reached out to and met with the state’s Continuum of Care (CoC) as well as the state’s public housing authorities. On October 15, 2021, WCDA e-mailed a survey to all developers currently on the WCDA contact list as well as various non-profit organizations that serve homeless individuals, individuals at-risk for homelessness, veteran’s service providers, domestic violence service providers and service providers serving low-income households throughout the state.

To ensure current and prospective partners had the ability to share valuable and necessary input, WCDA invited all participants and stakeholders to have virtual meetings to further discuss the needs of the community and data available. The outreach e-mails and information regarding the HOME-ARP Program were posted on the WCDA website.

List the organizations consulted:

Agency/Org Consulted	Type of Agency/Org	Method of Consultation	Feedback
Continuum of Care	State Homeless Collaborative	Virtual Meeting	Need for funding supportive services and operating expenses
Casper Housing Authority	Public Housing Authority	Virtual Meeting Survey	One stop shop for rental assistance, deposits, utility assistance & case management including services to promote self-sufficiency Large strain on the local community due to lack of homeless services in the state Creation of statewide fair housing office with on-site legal services
Cheyenne Housing Authority	Public Housing Authority	Virtual Meeting Survey	Need for acquisition costs and other development hard costs

			Increased inventory of affordable rental housing is greatest need for community
Rock Springs Housing Authority	Public Housing Authority	E-mail Correspondence	Received data regarding housing choice voucher program
Cheyenne VAHCS	HUD-VASH Program Providing Rental Assistance and Clinical and Supportive Services to Veterans	E-mail Correspondence	Received data regarding housing choice voucher program, veterans served by the CoC, and veteran active on the coordinated entry system
Institute for Community Alliances	Coordinated Entry Agency	Virtual Meeting	Need for increased supportive services Large need for proper training for agencies using the coordinated entry system to ensure all persons seeking help are entered in the system and entered correctly
WyoHELP	Non-Profit Community Action Agency	Virtual Meeting	Increase funding and resources for smaller communities
YES House	Non-Profit Youth Homeless and Supportive Service Agency	Virtual Meeting	Need for rehabilitation of the campus More financial assistance is needed to reach more youth in crisis Operating expenses will help alleviate administrative burden and assist in staffing shortages
Family Promise of Albany County	Non-Profit Homeless Provider	Survey	Increase in shelter beds and funding for supportive services Supportive services needed to assist individuals in acquiring employment, permanent housing and other essentials for sustainable, independent living
Wyoming Rescue Mission	Homeless and Domestic Violence Service Provider	Survey	The greatest needs in the community are permanent sober living supportive housing, incentive to graduate off/out of subsidized housing programs, more quality landlords respecting

			the needs of the qualifying populations, and additional fixed/low-income senior housing
Habitat for Humanity of the Greater Teton Area	Non-Profit Housing Developer	Survey	<p>More affordable housing units needed</p> <p>Acquisition costs would allow building of single-family and multi-family homes on a larger scale</p>
Mountain Plains Equity Group	For-Profit Housing Developer	Survey	<p>Additional affordable rental housing that is maintainable for the households to pay rent and be able to also manage food and transportation costs so they can hold a job</p>
Wyoming Food for Thought Project	Non-Profit Agency Supporting the Qualifying Population	Survey	<p>Community grocery and soup kitchen</p> <p>Increase availability of expanded, affordable & reliable community transportation.</p>
Safe Harbor	Domestic Violence Service Provider	Survey	<p>Greatest need is for supportive service programs as the clients cannot be successful without the resources and information to help them</p> <p>Programs became especially difficult due to the pandemic with funding decreasing and a rise in costs and need</p>
Volunteers of America – Northern Rockies	Non-Profit Supportive Service & Housing Provider of Disabled Individuals, Veterans, Homeless Individuals & Individuals At-Risk of Homelessness	<p>Survey</p> <p>Virtual Meeting</p>	<p>Supportive services is lacking and the diverse range in clients need various skill trainings and support.</p> <p>Transportation is also a major need in the community among the qualifying population</p> <p>Many facilities serving the qualifying populations are outdated and need to be updated or newly created to provide a safe and healthy environment</p>

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

Consultation with Homelessness Service Providers

Outreach for this consultation was targeted to providers of homeless services; feedback came from XXX providers. The summary below includes several comments received from providers in writing and also during the virtual session.

