

# Municipality of Anchorage



## Housing and Community Development

### HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

Substantial Amendment #2

November 13, 2025

## Consultation

In accordance with Section V.A of the Notice (page 13), before developing its HOME-ARP allocation plan, at a minimum, a PJ must consult with:

- CoC(s) serving the jurisdiction's geographic area,
- homeless service providers,
- domestic violence service providers,
- veterans' groups,
- public housing agencies (PHAs),
- public agencies that address the needs of the qualifying populations, and
- public or private organizations that address fair housing, civil rights, and the needs of persons with disabilities.

State PJs are not required to consult with every PHA or CoC within the state's boundaries; however, local PJs must consult with all PHAs (including statewide or regional PHAs) and CoCs serving the jurisdiction.

The HOME-ARP Allocation Plan Substantial Amendment #1 changes are highlighted in this yellow. It includes reprogramming of \$256,356 from Development of Affordable Housing to Tenant-Based Rental Assistance, and the appropriation of an additional \$4,064 from HUD allocated to Tenant-Based Rental Assistance.

The HOME-ARP Allocation Plan Substantial Amendment #2 changes are highlighted in this green, which includes reprogramming of \$550,000 from Development of Affordable Housing, Non-Profit Operating, and Non-Profit Capacity Building to Supportive Services.

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

The Municipality developed an online form to gather feedback from relevant organizations and email it to every organization in the relevant categories on its existing email list. Additionally, the Municipality reached out directly to the CoC and some other high-priority stakeholders to schedule meetings. Some organizations came to the Municipality with ideas for projects and staff met with them to discuss the program and planning process and get their feedback. For some categories there was no response to the email outreach. Municipal staff followed up with phone calls to many of the organizations that did not respond to email outreach. Some of these calls led to discussions over the phone, in-person meetings, or videoconference meetings. Others still had no response.

*List the organizations consulted:*

<b>Agency/Org Consulted</b>	<b>Type of Agency/Org</b>	<b>Method of Consultation</b>	<b>Feedback</b>
<b>Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness</b>	CoC	Videoconference meetings	Will provide data and input on priorities
<b>Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RurAL CAP)</b>	Homeless service provider	Videoconference meeting	Interested in a variety of potential uses of funding
<b>Henning, Inc.</b>	Homeless service provider	In-person meeting	Interested in a variety of potential uses of funding
<b>House of Transformation</b>	Homeless service provider	Videoconference meeting	Interested in a variety of potential uses of funding
<b>Shiloh Community Housing</b>	Homeless service provider	In-person meeting, online survey	Interested in a variety of potential uses of funding
<b>Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission</b>	Homeless service provider	Online survey	Major need for supportive services and nonprofit operating support
<b>Alaska Women's Aid In Crisis (AWAIC)</b>	Domestic violence service provider	Online survey	Major need for supportive services and nonprofit operating support
<b>Alaska Housing Finance Corporation</b>	PHA/Public agency	Email outreach	Can't comment on plan but will provide data if needed
<b>NeighborWorks Alaska</b>	Private fair housing organization	In-person meeting	Interested in Supportive Services funding to provide administrative support for existing Tenant-Based Rental Assistance
<b>United Way of Anchorage</b>	Homeless service provider	In-person meeting	Identified a need for additional Tenant-Based Rental Assistance
<b>Alaska Legal Services Corporation</b>	Private fair housing/civil rights organization	Email outreach	None
<b>Department of Veterans' Affairs</b>	Veterans' Organization	Email outreach	None
<b>The Arc of Anchorage</b>	Private disability advocacy organization	Videoconference meeting	Interested in a variety of potential uses of funding.
<b>Disabled American Veterans</b>	Veterans' Organization	In-person meeting	Major need for supportive services. Interested in a variety of potential uses of funding.
<b>Hope Community Resources</b>	Non-profit disabilities service	Call	None

<b>Stone Soup Group</b>	Social Services Organization	Call	Interested in potential uses of funding. will meet in person soon
<b>Alaska Center</b>	Non-profit organization	Call	None
<b>The Alaska Community Foundation</b>	Non-profit organization	Call	None

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

Consultation indicated a major need for additional housing supply, supportive services, and nonprofit operating and capacity building support.

