



Participating Jurisdiction:  
Cumberland County Pennsylvania

HOME – ARP Allocation Plan

Prepared by  
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## Introduction

In September 2021, The American Rescue Plan (ARP) was adopted to provide funds to Participating Jurisdictions (PJs). Grant funds will be administered through HUD's HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). The purpose of HOME-ARP funds is to provide homelessness assistance and supportive services through several eligible activities. Those activities are 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. Funds must assist people in HOME-ARP "qualifying populations", which include:

- Homeless, as defined in section 103(a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act ([42 U.S.C. 11302\(a\)](#));
- At-risk of homelessness, as defined in section 401(1) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act ([42 U.S.C. 11360\(1\)](#));
- Fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, as defined by the Secretary.
- In other populations where providing supportive services or assistance under section 212(a) of the Act ([42 U.S.C. 12742\(a\)](#)) would prevent the family's homelessness or would serve those with the greatest risk of housing instability;
- Veterans and families that include a veteran family member that meet one of the preceding criteria.

To receive funding, the County has developed a HOME-ARP Allocation Plan, which describes the distribution of HOME-ARP funds and identifies any preferences for eligible activities. The development of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan has been informed through stakeholder consultation and community engagement. The following is the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan for Cumberland County Pennsylvania.

## Consultation

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

Consultation and public comments opened in early November with an ad published in the Sentinel, the local newspaper of circulation, and County social media accounts. Leading up to this announcement about the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Cumberland, "the Authority", began to host stakeholder meetings beginning in mid-November until the end of

December. The Authority also collected questionnaires from homeless providers throughout the County.

When working with the homeless providers offering services in Cumberland County, the Authority took a proactive approach by setting up individual meetings believing this would be the most effective way to share the applicability of funds and potential growth opportunities. With each meeting, service providers would recommend additional colleagues to speak with to develop a well-rounded plan.

Beyond service providers, citizen participation is critical to development of a well-rounded plan. A public meeting was held at a location easily accessible by public transportation and promoted in the local newspaper and on social media. Many individuals with lived homeless experience and housing insecurities were engaged and provided their perspective on the ideal use of funds.

Questions asked of service providers varied, but were closely tied into the following:

1. What do you see as the main barrier to success for your clients?
2. Is there a best practice that you believe could be adapted in more homeless programs in increase the success rate in eliminating homelessness?
3. What do you consider to be is the biggest issue in Cumberland County Homeless Providers?
4. Do you think the current methodology of identifying homelessness in the community works? Why or why not?
5. Is there a need for more outreach?
6. Is there a need for an expanded winter overnight program?
7. Is there a need for expanded street outreach and medical team?
8. Do you think recidivism is an issue contributing to homelessness? What can we do to reduce that number?
9. Is there a specific service that could be provided to clients to help them stay housed?
10. Is there a way you believe that Cumberland County can help create more affordable housing?
11. If awarded a grant, what would you use the funds for?

## Organizations Consulted

### 1. **Connect to Home Coordinated Entry System – Regional Manager for the Central Valley RHAB**

*Services:* CoC manager for the county. Management of the Connect to Home Coordinated Entry System for 11 counties, including Cumberland. The by name list creates and fosters connections between clients and orgs, and between orgs, work to break down silos between sectors and counties, and advocate for folks experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Running the Point in Time Count for Cumberland County on a frequent basis.

*Method of Consultation:* 1:1 meeting

*Feedback:* We need a fair market rent that is reflective of the economy. We cannot work to end homelessness if no one can afford housing. The point in time count limits to one day and is not an accurate count of the homelessness counts in the area. Outreach is also an issue and necessary to be able to connect with those who face housing insecurities. Getting them to the services they need to stay housed or back into housing quickly is critical in preventing chronic homelessness.

*Most Pressing Need in the Community:* Lack of affordable housing, appeal to more landlords to rent to low income as well as create more realistic cost of living employment opportunities.

### 2. **Cumberland County Office of Aging and Community Services – Cumberland County Homeless Assistance Program**

*Services:* Intake and assessments, budgeting, sustainability planning, case management, social services, agency referrals, and short-term rental assistance. Especially for those with concerns over civil rights, fair housing, and disabilities.

*Method of Consultation:* 1:1 meeting

*Feedback:* Lacking good case management that helps individuals throughout the cycle of homelessness to becoming housing stabilized. The need for more transitional services to help save up funds before being housed. More outreach with highly trained individuals that can help special populations (elderly, handicapped, and mental health). Bring more players to the affordable housing conversations to be able to leverage the communities within the county to have more conversations about affordable housing opportunities and funding.