Most providers felt there are not sufficient resources for rental assistance and households that have vouchers cannot find housing. There was emphasis that the housing provided to the qualifying populations must be accompanied with supportive services in order for those individuals and households to be successful.

Several commenters noted that it would be important to not just fund capital investment, but to focus on long term supports including operations, homelessness prevention, case management, employment services, and landlord incentives (with thoughtful consideration relating to fair housing issues).

Additionally, several comments expressed the need for transitional housing facilities. Many homeless individuals have to stay in hotels or with friends or family as there are not enough beds available in current non-congregate shelters.

All providers echoed the strong need for non-profit capacity building and operating expenses, specifically noting the struggle to find and retain reliable, qualified staff.

Consultation with Veterans Services Providers

Outreach for this consultation was targeted to the Veteran’s Affairs Coordinated Entry.

The greatest need for veterans is funding for supportive services.

Consultation with Public Housing Authorities (PHAs)

Outreach for this consultation was targeted to public housing authorities. The state has 3 public housing authorities and all participated. The summary below includes comments received in writing and during the virtual session.

Across the PHAs, there was support for development for more affordable rental units coupled with increased supportive services.

There was support for the funds to be used as rental assistance and for services such as security deposit assistances and landlord incentives, especially for those households that previously had poor rental and/or criminal history.

Consultation with Continuums of Care (CoCs)

Wyoming Continuum of Care participated in the consultation process

The CoC partners with many homeless provider organizations around the state. They receive the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and have very limited funding available. Increased funding would be best suited for supportive services and non-congregate shelters.

The CoC was able to provide data including the most recent gap analysis and point-in-time count.

Consultation with Domestic Violence (DV) Providers

Outreach consisted of every non-profit organization in each county throughout the state under the Wyoming Division of Victim Services

Significant focus on supportive service programs in conjunction with additional housing. Supportive service programs provide the necessary and vital support for victims.

With the limited funding availability, services are difficult to fund and maintain. There was support for funds to support capacity building and operating expenses for homeless services providers with specific emphasis on employee training/development and salaries.

Consultation with Developers of Affordable Rental Housing

All developers who are currently on the contact list were consulted with.

Commenters felt strongly that there was a large need for more affordable housing.

Concern was also mentioned in regards to the affordable housing units for qualifying populations and the sustainability of the property over the life of the affordability period due to the cost of maintenance with limited cash flow.

Public Participation

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: 6/6/2022*
- *Public comment period: start date - 6/6/2022 end date - 6/21/2022*
- *Date(s) of public hearing: 6/22/2022*

Describe the public participation process:

WCDA consulted with a variety of key community stakeholders in the preparation of the HOME- ARP Allocation Plan to discuss challenges related to homelessness and homelessness prevention. Individuals representing government and policymakers, nonprofit organizations, healthcare providers, affordable housing developers, housing advocates, and other interested parties were invited to participate to ensure a diverse array of stakeholder feedback.

On June 2, 2022, WCDA held a consultation webinar which included an overview of the HOME-ARP program, an overview of key data points regarding the needs of the qualifying populations in Wyoming, the State’s overall strategy for addressing these needs and solicited discussion to foster input on the allocation plan and use of funding available. A draft allocation plan was made available on May 26, 2022, prior to the webinar, and posted on the WCDA website as well as through an e-mail blast.

In addition to the outreach and engagement efforts described above, WCDA made the draft plan available for review and public comment from June 6, 2022 through June 21, 2022. A public meeting was held on June 22, 2022. Anyone wishing to comment on the best use of the HOME-ARP funds was invited to do so. The meeting was held in person and accessible remotely through a conference line which allowed the public to listen to the meeting and provide feedback.

See Attachment B for the posting of the forum and the notice of publication.

Describe efforts to broaden public participation:

Efforts were made to promote and encourage citizen and agency participation in the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan preparation process. Outreach efforts took place both in-person and through virtual meeting platforms and included actively locating and contacting a wide range of nonprofits, existing external partners, and a variety of agencies in addition to the standard legal notices published in the Casper Star-Tribune and the Wyoming Tribune Eagle.