## **Public Participation**

In accordance with Section V.B of the Notice (page 13), PJs must provide for and encourage citizen participation in the development of the HOME-ARP allocation plan. Before submission of the plan, PJs must provide residents with reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on the proposed HOME-ARP allocation plan of **no less than 15 calendar days**. The PJ must follow its adopted requirements for “reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment” for plan amendments in its current citizen participation plan. In addition, PJs must hold **at least one public hearing** during the development of the HOME-ARP allocation plan and prior to submission.

PJs are required to make the following information available to the public:

- The amount of HOME-ARP the PJ will receive, and
- The range of activities the PJ may undertake.

Throughout the HOME-ARP allocation plan public participation process, the PJ must follow its applicable fair housing and civil rights requirements and procedures for effective communication, accessibility, and reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities and providing meaningful access to participation by limited English proficient (LEP) residents that are in its current citizen participation plan as required by 24 CFR 91.105 and 91.115.

***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: 10/15/2023***
- ***Public comment period: start date – 10/15/2023 end date – 10/30/2023***
- ***Date(s) of public hearing: 10/23/2023***

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

The Municipality posted the draft Allocation Plan to its website and published a public notice in the Anchorage Daily News announcing the availability of the draft Allocation Plan on February 26, 2023. The public comment period ran for 15 days from February 26 to March 13, 2023.

There was a public hearing on March 6, 2023, as well as presentations at various other meetings during the public comment period.

After revisions in response to HUD comments, the Municipality posted a revised draft Allocation Plan to its website and published a public notice in the Anchorage Daily News announcing the availability of the draft Allocation Plan on October 15, 2023. The public comment period ran for 15 days from October 15 to 30, 2023. There was a public hearing on October 23, 2023.

Substantial Amendment 1 to the Allocation Plan was posted to the Municipality's website on August 10<sup>th</sup> 2025, with a public notice being published in the Anchorage Daily News the same day. The public comment period ran for 15 days from August 10<sup>th</sup> 2025 to August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025. There was a public hearing held of August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025. No public comment was received for Substantial Amendment 1.

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

The Municipality presented at additional meetings and met with interested individuals and groups as opportunities arose throughout the public comment period. Specific groups consulted included the Arc of Anchorage, Disabled American Veterans, and Hope Community Resources, in addition to existing grantees and other service providers and other government agencies. Outreach efforts for the two public hearings included provisions for accommodation for people with disabilities. Residents with limited English proficiency were accommodated through the availability of on-demand translation services.

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

Comments were overwhelmingly positive, particularly regarding the emphasis in the draft Allocation Plan on Supportive Services. At the first public hearing Ruth Schoenleben from Nine Star and Shenee Williams from Shiloh Community Housing both testified in support of funding services addressing training and employment for people who are currently housed but at risk of losing that housing. No comments were received during the second public comment period or at the second public hearing.

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

United Way of Anchorage commented that there is a need for low-barrier Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) and questioned why TBRA was not proposed for funding in the Allocation Plan. Staff met with United Way staff and discussed their concerns, including potential issues with how the Municipality's currently active TBRA program, funded with entitlement HOME funding, operates. The outcome of that discussion was agreement on the need to continue the

conversation about TBRA and bring in other interested entities. That conversation will take place in the context of the Municipality's annual Action Plan process rather than HOME-ARP.