*Most Pressing Need in the Community:* Expanded outreach services with medical team, better training for case managers to help with behavioral changes to help with the causes of homelessness.

### 3. **New Hope Ministries**

*Services:* Food and basic needs, stability and workforce development programs, youth programs, mobile food pantry. Especially for those who have disability barriers to housing.

*Method of Consultation:* 1:1 meeting

*Feedback:* Many individuals cannot afford housing as the cost of living has greatly increased but wages have not. Those who are currently homeless are first time homeless and have so much debt that it is going to take a lot to get them housed. We need to be able to increase incentives for landlords to offer more assistance, but also more rental assistance to get people settled before asking them to pay rent. Most can only offer a month or two of assistance, but it is hard to get settled in and be ready to pay that so quickly.

*Most Pressing Need in the Community:* More landlords that are willing to give opportunities to bad credit, or evictions. Also, the need for more support to help those who are housed with setting them up for supplies to lower the initial cost of moving in.

### 4. **Safe Harbour**

*Services:* Emergency shelter, temporary housing, long term temporary housing, and permanent housing, especially for those who have disability barriers to housing.

*Method of Consultation:* 1:1 meeting

*Feedback:* In Cumberland County, you have the central hub in Carlisle, then very different populated areas towards the river and towards the state line. It is very difficult to provide services to everyone all over the county. Those within the Carlisle area work very well together and are trying to collaborate with each other. The other regions have different issues facing their homeless populations. The hurdles of being able to have reliable funding to provide the services needed to the homeless community while expanding and growing is very difficult. There just is not enough funding to do the jobs needed to eliminate homelessness. Burnout is a troubling factor as well, when we cannot find a constant source of income to pay case managers, they work more than we can pay.

*Most Pressing Need in the Community:* More shelters, transitional housing programs that allow for longer stays to work on barriers to housing.

### 5. **Carlisle Cares dba Community C.A.R.E.S.**

*Services:* Street Outreach, homeless prevention, emergency shelter, and in person coordinated entry location.

*Method of Consultation:* 1:1 meeting

*Feedback:* Not enough space in shelters to be able to help everyone, as well as more people need more support to get them housed (money issues) so it takes time to get them a job, pay off debt, and that cannot all happen in the emergency time frame. There are also tons of people out on the street, but not enough bodies to help do outreach to everyone all over the county.

*Most Pressing Need in the Community:* More funds to be able to help shelters expand and allow more people to get off the streets to get the support they need to get housed.

#### **6. Family Promise of Harrisburg Capital Region**

*Services:* Prevention, diversion, emergency shelter, workforce development, and clothing bank.

*Method of Consultation:* 1:1 meeting

*Feedback:* While we focus on many needs a family has when homeless, we try to encourage them to work through barriers quickly to help develop independence. There is so much of a need for programs and opportunities to help, just not enough funding to do.

*Most Pressing Need in the Community:* More payroll to support hiring more employees to come in and hit the ground running in homeless services.

#### **7. Tri County Housing Development Corporation**

*Services:* Rehabilitation of housing to sell or lease to low-income families.

*Method of Consultation:* 1:1 meeting

*Feedback:* There are a number of housing units that are uninhabitable, but people are still living there as it is better than shelters or going to the streets. Building more shelters and offering places to stay short term helps, but we need to be able to do more to get more housing quickly as that is where the shortage lies.

*Most Pressing Need in the Community:* Creating a need to get people out of their bad living environments to options that are safer and do it fast to help with the homeless need.

#### **8. Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland & Perry Counties**

*Services:* Emergency shelter, 24-hour hotline, counseling and advocacy, protection from abuse orders, public education and outreach, children's programs, AMEND Batterers' Intervention Program.

*Method of Consultation:* 1:1 meeting

*Feedback:* The need for more DV services is continuing to grow within the county, and as funding opportunities dry up, there is fear about what happens next. Only able to offer shelter for the first 30 days after fleeing, many need more time as that is limiting

being able to work through the trauma on top of getting a job, rental deposit, and other basic things as they could not take much with them when fleeing. Many of the clients that seek DV services are coming from all over the county as only service provider in the area, but with bad credit, evictions, and debt to income being so high it is very hard to get them established in an apartment before they move on date.

*Most Pressing Need in the Community:* More transitional housing options as well as more landlords willing to give someone a second chance. By allowing those who are trying to flee to get a sense of their own space and normalcy back it helps in the healing process.

#### **9. 1-80 Ministries**

*Services:* Transitional housing, food, and supplies pantry. Especially for those who have disability barriers to housing.