Documents and plan drafts were made available for review by the public through WCDA’s website. The HOME-ARP Allocation Plan was also circulated to a wide range of housing and homelessness partners as well as to organizations serving the qualifying population. As noted above, the hearing was held both in-person and available remotely.

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

Enter narrative response here.

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

Enter narrative response here.

Needs Assessment and Gaps Analysis

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

Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

For HOME ARP, two of the qualifying populations are persons/households experiencing homelessness, and households who have previously been qualified as “homeless” as defined in 24 CFR §91.5 who are housed due to temporary or emergency assistance and need additional housing assistance or supportive services to avoid a return to homelessness. According to the 2021 Point-in-Time (PIT) count for Wyoming, there were approximately 405 homeless persons. Although this is a decrease from the 857 homeless persons reported in the 2016 PIT count, through the consultation process, it was determined that this count can vary in accuracy due to the lack of ability to locate homeless individuals. Many homeless individuals stay with friends, families and/or other acquaintances and are not included in this count.

In 2021, 88% of the counted homeless population in Wyoming identified as White, 2% identified as Black or African American, 0% identified as Asian, 1.3% identified as American Indian or Alaska Native, 5% identified as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander and 3% identified as being of multiple races.

Individuals who are identified as chronically homeless make up 6% of the state's homeless population.

According to the State of Wyoming's HUD-VASH Coordinated Entry Specialist, there were 297 homeless veterans between 1/1/2021 and 12/31/2021.

In addition, Wyoming Youth Services Association Group Homes and Crisis Shelters served a combined 1,583 youth in 2021.

At Risk of Homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

Per 24 CFR §91.5, an individual or family is considered at-risk of homelessness if their income is below 30% area median family income, do not have sufficient resources or support networks, and have experienced housing instability. Below is an analysis of 0-30% AMI renters.

There are 176,585 households in the State of Wyoming earning between 0 and 30% of Area Median Income (AMI) according to 2014-2018 HUD Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data. This is roughly 77% of all Wyoming households. Additionally, 19,520 of the households earning 30% AMI or below also have one or more of the four housing problems as defined by HUD which are:

1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities
2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities
3. More than 1.5 persons per room (overcrowding)
4. Cost burden over 50%

One qualifying population for HOME-ARP is defined as households who have previously qualified as homeless, are currently housed due to temporary or emergency assistance, and who need additional housing assistance or supportive services to avoid a return to homelessness. Broadly, assistance to persons experiencing homelessness may be time limited depending on the program requirements and the availability of funds.

Two qualified populations (QPs) eligible for the HOME-ARP program are those at greatest risk of housing instability: (1) households making 0-30% of AMI that are also severely cost burdened (paying 50% or more of their income in rent); and (2) households who would qualify as at-risk of homelessness per 24 CFR §91.5, except their incomes are up to 50% AMI instead of below 30% AMI.

According to the 2014-2018 CHAS data, there are 14,880 or roughly 56% of all 0-30% AMI households paying more than 50% of their income in rent. Additionally, 57% of all 0-50% AMI renter households in the state are paying more than 50% of their income in rent.

There are an additional 14,740 households in the State of Wyoming earning between 30 and 50% of AMI having one or more of the four housing problems as noted above, according to the 2014-2018 CHAS data.

According to the data, there are currently 340,420 units of rental housing affordable to households making 0 to 30% AMI in the State of Texas and an additional 546,190 units of rental housing affordable to households making 30-50% AMI.

To understand the number of households in the state that may be in need of assistance to prevent becoming homeless or to help with housing instability, the population served by the Wyoming Emergency Housing Assistance Program (WEHAP) and the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) serves as a representative sample of these populations that may currently need assistance throughout Wyoming. As of December 31, 2020, WCDA assisted 1,202 households totaling \$1.7 million through the WEHAP. Furthermore, as of March 18, 2022, the Wyoming Department of Family Services has assisted 5,996 households through the ERAP. \$3.5 million have been assistance to renters while \$1.4 million have assisted households with utility payments. 897 letters of intent to households who are homeless or without a current residence and 132 of those households have obtained housing. This data is one measurement of need for programs that create more affordable housing and other safety nets to keep households from entering into homelessness for households within incomes at or below 50% AMI. It should be noted that far more households applied than those described above as assisted, further supporting the demand.

