



Homeless Trust
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miamidade.gov

March 22, 2022

The Honorable Francis Suarez
Mayor, City of Miami
Miami City Hall
3500 Pan American Drive
Miami, Florida 33133

Dear Mayor Suarez:

Together we have a once in a lifetime opportunity to put new units of housing into the development pipeline for people experiencing homelessness. The Homeless Trust is seeking to strategically partner with the City of Miami and use historic housing resources made available through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to further reduce homelessness.

ARPA provided \$5 billion in HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds for the purpose of reducing homelessness and increasing housing stability (HOME-ARP). HOME-ARP funds must be directed toward assisting individuals or households who are homeless, at risk of homelessness and other vulnerable population. As you likely know, the City of Miami has received an allocation of \$12,770,527.00 in HOME-ARP.

We are asking Participating Jurisdictions (PJ's), including yours, to target these resources specifically to individuals or households who are homeless. These are individuals who are largely sleeping on our streets or staying in temporary emergency shelters without viable permanent housing options. As a result, their homeless episode is prolonged until suitable permanent housing can be identified.

HOME-ARP funds can be used for four eligible activities:

- Purchase, Rehabilitation or Construction of Affordable Rental Housing
- Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)
- Supportive Services, Homeless Prevention Services, and Housing Counseling
- Purchase and Development of Non-Congregate Shelter

The production of housing targeted to those on the streets and in shelters, many of whom are disabled and elderly and have little to no income, will help create the system capacity needed to permanently house those on Miami's streets and ensure they do not return to homelessness. The City of Miami will not reach Functional Zero or be in a position to ensure that homelessness is rare, brief and one-time without adding or identifying new permanent housing stock which targets people experiencing homelessness who are at 30% Area Median Income (AMI) and below, including the chronically homeless population.

Letter to The Honorable Francis Suarez

March 22, 2022

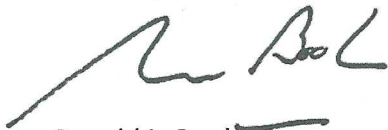
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By acquiring and renovating units of housing specifically for this population, Miami's efforts to eliminate homelessness will not be beholden to the private rental market and skyrocketing rents. The Homeless Trust has already identified several viable properties for acquisition and renovation, and we are open to any recommendation from your administration in identifying additional properties for new unit development. Tenant Based Rental Assistance and supportive services, including landlord recruitment and housing navigation and shallow subsidies, are also among the eligible HOME-ARP activities that can further expedite housing for people experiencing homelessness.

As you know, homeless numbers in Miami are low with the lowest unsheltered number in 8 years. Our January Point in Time Count enumerated 591 persons living in the streets in the City of Miami, and another 2,470 in emergency shelters and other temporary housing. Through the creation of permanent housing, we are positioned to drive these numbers down further.

The Homeless Trust has been in early discussions with City of Miami staff to discuss a realm of partnership possibilities to help us effectively end homelessness by leveraging HOME-ARP resources. We know multi-jurisdictional collaborations and coordinated systems are needed to achieve this shared goal. We are committed to using our local resources and leveraging other resources made available through ARPA and the CARES Act to ensure households experiencing homelessness get and stay housed. We ask that as you continue to develop your community's HOME-ARP plan, the Homeless Trust's recommendations based on identified need are given every consideration in order to assist the City in achieving Functional Zero. Please contact us at vmallette@miamidade.gov or 305-375-1490 so that we may meet with you and your administration to further discuss partnership opportunities.

Sincerely,



Ronald L. Book
Chairman



Victoria L. Mallette
Executive Director

c: Art Noriega, Miami City Manager
George Mensah, Director, City of Miami Department of Housing and Community Development
William Porro, City of Miami Department of Human Services & Economic Initiatives
Manny Sarria, Assistant Director, Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust