

**HENNEPIN COUNTY
PUBLIC COMMENT SOLICITED and
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Hennepin County Board of Commissioners is soliciting public comment on a Substantial Amendment to the Hennepin County Consortium 2021 Action Plan, which will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in September 2022. The Hennepin County Consortium includes all cities in suburban Hennepin County.

Purpose: The 2021 Action Plan guided the use of approximately \$5.0 million in funding for housing and community development activities in suburban Hennepin County through the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG). All funding comes from HUD.

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) was signed into law, which provided over \$1.9 trillion in relief to address the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy, public health, State and local governments, individuals, and businesses. To address the need for homelessness assistance and supportive services, Congress appropriated \$5 billion in ARP funds to be administered through HUD and the HOME program to perform four activities that must primarily benefit qualifying individuals and families who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or in other vulnerable populations.

The Program is called the HOME-American Rescue Plan or “HOME-ARP.” Hennepin County has been awarded a one-time allocation of \$6,415,971 of HOME-ARP funding as part of the 2021 Program Year.

In the Substantial Amendment, the Consortium has created the required HOME-ARP allocation plan, which must describe the distribution of HOME-ARP funds and the process for soliciting applications and/or selecting eligible projects. The plan must also identify any preferences being established for eligible activities or projects.

Written comments will be accepted for 30 days beginning August 1, 2022 and ending August 30, 2022. Written comments must be submitted by 4:30 p.m., August 30, 2022, and be addressed to Julia Welle Ayres, Housing Development and Finance Director, Hennepin County Housing and Economic Development Department, 701 Fourth Avenue South, Suite 400, Minneapolis, MN 55415, or Julia.welleayres@hennepin.us. A copy of the comments will be included in the documents submitted to HUD.

The draft Substantial Amendment to the 2021 Action Plan will be available August 1, 2022 on the county’s website (<https://www.hennepin.us/your-government/research-data/housing-plans-accomplishments>). If you would like a copy of either draft plan or have questions, please contact the Hennepin County Department of Housing and Economic Development 612-543-4342.

Additionally, a Public Hearing on the Substantial Amendment to the 2021 Action Plan will be held at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at the Administration, Libraries and Budget Committee meeting of the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners.

PLEASE NOTE, due to COVID-19, the public hearing will be conducted via telephone and other electronic means as allowed under Minnesota Statutes, Section 13D.021 and Revenue Procedure 2020-21, issued by the Internal Revenue Service on May 4, 2020, as modified by Revenue Procedure 2020-49, issued by the Internal Revenue Service on November 4, 2020. Interested persons may attend the public hearing by telephone conference by using the following instructions and all such persons shall be given an opportunity to express their views with respect to the Hennepin County Consortium Action Plan. To attend the public hearing via telephone, call the toll-free dial-in telephone conference number (855) 946-3351.

If you need help to make it possible for you to be active in the public hearing such as sign language interpreter or assisted hearing equipment, this help can be provided if you ask. To ask for help, please call 612-543-4342 at least three days prior to the hearing.