

CITY OF DECATUR, ILLINOIS



HOME Investment Partnership Funding – American Rescue Plan

Allocation Plan

FY 2021

DRAFT

The City of Decatur has been allocated \$1,497,384 in HOME Investment Partnership funding – American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In order to receive the HOME-ARP funding the City must develop an Allocation Plan to outline the intention of the use of funding.

This funding may be used for “development and support of affordable housing, tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA), provision of supportive services and acquisition and development of non-congregate shelter units” for specific qualifying populations (QP’s).” The QP’s are as follows:

- Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.5
- At risk of Homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 91.5
- Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking(referred herein as domestic violence/sexual assault/trafficking);
- Other populations who do not qualify under any of the populations above but meet one of the following criteria:
 - Other families requiring services or housing assistance to prevent homelessness
 - Those at greater risk of housing instability

The Allocation Plan will be a part of a substantial amendment to the City’s FY2021 Annual Action plan and FY2020 through FY2024 Consolidated Plan. The City has leveraged a group named Rise Community Development (RISE) based in St. Louis, Missouri, as a consultant to assist with the amendment to the Action Plan and the Consolidated Plan.

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

Consultation with service providers has been an ongoing process. The City of Decatur, Economic and Community Development Department, takes pride in the meaningful connections they have with partners within the community in order to make a larger impact. Consultations have taken place through in person meetings, zoom virtual meetings, phone calls and emails with City Staff members and the consultants with RISE. These consultations focused on seeking information about the programs going on currently within these agencies, their upcoming plans, goals, and what gaps they see in trying to make these goals a reality. The table below outlines the consultations. The Continuum of Care (Coc) encompasses many of the organizations involved in this consultation. The City, RISE and the CoC held a special meeting on November 19, 2021. An asterisk (*) next to the agency name denotes the organization is part of the CoC. *Please note, because the City’s consultation with many of these agencies is ongoing, the below list is not an exhaustive list.*

Agency/Org Consulted	Type of Agency/Org	Method of Consultation	Feedback
Good Samaritan Inn*	Homeless Service Provider who also helps with other populations who may need assistance	In Person Meeting	Provides a hot lunch every day to individuals. They also offer catering and meeting spaces to partnering organizations. They

			could potentially do hot meals in other areas as well.
Community Investment Corporation of Decatur*	Service Provider entrepreneurs, small businesses, and housing counseling	In Person Meeting	Would like to connect more with partners, provides housing counseling.
Woodford Homes*	Service Provider for Low-income persons with a mental disorder and those with mental or physical disability	In Person Meeting	Mostly assists tenants with mental illness. They have four apartment buildings. They are in need of transportation.
Decatur Memorial Hospital*	Service Provider that helps all populations	In Person Meeting	They assess community with a needs assessment done every 3 years
Empowerment Opportunity Center (EOC)*	Service Provider for homeless, low income, physical disabilities, and children education and other populations	In Person Meeting	They help with temporary housing, utility assistance. They are need of suitable and affordable 1-2 bedroom Housing
Heritage Behavioral Health Center*	Service Provider that helps all populations	In Person Meeting	Focus on Substance abuse and mental health case management. They have 4 group homes and 2 supportive group homes.
Baby Talk*	Service Provider helps families with children	In Person Meeting	Focus on low income and homelessness. Needs transportation.
DCFS*	Service Provider who helps families with focus on children's safety	In Person Meeting	Provides wrap around services to families and children, provides rentals. Need for more public housing and for the section 8 housing voucher process to be faster.
Land of Lincoln Legal Aid*	Service Provider for low-income and senior residents	In Person Meeting	Represents individuals in eviction cases
Millikin University – Mary Garrison*	Volunteer/Consultant that works with homeless	In person Meeting	Point in Time Count Coordinator
God's Shelter of Love*	Service Provider for homeless women and children	In person Meeting	Has an emergency shelter for women. Has an emergency overnight shelter. Has a new house on King Street. Could use help with funding for staff.

City Library*	Service Provider for all populations	In Person Meeting	Helps assess individuals and recommend them to different agencies. The Mental Health Board funds them. Transportation is a need and how to be more efficient with offering services.
Dove*	Service Provider for domestic violence, homeless, education, justice, and equality	In Person Meeting	Runs Homeward Bound. Limitation to funding to provide housing and supportive services. In need of transitional and permanent housing. Need transition housing for those in jail and sex offenders.
Macon County Heals*	Service Provider for youth and young families	In Person Meeting	Needs to know who is available and who to connect individuals to.
Salvation Army*	Service Provider for homeless shelters, veterans, domestic abuse, human trafficking, low income, LGBTQ and other populations	In Person Meeting	Pathway of Hope program. Has emergency shelter from 5p to 7a. Need for 24 hour shelter.
Coalition of Neighborhood Organizations (CONO)	Service Provider for all populations	In Person Meeting	Need for capacity building and place making within neighborhoods
Economic Development Corporation of Decatur and Macon County (EDC)	Service Provider for Businesses	Virtual	Focuses on training residents who are job ready
Community Foundation of Macon County	Service Provider for fair housing, and civil rights	In person	Focus on training residents who are educated or skilled workers
Soyland Access to Independent Living (SAIL)	Service Provider for persons with disabilities	Email	Non-responsive
Decatur Housing Authority (DHA)	Service Provider for low income individuals and families	Virtual	Childcare

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

The feedback overwhelmingly points to the need of transitional and permanent supportive housing. More options for transportation, supportive services, and funding for staff along with longer service hours for shelters are also top needs of the agencies in our community.