*Method of Consultation:* Public meeting

*Feedback:* No supports to be able to start a program like theirs, so got funds from the church to lease a house, but now are stuck that they do not have continued funds to stay in the lease, nor money to get a new building that works for both the transitional housing piece and pantries of good. Programs want to be able to help right now and cannot wait for grants to kick in when really starting off. By being able to connect to more funding opportunities they will be able to do more and set up expansions.

*Most Pressing Need in the Community:* More transitional housing beds, they get too many calls for the three rooms they have and have no idea where to have them turn. A better system of connections to resources, there is a lot that does happen in the county, but it is hard to know everything.

#### **10. Medard's House DBA The Link 4 Youth**

*Services:* After school programs for youth

*Method of Consultation:* 1:1 meeting

*Feedback:* Children are facing housing instabilities in the county to the extreme. Many of the families do not want to leave the school district as they are able to continue to get services and a safe place for their children, so they stay in hotels or cars. Because of this many kids go to school in dirty clothes, hungry, and lack the supports for the full family to get out of homelessness.

*Most Pressing Need in the Community:* Transitional housing programs for those who need more time to overcome barriers, save money, and do better to secure a home. In the meantime, places for children and families to shower, wash their clothes, and get more supplies to adjust in crisis.

### **11. Christian Life Assembly – Children and Families Outreach**

*Services:* Street Outreach, food, and clothing bank resources. Especially for those who have disability barriers to housing.

*Method of Consultation:* 1:1 meeting

*Feedback:* Many individuals may be in a housing dwelling, but that house does not have running water, heat, or the conditions make it uninhabitable they choose to stay at these places as there is not enough room in the shelters. Individuals are lacking the funds to be able to buy food, clothes, supplies, hygiene products, etc. and the need to be able to give those things is growing rapidly.

*Most Pressing Need in the Community:* While having resources places is great, many lack the reliable transportation to get to those resources. So, by creating mobile units to get out to do laundry or bring food kits, the needs are being carried out and addressed quicker.

### **12. Just for Today Recovery and Veterans Supportive Services**

*Services:* Connecting veterans to housing, recovery, and VA supports, recovery and re-entry housing & employment services, and group meetings for PTSD as well as other veteran issues.

*Method of Consultation:* 1:1 meeting

*Feedback:* There are a lot of services that we as well as a few other organizations offer just for veterans that we can streamline needs quickly, but the first step is connecting them to the VA for all medical needs which so many homeless programs really do not have the capacity to do and it hurts the people long term that need help more than just a roof.

*Most Pressing Need in the Community:* Our program, like so many others are running off donations and limited budgets, so we patch things up rather than do the repairs needed to move things along to help more people. If buildings fall beyond repair, there is no money available to move so many vital services in the community. There is also a need for programs to talk more to each other, we know very little about what everyone else can offer to help a person or a family.

### **13. Operation Veteran Hope**

*Services:* Work to stay program, and connection to the VA for medical care.

*Method of Consultation:* 1:1 meeting

*Feedback:* While what we do is different than many other homeless programs, we run into a lot of issues with high levels of mental health, physical health, and cooccurring issues that limit who we can take into the program to help. The needs in those



populations are growing as there is limited space in places like nursing homes that can take someone who needs more support.

*Most Pressing Need in the Community:* The funding needs to be available for longer term more hands-on care, as we are not going to be able to address those needs in the shelters or smaller programs like ours. We must find a way to be able to take more into the homes and centers because out on the street things are just getting worse.

#### **14. Salvation Army – Social Services Office**

*Services:* Meal services for all three meals 365 days a year, single room occupancy rentals to low income, and alternative expenses support (gas, food, hygiene products, cleaning supplies, clothing). Especially for those who have disability barriers to housing.

*Method of Consultation:* 1:1 meeting

*Feedback:* A lot of calls are coming in to not be able to pay rent or utilities, and many of those individuals have already gone through ERAP but did nothing to prepare for what happens after those expenses are exhausted. Also, many groups are setting people up in housing and not giving resources to buy the necessities to get started successfully so stressors are happening to have nothing to eat or use in the house and those costs are on the rise.

*Most Pressing Need in the Community:* Supporting those who are getting into housing more with supplies and connections to not have to pay for more household things until income is built back up. Also, more programs offering alternative expenses to help people keep the money to pay their bills but can still put gas in the car to get back and forth to work.

#### **15. Diakon – Youth Services**

*Services:* At risk and homeless youth camp.

*Method of Consultation:* 1:1 meeting

*Feedback:* There is a rise in children that are homeless or in unstable home environments that is causing an uptick in children acting out that have criminal consequences. While we could help many, the funding required to do more is limited. Many of the buildings used for our program need repair, so offering more grants and opportunities to fix up what we have helps us to use the funds for kids. We dedicate our time to helping kids so even considering grants is a new idea for us, but the process can be difficult, and we need to spend our time with the kids more than finding money.

*Most Pressing Need in the Community:* More grants and more funding sources for those programs doing work for free, it is hard to keep things running off donations when they run dry like they have during covid and post covid.

## 16. RhemaCreationz

*Services:* Connecting at risk and homeless individuals to services while in crisis, offering food and clothing services and rental assistance.

*Method of Consultation:* Public Hearing

*Feedback:* To face the decision on fixing up your car vs saving for a deposit to find somewhere to live, many are paying for the car fearing they will lose their job and cannot afford housing when it comes. The more programs that will exist to help those get deposits and some rental assistance is going to go far in helping to get people out of homelessness. There is a lack of communication between service providers that know what the other is offering to be able to help someone. If we can bring more programs and services to a meeting, we can know more that is available to address needs faster.

*Most Pressing Need in the Community:* More programs that can offer rental assistance, as well as money management to provide life skills that are lacking for so many.

## 17. St. Paul's

*Services:* Overnight shelter, dinner services, and food pantry. Especially for those who have disability barriers to housing.

*Method of Consultation:* 1:1 meeting

*Feedback:* Mental health in the homeless community is on the rise, so many elderly and severely handicapped people are in dire need of somewhere to go and take care of them. What started as 20 – 30 coming in for overnight is at times over 200 now. Many churches and organizations are unable to continue to do sheltering because of the wear on their facilities and no funding to help repair things.

*Most Pressing Need in the Community:* The funds to be able to do repairs to help all that need it, if we cannot find the money to fix the church then we cannot do overnight sheltering so more will be put on the streets. Many churches want to do more for their communities but see the horror stories of the mental health and so many people on the streets they are afraid of the long-term effects on old buildings that are going to cost a lot of money to repair little things having that many people come in nightly.

## 18. West Shore School District – Social Workers

*Services:* Intervention at the schools for children and families that are at risk or homeless currently.

*Method of Consultation:* 1:1 meeting

*Feedback:* To be able to keep kids in stable environment parents are traveling upwards of an hour to transport to and from school while in shelters or doubling up with families. There are just no shelters or options on the outskirts of the county so many must travel if they choose to shelter, but then get turned away because of so many people also

need sheltering. Many choose hotels, but those funds run out quickly, so they are forced to live in the car without access to hot meals, clean clothes or showers which causes issues with the kid's mental health and more acting out.

*Most Pressing Need in the Community:* Housing is always going to be needed, transitional housing is important to help people save up and pay off debts before being housed. But we think there needs to be more places for those who are in cars and hotels to get short term help, supplies, clean their clothes, and be able to address immediate needs.

#### **19. Housing Authority – Homeless and Special Needs Division**

*Services:* Rapid Rehousing, case management, homeless outreach. Especially for those with concerns over civil rights, fair housing, and disabilities.

*Method of Consultation:* 1:1 meeting

*Feedback:* Those that are homeless now have not only health barriers to success but also money barriers. Evictions, especially those that still owe money against them are very hard to place because they do not look attractive to landlords to give them a second chance. Public housing and voucher waiting lists are very long, so people must stay in shelter or unsheltered to wait.

*Most Pressing Need in the Community:* More funding to help those who are homeless pay off eviction debt faster to be housed faster. Also funds to help provide more resources and goods once someone is housed to help cut cost to stay housed.

#### **20. Housing Authority – Housing Choice Voucher and VASH Vouchers**

*Services:* Housing vouchers clients by helping them locate landlords that will take vouchers, as well as helping fill out applications. Especially for those with concerns over civil rights, fair housing, and disabilities.

*Method of Consultation:* 1:1 meeting

*Feedback:* Many are going into housing with nothing, and it is beyond the limits of the income they are bringing in to buy the goods to succeed. Clients then go out to get a set up for a house with limited income, how do you decide between a bed and the next rent. We are not able to provide enough resources to set people up.

*Most Pressing Need in the Community:* More connections to supplies, more rental properties, and mostly more acceptance of bad credit and evictions to get people set up and a second chance.

#### **21. Housing Authority- Public Housing (Elderly, Disabled, Families, Low Income)**

*Services:* Supportive services and housing of elderly, disabled, families, and those with low income. Especially for those with concerns over civil rights, fair housing, and disabilities.

*Method of Consultation:* 1:1 meeting

*Feedback:* Those who are coming into the units lack life skills to be able to maintain apartments or themselves. Many of which are on fixed incomes and struggle to buy the goods needed for the apartment let alone maintain it. There is also a very long waiting list for people to come into an open apartment but tracking down homeless individuals is very hard as there is not always a good phone number or address with a waiting list for over a year if not longer at times.

