

City of Eau Claire Housing Division

HOME Investment Partnership Program American Rescue Plan (HOME ARP)

Organization Requests

2024 Organization Requests

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Section I

<u>HOME Investment Partnership Program – American Rescue Plan</u> (HOME ARP)

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 appropriated \$5 billion to provide housing, services, and shelter to individuals experiencing homelessness and other vulnerable populations, to be allocated by formula to jurisdictions that qualified for HOME Investment Partnership Program allocations in Fiscal Year 2021. On September 13, 2021, the Department published a notice, titled: Requirements for the Use of Funds in the HOME-American Rescue Plan Program (the Notice) to give guidance on projects funding may be allocated to.

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) is to provide funding to assist individuals or households who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, and other vulnerable populations, by providing housing, rental assistance, supportive services, and non-congregate shelter, to reduce homelessness and increase housing stability across the country. The Housing Division requested proposals which will provide for the development of affordable housing for individuals/households in the four qualifying populations:

- · Homeless.
- At risk of homelessness,
- Fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, and
- Other populations: other families requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness or other populations with the greatest risk of housing instability.

The City of Eau Claire is eligible to receive \$1,140,076 in federal HOME ARP funds.

HOME ARP - Worksheet

HOME ARP Grant: \$ 1,140,076

DESCRIPTION

Affordable Housing Development:

EC Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Assoc. Chippewa Valley Habitat for Humanity

<u>Administration: (15% Funding Cap = \$171,011.00)</u> City of Eau Claire Housing Division

		2024 Requested Funding		2024 Proposed Funding	
	\$ \$	700,000.00 969,065.00	\$ \$	350,000.00 619,065.00	
	\$	171,011.00	\$	171,011.00	
TOTAL	\$	1,840,076.00	\$	1,140,076.00	

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

APPLICANT: Chippewa Valley Habitat for Humanity

PROGRAM: <u>Grand Avenue Project</u>

FUNCTION:

Chippewa Valley Habitat for Humanity is seeking funding to completely rehabilitate a former school building, located at 202 W. Grand Ave., in the City of Eau Claire, into an 11-unit, fully accessible apartment complex. There will be three studio, seven one-bedroom, and one two-bedroom apartment units built, plus a shared laundry area. The project will serve all four HOME ARP qualifying populations, with a preference for veterans.

REQUEST:

Chippewa Valley Habitat for Humanity is requesting \$969,065.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Housing Division is unable to fully fund both applicant requests. The Review Committee recommends funding this proposal at <u>\$619,065</u>.

FUNDING OVERVIEW:

2024 HOME ARP Request:

\$969,065

2024 HOME ARP Recommendation:

\$619,065



HOME AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (HOME-ARP) 2024 APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

This page will go to the City Council. Please keep to ONE page.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Program Name: Grand Avenue Project

HOME-ARP funds requested: \$ 969,065.00

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

(PLEASE LIMIT NARRATIVE RESPONSES TO 200 WORDS)

Provide an overview of the program that seeks HOME-ARP funding:

Chippewa Valley Habitat for Humanity is seeking funding to completely rehabilitate a former school building, located at 202 W. Grand Ave., in the City of Eau Claire, into an 11-unit, fully accessible apartment complex. There will be three studio, seven one-bedroom, and one two-bedroom apartment units built, plus a shared laundry area. The location is within walking distance of downtown Eau Claire and is near a public transit route. The location is across the street from the county courthouse and its co-located human services agencies. Reduction of total construction costs will be accomplished by a reduced-price purchase of the building from the current non-profit organization which owns the building and wishes to see it used to benefit the community, and by use of donated or discounted building materials, discounted subcontractor fees, and volunteer labor. Preference for the apartment units will be given to honorably discharged veterans of the United States military. Occupancy will also be offered to individuals and families who are homeless, are threatened by homelessness, or are fleeing, or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), Western Dairyland, and the Eau Claire Housing Authority, a critical lack of affordable housing contributes to housing instability and homelessness in Western Wisconsin. This shortage impacts low-income families, minorities, and special populations such those listed above the hardest. For example, USICH found in a single night in January 2020, in Western Wisconsin, that over 4,500 persons experienced homelessness, including over 550 families and 337 veterans (1). Further, the 2020 ALICE Report by the United Way shows that Eau Claire County has a significantly higher rate of households in the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) threshold who are above the poverty line but not earning a livable wage than the overall Wisconsin average. More than one in three households (35%) in Eau Claire County earns too much income to qualify for public assistance while not earning enough to afford necessities such as childcare, health insurance, or stable housing (2).