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

It is recognized that domestic violence is one of the main factors of homelessness or being at-risk of homelessness for individuals and households.

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) Fact Sheet for Wyoming, 33.9% of women in Wyoming and 30.5% of men in Wyoming experience intimate

partner physical violence, intimate partner sexual violence, and/or intimate partner stalking in their lifetimes. The NCADV also reported, in 2019, 2,037 domestic violence incidents were reported to law enforcement.

On September 9, 2021, 21 domestic violence program providers in Wyoming participated in a 24-hour survey by the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV). Statistics released in the Domestic Violence Counts Report show that Wyoming emergency shelters or transitional housing, provided by local domestic violence programs, served 143 victims of domestic violence in one day. This is an increase from 116 victims as reported in the 2020 report. Furthermore, in 2021, 19 requests for services went unmet, 68% of which were for housing and emergency shelter.

Describe the unmet housing and service needs of qualifying populations:

Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

There are currently 612 emergency shelter beds in the State of Wyoming. Many emergency shelters, especially in smaller and more rural communities, are operating at 100% utilization rate. The state also has 205 transitional housing beds, of which had a 59% utilization rate, 75 rapid-rehousing beds with a 100% utilization rate and 233 permanent supportive housing beds at an 89% utilization rate.

The data collected confirms the comments and suggestions encouraged by homeless service providers. There is a strong need for additional housing, specifically in small and rural communities that are strained in staff and funding, as well as the importance of the availability of supportive services to compliment housing.

At Risk of Homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

Persons at-risk of homelessness demonstrate housing instability, such as living in the home of another because of economic hardship, or living in a hotel/motel. This population also has extremely low incomes at 30% AMI and lack of resources and supports. Availability of affordable rental housing so that they will pay no more than 30% of their income toward rent may assist in decreasing housing instability for this population.

TBRA would assist households for services such as security deposit and rental assistance such as to serve as a bridge to until the household is able to access a permanent voucher.

There was also support voiced for the funds to be used as assistance for services such as youth service programs, job searches, assistance accessing benefits, financial literacy, parenting skills and scholarships for trade schools.

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

A service need for survivors of domestic violence may be specific case management and support focused on safety. Additionally, having domestic violence service providers in possession of

TBRA vouchers would make it easier to temporarily house victims and provide financial support in the form of security deposit and rental assistance.

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

According to Casper Housing Authority, there is a 98% utilization rate of housing choice vouchers. They maintain a waitlist of 1,800 households. Similarly, the Cheyenne Housing Authority reported a 96% utilization rate for housing choice vouchers while maintaining a waitlist of 4,000 households. Data was also provided by the Rock Springs Housing Authority. There are 39 households on the public housing waitlist and 38 households on the housing choice voucher waitlist with a utilization rate of 91%.

The data collected from HUD-VASH Coordinated Entry indicated 65 veterans and families utilizing HUDVASH in Cheyenne and Laramie. There are 20 veterans active in the coordinated entry system who are homeless and seeking shelter.

The Wyoming Youth Services Association assisted 3,878 youth in 2021. Their services include a crisis shelter, group homes, alternative schooling, treatment for substance abuse and mental health, integration for youth moving to adulthood, and prevention and intervention programs. The organization serves approximately 165 meals for each meal of the day.

Furthermore, there are 18 youth service agencies in the State of Wyoming. There are 627 staff positions available among all agencies with 74 vacancies. The added funding for supportive services, rental assistance vouchers, and non-congregate shelters, will further create a disparity in open positions. The funding of non-profit operating expenses and capacity building will assist these agencies with necessary staff salaries and training.

The Good Samaritan Mission in Jackson, Wyoming reported serving 13,500 meals in the community and providing 8,600 nightly bed stays for individuals annually. Data was also supplied to report that the executive director of the Fund for Public Education is aware of 80 families with children in public schools in Teton County who were experiencing homelessness.

Wyoming is experiencing an extremely low vacancy rate in its rental market. The state has an overall vacancy rate of 4.3%, a decrease from 5.8% over the previous year. The result is increased competition for rental units and higher prices. Many landlords will not rent to households with Section 8 vouchers further jeopardizing low-income households. According to the Wyoming cost of living index, rents increased from 1.65%-3.23%, depending on the type of property, between quarter four of 2019 and quarter four of 2020. This low-vacancy rate and rising housing costs has left many more individuals and families homeless or at-risk of homelessness.

All of these conditions point to the critical shortage of housing affordable to low-income households, particularly extremely low-income households. Families and individuals experiencing homelessness also require assistance finding and maintaining affordable housing including wrap-around supportive services. These services include housing navigation and

counseling, daily living skills, eviction prevention, connection to benefits, vocational supports, medical and behavioral health care, family re-unification and access to healthy, affordable meals. Resources are also needed to address temporary financial hardships experienced by these households to divert them from homeless.

Under Section IV.4.2.ii.G of the HOME-ARP Notice, a PJ may provide additional characteristics associated with instability and increased risk of homelessness in their HOME-ARP allocation plan. These characteristics will further refine the definition of “other populations” that are “At Greatest Risk of Housing Instability,” as established in the HOME-ARP Notice. If including these characteristics, identify them here:

The State of Wyoming is not suggesting expanding the program eligibility beyond the populations noted above and those at greatest risk of housing instability (under 30% AMI and severely cost burdened) as provided by HUD in CPD Notice 21-10.

Identify priority needs for qualifying populations:

There are very few resources available for diversion and current efforts are strained by lack of financial resources.

Qualifying populations require affordable housing and effective support services readily available and easily accessible. The key missing links for most qualifying populations are lack of affordable, reliable and widely available transportation, available permanent housing opportunities for very low- and extremely low-income families and individuals, and lack of direct service provider staff to sustainably support the growing needs of qualifying population households.

Specifically, there is a critical need for rental assistance vouchers and also funding to supportive services necessary for qualifying populations to be successful in permanent housing. Allocating HOME-ARP funds to supportive services, TBRA and non-profit operating expenses and capacity building will address the needs outlined by the consultation process.

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:

WCDA relied heavily on the consultation process and outreach to agencies and non-profits to determine the level of need in the state in comparison to the opportunities currently available. Agencies serving the qualifying populations use several database systems to account for data so the HMIS, PIT and HIC information was not inclusive.

Data from CHAS were used to assess the number of cost burdened households and the gap between the number of households earning less than 50% AMI and the number of housing units available and affordable to them.

The quantitative data sources along with the feedback received present data that demonstrates the state needs more rental assistance available for low-income and extremely low-income

households to compete in the rental market and long-term case management for qualifying populations to achieve housing stability. Furthermore, due to the steep rise in the cost-of-living, the organizations serving qualifying populations are struggling to find and retain qualified, dependable staff. Allocating funds to non-profit operating expenses and capacity building will greatly assist organizations in supporting the needs of the individuals they serve.

HOME-ARP Activities

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

Applications will be solicited by publishing a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) in statewide newspapers as well as on the WCDA website and by directly notifying all current external partners.

Supportive Services

- HOME-ARP Supportive Services funds will be made available competitively statewide
- Maximum Request Amount: Up to 50% of the funds allocated in the NOFO

Non-Congregate Shelter

- HOME-ARP NCS funds will be made available competitively statewide
- Applications must show that there are sufficient non-governmental operating funds to support any NCS activity, including ongoing operating.
- Maximum Request Amount: Up to 100% of the funds allocated in the NOFO and not to exceed 100% of the HOME-ARP eligible costs
- Funds may be provided in the form of amortizing, cash flow or deferred term loans, and may be interest bearing or at 0% or other interest rate in order to meet underwriting requirements. Loan terms will depend on financial structure of the projects and contract terms