*Most Pressing Need in the Community:* Support those who have been placed into public housing by offering more life skills, and goods to help lower their cost when first housed and to stay housed.

## **22. Housing Authority – Housing Locator**

*Services:* Recruit landlords to rent to vouchers and low-income individuals that need assistance to get housed. Especially for those with concerns over civil rights, fair housing, and disabilities.

*Method of Consultation:* 1:1 meeting

*Feedback:* More landlords are willing to help those in the community that do need assistance, but it does not hurt that we offer incentives to them up front, as well as we come in and pay for damages. We need more programs like this to be able to give monetary support to landlords. There is also a great need to get more private landlords interested in our program to be able to get more housing in the que. The housing authority offers a lot to minimize cost to landlords and try to give them reasons to rent to those who need a chance.

*Most Pressing Need in the Community:* More places to take vouchers, and rental assistance programs. There are housing options out there but so many are not long term affordable to many, so if we are able to get cheaper options that are willing to give a chance rather than someone who could afford more it helps the community get more people off the streets.

### **Summarize feedback received and results of upfront consultation with these entities:**

Overall, the need is for funding, to help cover payroll costs related to expanded services is a universal issue. Additional space requirements have also placed additional financial burdens on organizations. Organizations are encouraged to apply for various federal, state and local funding sources, but funds are constrained.

## **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:**

The dates below were for public comment during the development of the plan:

- Date of public notice: 11/21/2022
- Public comment period: start date - 11/21/2022 end date - 12/15/2022
- Date of public hearing: 12/8/2022

### **Describe the public participation process:**

Solicitation for public comment were put in the local newspaper, including the date comment period opened, as well as notices on the Authority's website and social media accounts.

A public meeting was held on December 8<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 pm at the County Planning Office, 310 Allen Road, Carlisle, PA 17013. This location is located along a public transportation route and major thoroughfare, to allow for maximum attendance. While we did have two groups attend and were able to offer great feedback, the 1:1 meeting proved to be more successful in obtaining the feedback needed to develop the plan.

### **Describe efforts to broaden public participation:**

Cumberland County considered all comments received in writing, over email, through our social media page, or orally at the public meeting. Efforts were also made to include a meeting at a location with access to public transportation to increase accessibility to many citizens that do not have access to reliable transportation.

Understanding ] that someone who has concerns about housing stability and affordability may not be reading the newspaper or looking on a specific website for information, the Authority used social media channels extensively.

Coordination between all stakeholders in the county has been key to understand daily barriers to successful housing placements. Specific issues that came up for individual clients were spoken in one-on-one meetings to allow a safe space to express concerns and issues that arise daily.

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

The comments and recommendations were vast, ranging from the need for more funding, to more programing options and everchanging needs in the community. Many expressed a need

for transitional housing and redevelop vacant hotels or warehouses into something that could evolve as the community needed it.

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

All comments during the planning and review process of the plan are accepted and considered.

**Needs Assessment and Gaps Analysis**

**Homeless Needs Inventory and Gap Analysis Table**

Homeless													
	Current Inventory					Homeless Population				Gap Analysis			
	Family		Adults Only		Vets	Family HH (at least 1 child)	Adult HH (w/o child)	Vets	Victims of DV	Family		Adults Only	
	# of Beds	# of Units	# of Beds	# of Units	# of Units					# of Beds	# of Units	# of Beds	# of Units
Emergency Shelter	n/a	8	n/a	55	12								
Transitional Housing	n/a	5	n/a	18	3								
Permanent Supportive Housing	n/a	55	n/a	56	12								
Other Permanent Housing	n/a	55	n/a	42	15								
Sheltered Homeless #						77	56	1	10				
Unsheltered Homeless #						72	61	1	10				
Sheltered Homeless *						80	89	4	15				
Unsheltered Homeless *						127	168	9	22				
<b>Current Gap</b>										n/a	84	n/a	86

**Suggested Data Sources:** 1. Point in Time Count (PIT); 2. Continuum of Care Housing Inventory Count (HIC); 3. Consultation

**# Data from PIT February 2022 \*Data from Current Coordinated Entry Count**

**GAP Analysis calculated off current count**

### Housing Needs Inventory and Gap Analysis Table

Non-Homeless			
	Current Inventory	Level of Need	Gap Analysis
	# of Units	# of Households	# of Households
Total Rental Units	30,643		
Rental Units Affordable to HH at 30% AMI (At-Risk of Homelessness)	6,556		
Rental Units Affordable to HH at 50% AMI (Other Populations)	11,839		
0%-30% AMI Renter HH w/ 1 or more severe housing problems (At-Risk of Homelessness)		6,905	
30%-50% AMI Renter HH w/ 1 or more severe housing problems (Other Populations)		8,095	
<b>Current Gaps</b>			15,643