When completed, this project will help fill an essential gap and provide housing opportunities for members of the populations listed in first paragraph who are experiencing housing instability. This project will serve a vital role in creating opportunities for individuals and families to establish and maintain long-term housing stability, and it will improve the overall stability of the community. The Grand Ave. housing project will be an innovative approach in addressing local housing supply needs for special populations by making use of existing infrastructure, while incorporating established best practices by HUD, the VA, and other community support groups.

- 1. United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2020). Wisconsin homelessness statistics. https://www.usich.gov/homelessness-statistics/wi/
- 2. United Way. (2020). ALICE in Wisconsin: A financial hardship study. Wisconsin_ALICE_Report,_2020.pdf (ymaws.com)

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

APPLICANT: <u>Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association</u>

PROGRAM: <u>Affordable Housing Program</u>

FUNCTION:

The Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association (ECAHMAA) is seeking funds to expand its affordable housing project. The ECAHMAA currently owns seven rental properties that are rented to larger low-income families in the Eau Claire area. With HOME ARP funding, ECAHMAA is proposing to purchase two duplexes. The project will serve all four HOME ARP qualifying populations.

REQUEST:

ECAHMAA is requesting \$700,000.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Housing Division is unable to fully fund both applicant requests. The Review Committee recommends funding this proposal at \$350,000 to enable ECAHMAA to fully purchase one duplex.

FUNDING OVERVIEW:

2024 HOME ARP Request:

\$700,000

2024 HOME ARP Recommendation:

\$350,000



HOME AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (HOME-ARP) 2024 APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

This page will go to the City Council. Please keep to ONE page.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Program Name:

Affordable Housing Program

HOME-ARP funds requested:

\$ 700,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

(PLEASE LIMIT NARRATIVE RESPONSES TO 200 WORDS)

Provide an overview of the program that seeks HOME-ARP funding:

With over 20 years of experience in successfully completing, managing, and maintaining housing projects, ECAHMAA serves as a provider of safe, decent, affordable housing, demonstrating long-term commitment to helping to alleviate housing challenges for Eau Claire's low-, moderately-low, and extremely-low-income individuals and families. The agency's Affordable Housing Program comprises multiple rental properties at 100% occupancy, totaling 16 households. An 8-unit apartment building, two duplexes, and four single-family homes are included. Fourteen units rent for 30%-80% of the FMR, and two at 90-100%. Current tenants residing in these units are approximately 83% Asian (all of whom are Hmong), 17% white, and 1% others. Twenty percent are children aged 2 -5, with 16% age 70+ and on SSI/SSDI. Five households receive Section 8 assistance, with several individuals being domestic violence survivors. By offering truly affordable housing options to low-income families, ECAHMAA's housing program helps ensure that all community members have access to the basic rights of safe and affordable homes. Our bilingual Housing Liaison manages the program, providing comprehensive advocacy support services to help contribute to long-term stability, including referrals and assistance with finding and acquiring permanent housing for those experiencing homelessness. ECAHMAA is an Equal Housing Opportunity provider.

ADMINISTRATION

APPLICANT: City of Eau Claire Housing Division

PROGRAM: <u>Administration</u>

FUNCTION:

The Housing Division is the agency responsible for the HOME ARP program administration for the City of Eau Claire. The Housing Division staff makes application for HOME ARP funds, takes applications for projects, assists the City Council in preparing a list of approved projects to forward to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, prepares and monitors subrecipient agencies receiving funding, prepares the annual financial and program accomplishment reports, and ensures that all federal regulations pertaining to the HOME ARP program are followed by both the subrecipients and the City of Eau Claire in carrying out program activities.

REQUEST:

The Housing Division is requesting <u>\$171,011</u> for staff and administration costs related to the HOME ARP program operations.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Review Committee recommends funding <u>\$171,011</u> to the City of Eau Claire Housing Division to stay within the 15% funding cap allowed for administration of HOME ARP funds.

FUNDING OVERVIEW:

2024 HOME ARP Request:

\$171,011

2024 HOME Recommendation:

\$171,011



HOME AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (HOME-ARP) 2024 APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

This page will go to the City Council. Please keep to ONE page.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Program Name: HOME ARP Administration

HOME-ARP funds requested: \$ 171,011.00

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

(PLEASE LIMIT NARRATIVE RESPONSES TO 200 WORDS)

Provide an overview of the program that seeks HOME-ARP funding:

The HOME ARP funding will be used to assist with the salaries and fringe benefits to manage the program. Other costs such as the preparation of the HOME ARP Action Plan, Consolidated Plan, and Consolidated Action Plan and Evaluation Report (CAPER), monitoring of the program, environmental reviews, relocation activities, training as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and all other compliance requirements applicable with state and federal regulations.

Other expenses include postage, telephone, duplicating, office supplies, training and office equipment.