## **Needs Assessment and Gaps Analysis**

In accordance with Section V.C.1 of the Notice (page 14), a PJ 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. If the PJ does not evaluate the needs of one of the qualifying populations, then the PJ has not completed their Needs Assessment and Gaps Analysis. In addition, a PJ must identify any gaps within its current shelter and housing inventory as well as the service delivery system. A PJ should use current data, including point in time count, housing inventory count, or other data available through CoCs, and consultations with service providers to quantify the individuals and families in the qualifying populations and their need for additional housing, shelter, or services.

## Gap Analysis

Table 1: ACEH Gap Analysis

<b>GAP</b>	<b>Single Adults</b>	<b>Families</b>	<b>Youth and Tay</b>	<b>Veterans</b>	<b>Total</b>
Shelter - year round, permanent capacity	158	2	61	-	<b>221</b>
Transitional Housing	52	-	-	-	<b>52</b>
<b>Total - Shelter and Transitional Housing</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>273</b>
Rapid Rehousing	505	6	70	-	<b>581</b>
Supportive Housing	501	-	75	-	<b>576</b>
Independent Units, low income units and self resolutions	858	272	191	-	<b>1,321</b>
<b>Total - Permanent Housing</b>	<b>1,864</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,478</b>

Source: Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness

Table 2: Victims of Domestic Violence

Housing/Shelter Category	Victims of Domestic Violence
Emergency Shelter	588
Transitional Housing	16
Other Permanent Housing (Rapid Rehousing)	31

Source: Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness. Note: DV data are not included in HMIS so this information was gathered from other partner organizations.

Table 3: Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy Data

Data for: Anchorage Municipality; Alaska

Year Selected: 2016-2020 ACS

Income Distribution Overview	Owner	Renter	Total
Household Income <= 30% HAMFI	3,775	7,305	11,080
Household Income >30% to <=50% HAMFI	4,245	7,530	11,775
Household Income >50% to <=80% HAMFI	10,330	10,680	21,010
Household Income >80% to <=100% HAMFI	7,385	5,340	12,725
Household Income >100% HAMFI	40,825	9,550	50,375
Total	66,560	40,410	106,970
Housing Problems Overview 1	Owner	Renter	Total
Household has at least 1 of 4 Housing Problems	16,790	18,710	35,500
Household has none of 4 Housing Problems OR cost burden not available no other problems	49,775	21,700	71,475
Total	66,560	40,410	106,970
Severe Housing Problems Overview 2	Owner	Renter	Total
Household has at least 1 of 4 Severe Housing Problems	7,455	10,040	17,495
Household has none of 4 Severe Housing Problems OR cost burden not available no other problems	59,110	30,365	89,475
Total	66,560	40,410	106,970
Housing Cost Burden Overview 3	Owner	Renter	Total
Cost Burden <=30%	51,335	23,305	74,640
Cost Burden >30% to <=50%	9,660	9,540	19,200
Cost Burden >50%	5,410	7,330	12,740
Cost Burden not available	165	235	400
Total	66,560	40,410	106,970

Notes:

HAMFI = HUD-Adjusted Median Family Income

The four housing problems are: incomplete kitchen facilities; incomplete plumbing facilities more than 1 person per room; and cost burden greater than 30%.

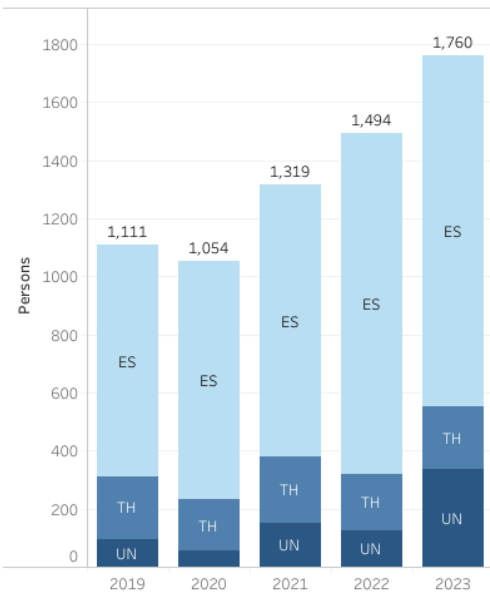
The four severe housing problems are: incomplete kitchen facilities; incomplete plumbing facilities; more than 1 person per room; and cost burden greater than 50%.