**Data Sources:** 1. American Community Survey (ACS) 2020; 2. Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) 2015 – 2019

HUD Fair Market Rent	2023	2022
Studio / Efficiency	\$847	\$732
1 – Bedroom	\$975	\$843
2 – Bedroom	\$1,228	\$1,074
3 – Bedroom	\$1,570	\$1,364
4 – Bedroom	\$1,650	\$1,456

With the minimum wage in Pennsylvania at \$7.25 per hour and looking at the maintainable number of 30% of your monthly net income covering rent for a one income household:

- \$7.25 per hour you can only afford \$406.00 in rent
- \$15.00 per hour you can only afford \$840.00 in rent
- \$20.00 per hour you can only afford \$1,120.00 in rent
- \$25.00 per hour you can only afford \$1,400.00 in rent
- \$30.00 per hour you can only afford \$1,680.00 in rent

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

The four qualifying populations to be served with HOME-ARP funding are:

- 1) People experiencing homelessness, defined in 24 CFR 91.5 Homeless (1), (2), or (3);
- 2) People at risk of homelessness, defined in 24 CFR 91.5;
- 3) People who are fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking (referred to as domestic violence/sexual assault/trafficking), and
- 4) Other populations who do not qualify under any of the other three populations but meet one of the following criteria: 1. Other families requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness, or 2. Those at greatest risk of housing instability. Veterans, and households that include at least one veteran family member, that meet one of the definitions for QPs, are eligible to receive HOME-ARP assistance.

***Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.5***

Within Cumberland County, the homeless population that we see are living on the streets. There are some spaces within the shelter, but so many of the current count given from the Coordinated Entry System are those individuals and families refusing to go because of extenuating circumstances.

Many youths face homelessness, as defined by the notice if they are under 25 even if accompanied by an adult that does not have a permanent housing solution. We have seen in recent years this number rise as many families have had struggles to maintain a home. It was important to include consulting with youth centers and schools in developing this plan to include their viewpoint.

Chronic homelessness is on the rise as we are seeing individuals who have received services in other counties have max out of their options requiring them to come to Cumberland County. These numbers are historically lower than our sister counties, but the number is never zero. With additional services and housing options available in a more supportive environment that will come with HOME ARP funding it is possible.

***At Risk of Homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 91.5***

While at risk of homelessness does not have an income threshold that goes along with it, the county is seeing a rise in at risk with the cost of living rising and the wage rates not going up as well. Access to services may be hard to obtain with so many options available and a vast array of qualifications to navigate. If an individual has issues paying their heating



bill, they have at least five to seven phone calls to be able to determine who is able to offer monetary assistance to pay that bill.

Many travel to work a farther distance and the bus route is not everywhere to help ease the burden. Cars, insurance, maintenance, and gas are all on the rise with the county being rural in parts that car pulling is less of an available option than public transportation.

There are also several individuals and families that are currently staying in hotels. Many have that paid through a service provider before being able to place them in an affordable housing placement. This added with staying in the home of a family or friend for a short time frame to be able to get stability is on the rise as it is expensive to rent, travel to work, and buy food when everything is increasing except their payrates.

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

In the covid and post covid world, domestic violence rose as more people were staying home in an unsafe environment. Now that people are back out doing activities again, we see that number spike. From PCADV, 112 victims in Pennsylvania died in the last year. For Cumberland County, there are two victims that lost their lives in 2021. 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men experience severe physical violence by an intimate partner. The shocking number is that 2,574 victims were served in one day in the state, which came in 2020.

Source: <https://www.pcadv.org/about-abuse/domestic-violence-statistics/>

***Other populations requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness and other populations at greatest risk of housing instability, as defined by HUD in the Notice***

Per the notice individuals that have previously qualified for homeless services, are in a temporary, emergency, or bridge housing program, are all part of the population definition. Returning to homelessness or recidivism is a problem within the county as supportive services are only available for so long and some people need longer interventions.

**Describe the unmet housing and service needs of qualifying populations:**

**Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.5**

There is a need for more case management and to follow up with individuals once they are housed. We just need to get more funding into the organization that are housing to be able to help more. Without money there is only so much that anyone can do, positions cannot be funded by most grants, so this is going to help a need in the community.

The outreach efforts must step up more, as more camps and on the streets homeless have yet to be identified.

**At Risk of Homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 91.5**

By creating a central help line, we can streamline services to those who are at risk of homelessness because they only must call one or two numbers not ten to get help in a specific thing.