Tenant Based Rental Assistance

- HOME-ARP TBRA funds will be made available competitively statewide
- Applications must show that there are sufficient non-governmental operating funds to support any NCS activity, including ongoing operating.
- Maximum Request Amount: Up to 50% of the funds allocated in the NOFO
- Funds will be limited to 24 months of assistance per household
- Households must participate in a self-sufficiency and/or supportive services program to maintain eligibility for assistance

Nonprofit Capacity and Operating Expenses

- Nonprofit capacity building and operations assistance will be available for competition

- In any fiscal year, nonprofit operating assistance or non-profit capacity building may not exceed the greater of 50% of the general operating expenses of the nonprofit organization, or \$50,000. If an organization applies for both operating assistance and capacity building assistance in any fiscal year, the aggregate total amount of assistance it may receive is the greater of 50 percent of the organization’s total operating expenses for that fiscal year or \$75,000
- Maximum Request Amount: \$225,000 or 3 years of assistance

Describe whether the PJ will administer eligible activities directly:

WCDA will administer non-congregate shelter and nonprofit capacity building and operating expense eligible activities directly.

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:

N/A

Use of HOME-ARP Funding

	Funding Amount	Percent of the Grant	Statutory Limit
Supportive Services	\$ 3,159,575		
Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelters	\$ 630,463		
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	\$ 1,383,539		
Non-Profit Operating	\$ 369,540	5 %	5%
Non-Profit Capacity Building	\$ 369,540	5 %	5%
Administration and Planning	\$ 1,108,622	15 %	15%
Total HOME ARP Allocation	\$ 7,390,819		

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

The requested amounts are based on input from the consultation meetings and the public hearing as well as data regarding the need and analysis of amounts and activities that other funding sources are or will likely be dedicated to. For example, the State of Wyoming receives a total of over \$9 million in HOME, Housing Trust Fund and Low-Income Housing Tax Credit funding to support the development of affordable rental housing while there is currently limited funding to the supportive services and rental assistance activities with a growing need among the population. The state also receives just over \$3 million in Community Development Block Grant funding which may be used for non-congregate shelter activities. This funding will be best used for the eligible activities limited on financial support from current grant sources

Additionally, with the increase in scope and caseloads the funding for supportive services and TBRA will create, it is critical that operating expenses and capacity building monies are available to these agencies.

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 data collected during the consultation process demonstrates the great need for more financial assistance to the supportive services and TBRA activities throughout the state of Wyoming. Homeless families and individuals who are very or extremely low-income households require a wide range of services and supports to remain stably housed. The highest priority needs that were consistently identified through outreach efforts and exhibited by the data gathered were increasing access and availability to supportive services as well as increasing the availability of rental assistance to the most vulnerable populations. Funding these activities will help qualifying populations access housing and remain stably housed.

According to Casper Housing Authority, the average cost of supportive services management is \$8,240.00 per person per year while the average voucher amount dispersed per household by the is \$517.00, an increase of 8% from 2021. The Cheyenne Housing Authority's average monthly assistance per voucher is \$454.00. Rock Springs Housing Authority reported average subsidy amount per household is \$441. In addition to housing choice vouchers, HUD-VASH supplies 60 vouchers in Cheyenne with an average monthly subsidy of \$420/month along with 5 vouchers in Laramie with an average monthly subsidy of \$482. All housing authorities, including HUD-VASH, maintain waiting lists for housing choice vouchers.

To further gauge the large need in the service delivery system, data was supplied by the Yes House, a youth crisis shelter. The organization reported serving approximately 165 meals for each meal of the day. The cost of the programs they provide ranges from \$530 per day per youth for residential treatment to \$235 per day per youth for crisis shelter services to \$124 per day for youth for outpatient counseling. Between July 2020 and June 2021, the non-profit supported 1,214 youth among all services.

HOME-ARP Production Housing Goals

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

Based on rental assistance averages from the public housing authorities in the state, it is estimated that about 214 households will be able to receive rental assistance through TBRA over 24 months.

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:

WCDA does not intend to give preference to one or more qualifying populations or a subpopulation within one or more qualifying populations for any eligible activity or project.

Preferences

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:

WCDA does not intend to give preference to one or more qualifying populations or a subpopulation within one or more qualifying populations for any eligible activity or project.

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:

No preferences identified.

DRAFT