The City of Decatur, in accordance with Section V.B of the Notice (page 13), must provide for and encourage citizen participation in the development of the HOME-ARP allocation plan.

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: 6/8/2022***
- ***Public comment period: start date - 6/6/2022 end date - 6/21/2022***
- ***Date(s) of public hearing: 6/10/2022***

Describe the public participation process:

The City published notice in the Decatur Tribune Newspaper that the comment period was open and the public hearing is scheduled for 12:00 pm (noon) on June 10, 2022. At the public hearing, citizens are allowed to ask questions and openly share their ideas. The public hearing is held during the comment period in order to give citizens time to hear the information at the hearing and give feedback. Once the comment period is over, citizen comments are analyzed.

Describe efforts to broaden public participation:

The draft allocation plan has been placed at the Decatur Public Library, the Decatur Housing Authority, the City of Decatur, Economic and Community Development Department and posted on the City of Decatur's website for viewing. The Public hearing was scheduled for 12:00 pm (noon) to try to allow for more people to attend during work hours.

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

Monthly meeting with Coc confirm the need for single and family housing. Agencies also feel residents need life skills and ongoing case management and support.

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

Enter narrative response here.

The City of Decatur, in accordance with Section V.C.1 of the Notice (page 14), must evaluate the size and demographic composition of all four of the qualifying populations within its boundaries and assess the unmet needs of each of those populations

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

Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

According to the Point in Time count that was conducted on January 27th and 28th 2022, there are approximately 90 individuals experiencing homelessness in Decatur, IL. Of these individuals, approximately 57% identify as White and 42% as Black or African American. The other 1% identify as multiple races. These individuals largely represent the 19 to 65 age range and male. 15 of these individuals are considered chronically homeless and 9 are unsheltered individuals.

At Risk of Homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

In April 2022, there were 61 single adult households and families with children at risk of homelessness. In May 2022, there were 91. This is an increase of 33%.

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

In our community, our agencies assist approximately 200 to 300 people per quarter that are in this qualifying population.

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

There were approximately 2,500 households assisted with financial assistance for utilities in 2021.

Describe the unmet housing and service needs of qualifying populations:

Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

The homeless in the community are in need of more services for permanent supportive housing. There is also a need for 24-hour shelter

At Risk of Homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

There is a need for supportive services and temporary emergency shelters.

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

There is a need for supportive services, such as funding for staff.

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

There is need in our community to assist with rent and utility financial support.

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

In our community, there is a large need for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) especially with single male adults and family units. While there are shelters that provide services to these demographics, they

are typically full. Addressing the concern for permanent supportive housing and supportive services for agencies will allow individuals and families to be placed into the housing where they are best fit, and open up more space in the temporary shelters for those who need it.

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 City of was able to secure information from the agencies through the consultations but also leveraged information from the Point in Time count, along with varies agencies’ yearly summaries of demographics helped.

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:

Through consultation, the City has obtained information from the agencies consulted. All agencies were able to give their feedback, and goals and the gaps they feel need addressed. The City has assessed the needs identified by the analysis and will be collaborating with some of the agencies that have the closest contact with the populations affected.

Describe whether the PJ will administer eligible activities directly:

The City will administer a portion of the eligible activities including but not limited to acquisition. The agencies selected will then move forward with rehabilitation referral, and/or selection and housing the individuals and families in the QP’s.

The City of Decatur, in accordance with Section V.C.2 of the Notice (page 4), 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

	Funding Amount	Percent of the Grant	Statutory Limit
Supportive Services	\$ 323,039.00		
Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelters	\$ 200,000		
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	\$ 0		
Development of Affordable Rental Housing	\$ 600,000		
Non-Profit Operating	\$ 74,869	5 %	5%
Non-Profit Capacity Building	\$ 74,869	5 %	5%
Administration and Planning	\$ 224,607	15 %	15%
Total HOME ARP Allocation	\$ 1,497,384		

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

The City of Decatur intends to use portions of the HOME-ARP money in order to assist with supportive services to non-profits in the area who work with individuals and families included within the qualified population categories. Portions of the HOME-ARP funding will be used to acquire and rehabilitate property to support the need for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH).

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 City of Decatur worked diligently to gather data from as many agencies as possible that work with the QP's. The City then analyzed the data to assess where the largest gap was, and then, what the biggest need would be to fulfill the gap. They also assessed what cause and effect would come of the different scenarios, and which scenario could help the most people effectively.

The City of Decatur, in accordance with Section V.C.4 of the Notice (page 15), the HOME-ARP allocation plan must identify whether the PJ intends to give a preference to one or more QPs or a subpopulation within one or more QPs for any eligible activity or project.

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:

Yes, the City does intend to give preference to the chronically homeless population. There will also be subpopulations of preference. This is outlined below.

If a preference was identified, explain how the use of a preference or method of prioritization will address the unmet need or gap in benefits and services received by individuals and families in the qualifying population or subpopulation of qualifying population, consistent with the PJ's needs assessment and gap analysis:

The preference method will follow the community's CoC guidelines the governing board put in to place. This will include adjustments needed to the definitions of the qualified populations outlined for the HOME-ARP funding. The preference guidelines are as follows:

1. Persons and families experiencing chronic homelessness
 - a. Those with the longest time in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or an emergency shelter
 - b. Those with severe service needs
2. Persons and Families experiencing non-chronic homelessness
 - a. Those with a disability with long periods of episodic homelessness and severe service needs
 - b. Those with a disability with severe service needs
 - c. Those with a disability coming from places not meant for human habitation, safe haven, or emergency shelter without severe service needs
 - d. Those with a disability coming from transitional housing
 - e. All others.