Cost burden is the ratio of housing costs to household income. For renters- housing cost is gross rent (contract rent plus utilities). For owners- housing cost is "select monthly owner costs" which includes mortgage payment; utilities; association fees; insurance; and real estate taxes.



## PIT Summary

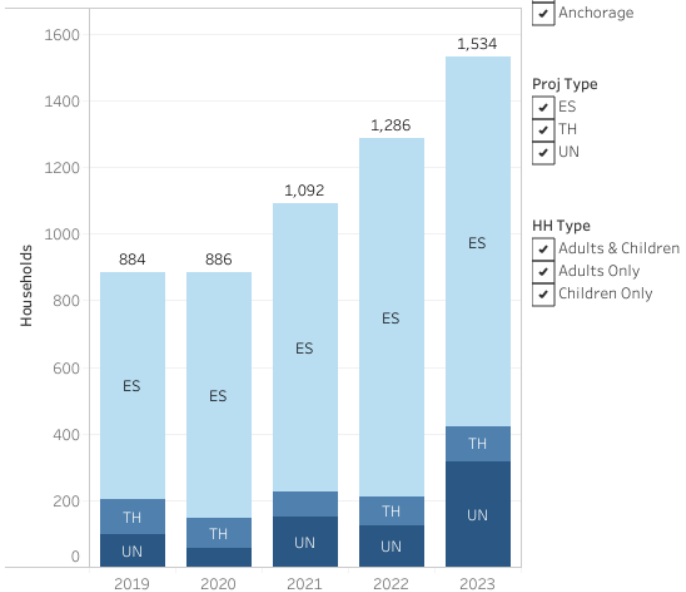
Persons by Year



Goal: Reduce Sheltered (ES/SH/TH) Homelessness (Persons) from 2022 to 2023

Anchorage did **Not Meet** this goal: Sheltered Homelessness (Persons) has **increased** by **4%**.

Households by Year



Goal: Reduce Unsheltered Homelessness (Persons) from 2022 to 2023

Anchorage did **Not Meet** this goal: Unsheltered Homelessness (Persons) has **increased** by **168%**.

Figure 1: Point in Time Count Summary

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

### Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.5

The Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH), the CoC for Anchorage, collects data through the Alaska Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) on homeless and other qualifying populations. The HMIS categories most closely corresponding to the

“Homeless” category for HOME-ARP purposes are Emergency Shelter (ES) and Street Outreach (S). HMIS records indicate that from January 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023, 4,383 unique clients accessed ES and 957 clients were identified through SO, for a total of 5,340 individuals belonging to the Homeless category at some point during that period.

The 2023 Point in Time (PIT) Count showed a total of 1,760 persons in 1,534 households experiencing homelessness. This included 1,209 persons in 1,114 households using emergency shelter, 216 persons in 102 households in transitional housing, and 335 persons in 318 households unsheltered. This is an increase from 1,494 persons in 1,286 households in 2022. See Figure 1.

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

The Homelessness Prevention (HP) category in HMIS most nearly corresponds to the “At Risk of Homelessness” category for HOME-ARP. HMIS indicates 907 clients in this category from January 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023.

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

HMIS does not track this category overall, only when a client in this category is included in the system under a different category. This data indicates 2,179 clients across all categories from January 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023 also fell into this category. ACEH has also provided the Municipality with estimates from other sources for a demographic snapshot of this population as of January 2023. This snapshot indicates 588 clients in emergency shelter, 16 in transitional housing, and 31 in rapid re-housing for a total of 635.

***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***

The HMIS category Services Only (SSO) most nearly corresponds to this HOME-ARP category. From January 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023 1,953 clients fell into this category.