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

Many of the victims fleeing these situations are trying to create a safe space and quickly. Sheltering may not be the best option, unless they are going to the specific shelter for DV in the county. This shelter is a short-term basis, which then continues the cycle of having to create another safe environment when housed and having to come up with the income to pay for things why still trying to cope with trauma.

**Other populations requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness and other populations at greatest risk of housing instability as defined by HUD in the Notice**

An individual with severe mental health can go in and out of homelessness many times as they do not feel safe in their residence. That individual cannot go into a shelter when facing housing uncertainty and the hospital does not have the room to keep them long term. This is a common occurrence that came up many times when speaking to stakeholders. There is no clear answer about what to do or how to do it to be able to offer long term support that is successful.

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

As mentioned, several times, the gap is in case management and support to keep people housed and to help them get to housing. Wage rates for case management are limited through their funding sources and often do not provide enough competitive compensation to increase the number of case managers to meet the population.

There is a need for more shelter space, but organizations do not want to tackle that until they can ensure that funding is available long enough to become sustainable in those buildings.

**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:**

We believe that we cover a wide range of characteristics already identified.

**Identify priority needs for qualifying populations:**

Case management, rental assistance, life skills, outreach.

**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:**

The consultation part of the plan helped to frame the level of need and gaps, by going out to tour facilities, talk in a 1:1 setting and develop a clear picture of needs to build a plan that we feel is going to offer a lot for the community. We also know that many organizations will need more funding support later and plan to do more outreach at the potential for ESG and CDBG funding cycles within the county.

## **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:**

During the consultation process, each was asked: if they were given funding what would they use it for and what is in the development for the next year, three years, and beyond to make sense of long-term plans that this funding can help organizations save money to make things happen sooner.

Most of the support will be put towards supportive services, as so many organizations are struggling to come up with funding to help support those efforts. By freeing up some capital, organization plan to complete build updates, save for expansions and get more supplies needed to serve more people.

**Describe whether the PJ will administer eligible activities directly:**

The Redevelopment Authority of the County of Cumberland and the Housing Authority of the County of Cumberland work in unison to administer activities. It will be the Redevelopment Authority that manages the grants, and some funding will be going to the Housing Authority to assist with expanded case management for qualifying populations. The PJ we plan to administer a few activities directly, but the majority will be given to subrecipients.

**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 the PJ’s HOME-ARP program:**

All admin funds will be given to the PJ to help with the cost of running this grant.

**In accordance with Section V.C.2. of the Notice (page 4), PJs must indicate the amount of HOME-ARP funding that is planned for each eligible HOME-ARP activity type and demonstrate that any planned funding for nonprofit organization operating assistance, nonprofit capacity building, and administrative costs is within HOME-ARP limits.**

**Use of HOME-ARP Funding**

	<b>Funding Amount</b>	<b>Percent of the Grant</b>	<b>Statutory Limit</b>
Supportive Services	\$ 682,931.20		
Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelters	\$ 125,000		
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	\$ 200,000		
Development of Affordable Rental Housing	\$ 515,000		
Non-Profit Operating Assistance	\$ 95,183.20	5%	5%
Administration and Planning	\$ 285,549.60	15%	15%
<b>Total HOME ARP Allocation</b>	<b>\$ 1,903,664.00</b>		

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

In all meetings, allocation of funding was discussed and assessment of funding gaps. Based on that information, we have compiled activities to receive HOME-ARP grant funds and the agencies that would be able to distribute those funds accordingly. As the federal grant administrator for Cumberland County, the Redevelopment Authority has record of agencies that receive CDBG, HOME, and ESG. The Authority understands where gaps are related to those funds and can also help address some gaps in funding that will allow organizations to expand into more services.

**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:**

Analysis of gaps related to housing, shelter, and services gave clear ideas on what a little bit of funding can assist with in overall goals to help end homelessness. Funding can only do so much, so we had to consult on overall goals for organizations to determine if they were given funding would it be used to help direct them towards the desired goal. Even though the funds are available till 2030, we would like all activities to be closed out by 2025. By doing so we then know that the funds were going directly to the community to make a difference now not later.

## **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:**

With the HOME- ARP Allocation and using the workbook, we hope to support 8 rental housing units. Knowing that the cost of acquisition and rehabilitation is on the rise, we will be looking to provide HOME funds as well to help produce as many affordable units as possible. Knowing that we can connect these housing units to many organizations that are in desperate need of more housing options we will try to connect the subgrantees to organizations that were consulted to provide tenants to rent too quickly.

**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:**

We need more housing that is willing to give people a second chance to get on their feet. So, we are going to be using this in conjunction with some HOME funds. If awarded HOME funds, an recipient may be eligible for an additional \$50,000 in HOME ARP funds.

