

[On LHCB letterhead]

December 15, 2022

Attention: Jason Pu, Regional Administrator
HUD Region IX Office
One Sansome Street, Suite 1200
San Francisco, CA 94104

Re: Support for City of San Francisco HOME ARP Allocation Plan

Dear Administrator Pu,

The San Francisco Local Homeless Coordinating Board supports the application by the City of San Francisco to HUD for its HOME ARP Plan.

The Local Homeless Coordinating Board (LHCB) is the lead entity for the San Francisco Continuum of Care. It works to ensure a unified homeless strategy that is supported by the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, City departments, nonprofit agencies, people who are homeless or formerly homeless and the community at large. The LHCB serves as an advisory body to the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing. All efforts are aimed at permanent solutions, and the range of services is designed to meet the unique and complex needs of individuals who are threatened with or currently experiencing homelessness.

Under the 2022 Point in Time (PIT) Count, 7,754 people were experiencing homelessness in San Francisco. Of the total homeless population compared to the general population, Black/African Americans are overrepresented at 33%, Asians/Asian Americans and Whites are underrepresented at 6% and 42% respectively and the Latinx over representation increased to 30%. These racial disparities are caused by inequities in several systems such as housing discrimination, disparate impact of criminal justice on minorities, inequalities in education, healthcare, and the child welfare system. Adults experiencing homelessness, particularly chronic homelessness are the largest population but is presently the population with the lowest per person ratio of currently available and projected housing in the San Francisco Homelessness Response System.

The LHCB supports the City's plan to utilize its allocation of HOME ARP funds to support the development of permanent supportive housing at the property called 71 Boardman. That site will be deeded to the City in 2026, with predevelopment work to begin in 2024 so that design work and permitting is complete by that time. The 71 Boardman project will accept applications from all four of the HOME ARP qualifying populations through the Coordinated Entry process described below.

The HOME-ARP qualifying populations are:

1. Homeless as defined in 24 CFR 91.5;
2. 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 Trafficking² (referred to herein as domestic violence/sexual assault/trafficking); and,
4. Other populations who do not qualify under any of the populations above but meet one of the following criteria:

- A. Other Families Requiring Services or Housing Assistance to Prevent Homelessness
- B. Those At Greatest Risk of Housing Instability

People experiencing homelessness in San Francisco will be selected for the project based on the San Francisco Continuum of Care Coordinated Entry Standards in San Francisco, as modified by the list of qualifying populations above. Coordinated Entry is a consistent, streamlined, community-wide intake process to match households experiencing homelessness to available resources for which they are eligible. It organizes San Francisco's Homelessness Response System (HRS) with a common population-specific assessment to serve three subpopulations: Adults, Families, and Transitional Age Youth (TAY) age 18-24 experiencing homelessness to access available housing: Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) or Rapid Rehousing (RRH). In the case of 71 Boardman, Adults without dependent children will be the subpopulation served.

The Housing Primary Assessment is an interview tool used to assess vulnerability, barriers to housing, and chronicity of homelessness and based on the Primary Assessment score, a household is considered either Housing Referral Status or Problem Solving Status. Housing Referral Status is limited and based on the number of housing placements available. Households whose score is in the Housing Referral Status range are referred and matched to housing, including the 71 Boardman Project.

Housing Referral Status Range: The HRS has a variety of housing resources for specific subpopulations (i.e., Adults including Veterans, Families eligible for the Housing Support Program (HSP), and Youth). There are multiple Housing Referral ranges for various subpopulations based on the supply of housing available for that specific population. The supply of available housing varies over time, as does the number of people experiencing homelessness who are known to Coordinated Entry (people who have completed a Housing Primary Assessment and recorded in the ONE System, San Francisco's Homelessness Management Information System). HSH estimates what proportion of households known to Coordinated Entry will be assigned Housing Referral Status based on the total number of Households currently in Coordinated Entry, the distribution of their Housing Primary Assessment score, and the projected availability of housing resources in the next six months. Any person experiencing homelessness who is Housing Referral Status before a range adjustment remains Housing Referral Status after the range adjustment.

Housing Referral Status people are matched to specific projects, including 71 Boardman, according to their Reasonable Accommodation needs as applicable, and their choice between available units.

71 Boardman will bring 90 to 100 critically needed site-based permanent housing opportunities to San Francisco. We urge HUD accept this letter as evidence of satisfactory consultation with the local CoC and public agencies (HSH and MOHCD) that address the needs of the qualifying populations to be served at 71 Boardman, as well as evidence of agreement by HSH to serve the HOME-ARP qualifying populations at the project.

We look forward to working with HUD on the implementation of these valuable HOME-ARP funds to support our pandemic recovery in the City of San Francisco.

Sincerely,

Del Seymour – Co-Chair
Mary Kate Johnson – Co-Chair

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