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

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

ACEH’s own Gap Analysis (see Table 1) identified a need for 221 units of year-round permanent shelter and 52 units of transitional housing, for a total of 273 units needed. These units would primarily benefit currently homeless individuals. Consultation with community stakeholders and service providers revealed a significant need for additional supportive services for this population.

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

ACEH's Gap Analysis indicates a need for 581 units of rapid re-housing capacity, which would primarily benefit individuals at risk of homelessness.

The 2016-2020 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) provides data on the number of households experiencing housing problems (see Table 3). The 2016-2020 data is the most recent available from this source. It shows that 11,080 Anchorage households (10.4%) have an income below 30% of the HUD-Adjusted Median Family Income; 35,500 (33.2%) have at least one housing problem and 17,495 (16.4%) have at least one severe housing problem; 12,740 (11.9%) have a housing cost burden above 50% of household income; and 19,200 (17.9%) have a housing cost burden between 30% and 50% of household income. All of these households could potentially be at risk of homelessness and the large proportion of the Anchorage population they represent demonstrates the extent of the housing crisis and the need for additional housing.

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

A specific estimate of the need here is difficult to determine given the data reporting difficulties discussed above; however, the estimate of 635 individuals currently in the system under this category gives a sense of the magnitude of the need. See Table 2 for the breakdown by category.

***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***

A specific estimate is again difficult in this case, but the ACEH Gap Analysis indicates a need for 1,321 units for "independent units, low-income units, and self-resolutions" which would likely include at least a large portion of the individuals in this category.

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

Consultation has identified major identified needs for affordable housing, permanent supportive housing, and supportive services separate from specific housing/shelter projects. The data from HMIS, PIT, CHAS, and other sources clearly shows that there is a need for both additional housing and supportive services to fill the gaps identified.

***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:***

N/A

***Identify priority needs for qualifying populations:***

Rental housing, permanent supportive housing, and supportive services.

***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:***

In close coordination with ACEH, the Municipality analyzed data from HMIS and other data sources and consulted with many community stakeholders on the priority needs they see in the community. The need for all types of projects and services is immense and the above are only the highest priority identified.

## **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:***

The Municipality has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) and has determined that the main priority need identified for this Allocation Plan is Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA). Through the RFP process the Municipality has selected several grantees to carry out this eligible activity and is now extending those rental assistance activities through the allocation of HOME-ARP funds. Any unsolicited proposals received in advance of the issuance of the RFP, including during the consultation, drafting, and revision phases of the preparation of this Allocation Plan, was not considered in the RFP process. The process of selection of projects and grantees only considered information submitted in response to the RFP.

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

The Municipality does not intend to administer eligible activities directly, except for administration and planning tasks directly associated with the funded projects.

***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:***

The Municipality is not providing HOME-ARP funds to a subrecipient in this manner.

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

	Funding Amount	Percent of the Grant	Statutory Limit
Supportive Services	\$ 2,050,000		
Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelters	\$ 0		
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	\$ 260,420		
Development of Affordable Rental Housing	\$ 0		
Non-Profit Operating	\$ 0	5 %	5%
Non-Profit Capacity Building	\$ 0	5 %	5%
Administration and Planning	\$ 407,004	15 %	15%
<b>Total HOME ARP Allocation</b>	<b>\$ 2,717,424</b>		

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

Additional consultation and community feedback indicated a particular need to use limited funds for additional rental assistance in the Municipality of Anchorage. Non-Congregate Shelters, rental housing capacity, and nonprofit operating and capacity building assistance were found to be less important or applicable strategies. Additional need was also found for Supportive Services, such as case management, counseling, and support for educational and employment attainment. To that end, \$550,000 in funds has been reprogrammed from Development of Affordable Rental Housing, Non-Profit Operating, and Non-Profit Capacity Building to Supportive Services through a provider to be determined through a request for grant proposal.