## **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:**

We intend to provide preference to qualifying populations as follows based upon feedback from local service providers:

- 1) People experiencing homelessness, defined in 24 CFR 91.5 Homeless (1), (2), or (3);
- 2) People at risk of homelessness, defined in 24 CFR 91.5;

Remaining HOME-ARP funding will be provided to the following qualified populations after addressing the prioritized populations:

- People who are fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking (referred to as domestic violence/sexual assault/trafficking), and
- Other populations do not qualify under any of the other three populations but meet one of the following criteria: 1. Other families requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness, or 2. Those at greatest risk of housing instability. Veterans, and households that include at least one veteran family member, that meet one of the definitions for QPs, are eligible to receive HOME-ARP assistance.

### **Limitations in a HOME-ARP rental housing or NCS project**

**Describe whether the PJ intends to limit eligibility for a HOME-ARP rental housing or NCS project to a particular qualifying population or specific subpopulation of a qualifying population identified in section IV.A of the Notice:**

We do not intend to limit eligibility for rental housing or NCS activities, during the consultation process we were aware of what organizations had it in their five-year plan to add more NCS.

**If a PJ intends to implement a limitation, explain why the use of a limitation is necessary to address the unmet need or gap in benefits and services received by individuals and families in the qualifying population or subpopulation of qualifying population, consistent with the PJ's needs assessment and gap analysis:**

There will be no limitation set by us, we want to leave it to the organization to use the funds in the best interests of the people they are serving.

### **Activities**

#### **Development of Affordable Rental Housing - \$515,000**

The next 4 HOME applications will each get \$50,000 in grant funds along with their HOME loan funds to be able to keep cost of the overall activity down, and to help with the rising cost of supplies and manpower. The availability of HOME- ARP grant funding will be announced in the HOME RFP as they will be awarded in conjunction. This then allows us to track the activities just as we do with HOME funds to ensure that the grant is going to organizations that are providing affordable housing.

Safe Harbour- \$275,000

Funds will be used to develop a building already owned by Safe Harbour into affordable rental units dedicated to individuals who have been chronically homeless or need rapid rehousing options. The building was purchased a few years ago, but the work was not done to it due to lack of donations, and not wanting to take away from grant applications that help with services.

**Tenant Based Rental Assistance - \$200,000**

New Hope Ministries - \$200,000

Currently, the organization comes in after someone has used Emergency to help with rental assistance, as well as they help with first month rents. This would be funds to help the already existing program they are running that are funded from CDBG Covid funds that will be exhausted in the next few months.

**Acquisition and Development of Non- Congregate Shelter - \$125,000**

Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland and Perry County - \$125,000

Funds will be used for repairs and maintenance to their existing shelter space. These repairs may include, but are not limited to, a new boiler, flooring, and installation of a new security system.

**Supportive Services - \$682,931.20**

Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland and Perry County - \$100,000

With a new shelter, startup monetary assistance will help to create more positions for the new shelter space.

Safe Harbour - \$100,000

Funds will help with the additional staffing needs for the additional beds that will be added to the new space.

Carlisle Cares dba Community C.A.R.E.S. - \$60,000

To go towards a wide range of programming done at both the Carlisle and Shippensburg Shelters. These funds will also be used for financial assistance for people trying to move into rentals properties.

Family Promise - \$180,000

These funds will be used to expand the programs already offered by hiring more staff and taking more people in on the programs already being offered.

Project SHARE - \$50,000

These funds will be used to expand the increased need for food provided to families. There has been a significant increase in food insecurity and additional resources are needed to purchase food to be distributed.

Christian Life Assembly - \$87,748

To assist in the delivery of food, outreach, and clothes to those that come into the church as well as the outbound work done all over the county.

Housing Authority of the County of Cumberland - \$10,000

To assist the housing locator position, expand the services to more clients and landlords to allow for a transparent approach on working with the Redevelopment and Housing Authorities to allow for more landlord partnerships.

Medard's House DBA The Link 4 Youth - \$95,183.20

Funds will be used to hire additional staff to be able to offer more programs in the morning for youth. The programs offer childcare and education to participants. Materials and meals are included for participants and will be covered through the funding provided.

**Non-Profit Operating Assistance - \$95,183.20**

Tri-County Housing Development Corporation (TCHDC)- \$95,183.20

The team will be using these funds to expand the search for more projects within the county. By allocating more staff time to find more projects, TCHDC would have the capacity to rehabilitate vacant properties into affordable housing.

**HOME-ARP Refinancing**

Cumberland County does not intend to use any HOME-ARP funds to refinance existing debt.