



City of Bellingham Partnerships and Funding
HOME-ARP Fund
Notice of Funding Availability
Homelessness Prevention Program

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Are grantees required to access Homeless Management Intake System (HMIS)?

No; however, the City must ensure benefits are not duplicated by multiple agencies to a single client household, and HMIS is one way of ensuring this. The City will require quarterly and annual reports which document the number of persons and households served (including total unduplicated persons and households), income of persons and households, total number of persons benefited, race and ethnicity, and location of the services. Agencies must be committed to collecting and reporting this data accurately to the City. The City will provide templates for this reporting to awarded grantees, and will align with current Housing and Human Services' contract reporting standards (see report templates available on the [City of Bellingham website here.](#))

The City also requires housing services providers to send any reporting required by Whatcom County to the City and receives access to related HMIS reports. However, participation in HMIS is not required as a part of this funding.

Agencies not utilizing HMIS must document in other ways how duplication of benefits is precluded. All agencies awarded funds will be required to comply with requirements in 2 CFR 200, subpart E, Cost Principles, requiring all costs to be reasonable and necessary.

2. What items are eligible and can be covered under this funding?

All eligible activities that can be supported by this funding are detailed in [HUD Notice CPD-21-10](#). City-specific eligibility and final HOME-ARP policy will be developed based on responses and need, and finalized prior to contract negotiations.

A broad overview of these activities includes light-touch case management support, as well as housing relocation and stabilization services, funding of security deposits, rental application fees, utility deposits and payments, moving costs, housing search and placements, short-term (up to 3 months) and medium-term rental assistance (more than 3 months but less than 24), housing stability case management, mediation, legal services, and credit repair that would prevent a household's entry into homelessness.

A detailed description of what can be supported with this funding is attached to this FAQ as an appendix (Appendix A).

3. How are prevention and diversion defined?

For the purposes of this NOFA, the City is defining prevention and diversion programs as follows:

Prevention Programs – A prevention program is made up of targeted strategies intended to prevent housing crises from occurring and to prevent households who face such crises from experiencing homelessness.¹ Prevention programs represent a broad array of strategies that can both serve the community-at-large (like the community education programs encouraged in this NOFA), and specific households facing housing crises. Strategies supporting a specific households' needs can include financial assistance, landlord mediation services, legal support, and other supports and interventions.

Diversion Programs – While a prevention program is intended to avoid a housing crisis that pushes a household into homelessness, a diversion program is intended to target households who have already lost housing due to a housing crisis. Diversion strategies are intended to provide immediate and targeted support to households to resolve their housing crisis as quickly as possible. These supports can and should support a household in accessing alternatives to entering emergency shelter or the experience of unsheltered living.² Specific strategies that can be supported through a diversion program include case management services, as well as financial assistance to target a specific household's needs.

4. Do those served need to meet a particular definition of housing insecure or otherwise, or be housed for some period of time?

In short, yes; none of the below qualifying populations may be precluded from applying to the program.

All beneficiaries of program services need to meet the qualifications under the Qualifying Populations outlined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. There are four categories of Qualifying Populations who may benefit from funding administered under the HOME-ARP program;

- (1) Homeless individuals or households, as defined in [24 CFR 91.5](#)
- (2) Individuals or households at-risk of homelessness, as defined in [24 CFR 91.5](#),
- (3) Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking, as defined by HUD, or
- (4) Other Populations where providing supportive services or assistance under section 212(a) of NAHA ([42 U.S.C. 12742\(a\)](#)) would prevent the family's homelessness or would serve those with the greatest risk of housing instability.

A full and detailed description of all four of these populations and what qualifies an individual or household to be included in the above Qualifying Populations is attached to this FAQ as an appendix (Appendix B). Agencies may prioritize within these Qualifying Populations, provided the capacity of the

¹ https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Prevention-Diversion-Rapid-Exit-July-2019.pdf

² [Ibid](#)

program is not adequate to serve all those who would otherwise be eligible; this prioritization must be detailed in the NOFA response.

5. Will there be a requirement that proposed programming under this funding be new projects, or can they be expansions of existing services?

Programs proposed may be quantifiable expansions of existing services, provided those services meet all the requirements of this NOFA and the HOME-ARP program. The request under the HOME-ARP NOFA must be proportionate to the expansion.

6. Are funds available to be used as direct financial assistance to clientele under the diversion program section?

No funds may go directly to clients. Please see a description above of what uses are eligible to be supported with this funding.

7. When will services be required to commence?

While contracts funding programs are expected to be available by January 1, 2024, there is an understanding that many of the programs awarded funding under this designation will be new, and thus will need time to develop, pilot, and launch.

It is expected that any service funded under this funding stream be contracted by July 1, 2024.

8. Where can I gain more information about how to draft an acceptable intake and referral plan for programming supported under this funding?

HUD has published resources to support grantees as they draft intake and referral plans for programming supported by HOME-ARP funding. The following recorded webinar provides an overview of the requirements related to establishing preferences, limitations, and referral methods for HOME-ARP projects or activities: [Link to webinar](#)