### *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:*

Consultation and other community discussions have clearly indicated the need for additional funding for supportive services, and there is a broadly identified need for additional rental housing. Cost of new housing construction remains prohibitive, and in the absence of new housing construction the price of affordable housing has continued to rise in recent years. To that end, direct rental assistance could act as a temporary stopgap for those experiencing housing insecurity and/or at risk of eviction.

## HOME-ARP Production Housing Goals

### Template

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

The Municipality anticipated that the funding allocated for Development of Affordable Rental Housing could provide a portion of the acquisition and/or rehabilitation of one or more multifamily housing facilities. Recent costs for new construction of affordable rental housing

suggest that the number of units that could be constructed with the funding allocated would be minimal and new construction would therefore not be the best use of this funding. Leveraging other funding sources would increase the number of units that can be produced, but such funding sources are not forthcoming at this time. The Municipality has conducted a cost-effectiveness analysis and determined that where no additional funding sources can be leveraged for housing production or rehabilitation, rental assistance is the most prudent use of funds. Based on this analysis a substantial portion of funds of HOME-ARP will be dedicated to rental assistance through which many more households can benefit directly rather than through the rehabilitation or production of affordable housing.

***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:***

Due to the cost of building in the Municipality, the use of HOME-ARP funds for new construction would have a minimal impact, and without additional funding sources impractical to realize. The allocation of funding to rental assistance, in addition to providing direct relief to recipients, has the benefit of inducing consumer demand for affordable housing in the local real estate market through subsidizing the cost of rent. Such inducement is a small but meaningful palliative to a housing market which struggles to produce and maintain an affordable housing stock.

## Preferences

A preference provides a priority for the selection of applicants who fall into a specific QP or category (e.g., elderly or persons with disabilities) within a QP (i.e., subpopulation) to receive assistance. A *preference* permits an eligible applicant that qualifies for a PJ-adopted preference to be selected for HOME-ARP assistance before another eligible applicant that does not qualify for a preference. A *method of prioritization* is the process by which a PJ determines how two or more eligible applicants qualifying for the same or different preferences are selected for HOME-ARP assistance. For example, in a project with a preference for chronically homeless, all eligible QP applicants are selected in chronological order for a HOME-ARP rental project except that eligible QP applicants that qualify for the preference of chronically homeless are selected for occupancy based on length of time they have been homeless before eligible QP applicants who do not qualify for the preference of chronically homeless.

Please note that HUD has also described a method of prioritization in other HUD guidance. Section I.C.4 of Notice CPD-17-01 describes Prioritization in CoC CE as follows:

“Prioritization. In the context of the coordinated entry process, HUD uses the term “Prioritization” to refer to the coordinated entry-specific process by which all persons in need of assistance who use coordinated entry are ranked in order of priority. The coordinated entry prioritization policies are established by the CoC with input from all community stakeholders and must ensure that ESG projects are able to serve clients in accordance with written standards that are established under 24 CFR 576.400(e). In addition, the coordinated entry process must, to the maximum extent feasible, ensure that people with more severe service needs and levels of vulnerability are prioritized for housing and homeless assistance before those with less severe service needs and lower levels of vulnerability. Regardless of how prioritization decisions are implemented, the prioritization process must follow the requirements in Section II.B.3. and Section I.D. of this Notice.”

If a PJ is using a CE that has a method of prioritization described in CPD-17-01, then a PJ has preferences and a method of prioritizing those preferences. These must be described in the HOME-ARP allocation plan in order to comply with the requirements of Section IV.C.2 (page 10) of the HOME-ARP Notice.

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 qualifying populations or a subpopulation within one or more qualifying populations for any eligible activity or project.

- Preferences cannot violate any applicable fair housing, civil rights, and nondiscrimination requirements, including but not limited to those requirements listed in 24 CFR 5.105(a).
- The PJ must comply with all applicable nondiscrimination and equal opportunity laws and requirements listed in 24 CFR 5.105(a) and any other applicable fair housing and civil rights laws and requirements when establishing preferences or methods of prioritization.

While PJs are not required to describe specific projects in its HOME-ARP allocation plan to which the preferences will apply, the PJ must describe the planned use of any preferences in its HOME-ARP allocation plan. This requirement also applies if the PJ intends to commit HOME-ARP funds to projects that will utilize preferences or limitations to comply with restrictive eligibility requirements of another project funding source. **If a PJ fails to describe preferences or limitations in its plan, it cannot commit HOME-ARP funds to a project that will implement a preference or limitation until the PJ amends its HOME-ARP allocation plan.** For HOME-ARP rental housing projects, Section VI.B.20.a.iii of the HOME-ARP Notice (page 36) states that owners may only limit eligibility or give a preference to a particular qualifying population or segment of the qualifying population if the limitation or preference is described in the PJ's HOME-ARP allocation plan. Adding a preference or limitation not previously described in the plan requires a substantial amendment and a public comment period in accordance with Section V.C.6 of the Notice (page 16).

***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:***  
The Municipality does not intend to give preferences to any populations or subpopulations.

***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:***

N/A

## **Referral Methods**

PJs are not required to describe referral methods in the plan. However, if a PJ intends to use a coordinated entry (CE) process for referrals to a HOME-ARP project or activity, the PJ must ensure compliance with Section IV.C.2 of the Notice (page10).

A PJ may use only the CE for direct referrals to HOME-ARP projects and activities (as opposed to CE and other referral agencies or a waitlist) if the CE expands to accept all HOME-ARP qualifying populations and implements the preferences and prioritization established by the PJ in its HOME-ARP allocation plan. A direct referral is where the CE provides the eligible applicant directly to the PJ, subrecipient, or owner to receive HOME-ARP TBRA, supportive services, admittance to a HOME-ARP rental unit, or occupancy of a NCS unit. In comparison, an indirect referral is where a CE (or other referral source) refers an eligible applicant for placement to a project or activity waitlist. Eligible applicants are then selected for a HOME-ARP project or activity from the waitlist.



The PJ must require a project or activity to use CE along with other referral methods (as provided in Section IV.C.2.ii) or to use only a project/activity waiting list (as provided in Section IV.C.2.iii) if:

1. the CE does not have a sufficient number of qualifying individuals and families to refer to the PJ for the project or activity;
2. the CE does not include all HOME-ARP qualifying populations; or,
3. the CE fails to provide access and implement uniform referral processes in situations where a project's geographic area(s) is broader than the geographic area(s) covered by the CE

If a PJ uses a CE that prioritizes one or more qualifying populations or segments of qualifying populations (e.g., prioritizing assistance or units for chronically homeless individuals first, then prioritizing homeless youth second, followed by any other individuals qualifying as homeless, etc.) then this constitutes the use of preferences and a method of prioritization. To implement a CE with these preferences and priorities, the PJ **must** include the preferences and method of prioritization that the CE will use in the preferences section of their HOME-ARP allocation plan. Use of a CE with embedded preferences or methods of prioritization that are not contained in the PJ's HOME-ARP allocation does not comply with Section IV.C.2 of the Notice (page10).

***Identify the referral methods that the PJ intends to use for its HOME-ARP projects and activities. PJ's may use multiple referral methods in its HOME-ARP program. (Optional):***

The Municipality intends to use the Coordinated Entry process in place for referral to HOME-ARP projects, with necessary adjustments to meet HOME-ARP requirements, in close coordination with the local CoC.

***If the PJ intends to use the CE process established by the CoC, describe the method of prioritization to be used by the CE. (Optional):***

The Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH), the HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Program interim rule, must establish and operate a Coordinated Entry (CE) system. CE is a tool designed to ensure that individuals experiencing homelessness are matched with the correct resources, interventions, and potential housing programs. CE standardizes the access and assessment process for all clients.

Once a client completes or updates an assessment with an appropriate access point, the client is placed within the Alaska Homeless Management Information System (AKHMIS) prioritization list. All client referrals to participating housing programs are conducted through the prioritization list. All CE participating providers must fill housing program openings using the CE referral process. To facilitate prompt referrals and to increase utilization rates, participating providers must notify ACEH of any known or anticipated vacancies/openings as soon as possible. ACEH then works to identify the next household to fill the housing program vacancy from the prioritization list. ACEH shall take all services being provided by the partner into consideration and will work to navigate the most vulnerable household that is eligible for the program into the open housing referral.

First, the housing provider informs the CE Programs Manager, or their designee, and the ACEH CE Specialist, CE manager or their designee that they have an opening in their housing program and explains what type of household would be eligible to fill the vacancy (Single adult, Transitionally Aged Youth, or Family with minors). ACEH Transition Coordinators then use the

CE Prioritization policy to provide the referral. The current CE prioritization policy is based on a client's length of time homeless. The length of time homeless is determined by the first time the client has had a recorded contact in AKHMIS. If there is a tie between two or more eligible clients for the length of time homeless, the next factor in determining who is referred is if the individual or a member of the family has a disability, medical issue, or is an elder (55 years and up). Clients with medical issues threatening life and limb may be elevated to the 'top of the prioritization list.' Medical elevation occurs at case conferencing and is at the discretion of the CE program manager or their designee. Medical elevation first occurs at case conferencing and in special circumstances may occur through email correspondence between case manager and CE Manager. These factors help identify which clients will best fit the housing program vacancy, thus the most vulnerable participants can be served with the most appropriate intervention and not with a "first come, first served approach."

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

Limiting eligibility for a HOME-ARP rental housing or NCS project is only permitted under certain circumstances.

- PJs must follow all applicable fair housing, civil rights, and nondiscrimination requirements, including but not limited to those requirements listed in 24 CFR 5.105(a). This includes, but is not limited to, the Fair Housing Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, section 504 of Rehabilitation Act, HUD's Equal Access Rule, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, as applicable.
- A PJ may not exclude otherwise eligible qualifying populations from its overall HOME-ARP program.
- Within the qualifying populations, participation in a project or activity may be limited to persons with a specific disability only, if necessary, to provide effective housing, aid, benefit, or services that would be as effective as those provided to others in accordance with 24 CFR 8.4(b)(1)(iv). A PJ must describe why such a limitation for a project or activity is necessary in its HOME-ARP allocation plan (based on the needs and gap identified by the PJ in its plan) to meet some greater need and to provide a specific benefit that cannot be provided through the provision of a preference.
- For HOME-ARP rental housing, section VI.B.20.a.iii of the Notice (page 36) states that owners may only limit eligibility to a particular qualifying population or segment of the qualifying population if the limitation is described in the PJ's HOME-ARP allocation plan.
- PJs may limit admission to HOME-ARP rental housing or NCS to households who need the specialized supportive services that are provided in such housing or NCS. However, no otherwise eligible individuals with disabilities or families including an individual with a disability who may benefit from the services provided may be excluded on the grounds that they do not have a particular disability.

***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:***

The Municipality does not intend to limit eligibility for any HOME-ARP projects to a particular population or subpopulation.

***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:***

N/A

***If a limitation was identified, describe how the PJ will address the unmet needs or gaps in benefits and services of the other qualifying populations that are not included in the limitation through the use of HOME-ARP funds (i.e., through another of the PJ's HOME-ARP projects or activities):***

N/A

## **HOME-ARP Refinancing Guidelines**

If the PJ intends to use HOME-ARP funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily rental housing that is being rehabilitated with HOME-ARP funds, the PJ must state its HOME-ARP refinancing guidelines in accordance with [24 CFR 92.206\(b\)](#). The Municipality does not intend to use HOME-ARP funds to refinance existing debt.