



Community Engagement
Cyrus K. Holliday Bldg.
Holliday Conference Rm.
620 SE Madison

City of Topeka
CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA
Wednesday, October 27, 2021
6:45 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER – *Susan McClacherty, Citizen Advisory Council Chair*

II. PRESENTATIONS (60 minutes)

A. Housing Service Reporting – *Corrie Wright, Director of Housing Services Division (10 minutes)*

We're going to go ahead and call the special meeting at the citizen Advisory Council meeting to order and we're going to allow Corrie share her presentation on the Home American Rescue Program I scheduled this meeting for two hours, don't know if we'll need all that time but I wanted to make sure we had plenty of time to discuss if you had any questions about PowerPoint.

It is not very long there's only four eligible activities and so I want to cover those four eligible activities and also talk about an idea that came out of housing services based off of conversations that have been ongoing for the year.

American Rescue Plan of 2021

American Rescue Plan of 2021 five billion was set aside for communities across the America. Topeka received \$2,064,600 and there's a 10% admin cap of approximately \$206,000.

Home- ARP Funds use for:

There are four activities:

- Affordable Rental Housing
- Tenant-Based Rental Assistance
- Supportive Services
- Non-congregate Shelter

Rental Housing: Eligible Activities

- Acquisition of standard rental housing
- Construction of rental housing
- Rehabilitation of rental housing

Support Services: Eligible Activities

Three categories of eligible supportive services under HOME-ARP:

- McKinney-Vento Supportive Services
- ARP Homelessness Prevention Services
- Housing Counseling

HOME-ARP TBR Non-Congregate Shelter

Is defined as one or more buildings that:

- Provide private units or rooms for temporary shelter
- Serve Individuals and families that meet one or more of the qualifying populations
- Do not require occupants to sign a lease or occupancy agreement

Corrie added this question after she sent this out. “There are four basic categories so now that you have heard the details of each category it is something that will have to be done internally. Also we can handle it like we do a RFP or if we need to decide if we are going to do it in house. If we do it out of house those details will have to be sorted out later. So the question is: What are your top funding priorities for the community right now related to the eligible activities for HOME-ARP funds.’

Housing Service Recommendation for Consideration

- Assist with Non-Congregate Shelter for the YWCA. Support acquisition, rehabilitation and support services for a new building
- Provide Tenant Based Rental Assistance to the qualifying populations
- Need to put out a RFP for non-congregate shelters

Once the presentation is complete we can open for questions from all of you that like to ask of Corrie.

Questions:

- How much time do we have to spend these funds?
Funds have to be encumbered with ten years. This is a little longer than most.
- There are rumors that people who stay in the Y homeless are majority from Topeka
Not from Lawrence or Manhattan
- Medical needs
Women and children have access to KAN Care and DCF
30 day stay at the shelter
- What is the considerations for homeless with winter coming?
Vouchers were given out to people to settle into THA housing
- What happens to the deposits when tenant leaves?
If they stay in the home for 1 year they get the deposit back to help them resettle in a different location
- Is the YWCA going to be involved in this? What is their role in this?
They are definitely involved and very interested and appreciative of being considered
- Will the YWCA have to apply?
Yes they will need to apply like anyone else
- How much money will go toward non-congregate?
\$1.5 and \$300,000 for tenant based rentals
- What does a non-congregate shelter mean?
Private rooms.
- How many rooms in one of the facilities?
One is a 24 bed unit. Other is like a home where you could put mom and her kids together
- Are these facilities in Topeka?
Yes
- Is there a commons areas?
There are commons areas in both

- What is the distribution for sanitation in relation to the room?
There are Jack and Jill bathrooms in the 24 room facility
- This is federal money will it decrease through time/
We get \$2 million it's a one-time deal for us. It is HUD funds.
- Is there a penalty clause?
Absolutely there is a written agreement with be written out.
- What HOME mean?
It doesn't stand for anything other than Home
- This money is directly to the City not the State? After 2023 would state get involved?
Topeka is an entitlement city. If state gets funds it goes to cities that aren't entitled.
- Corrie is this the only time we can talk to you?
I will be happy to visit with you via email if you would like and what your preferences are. Individual feedback is great. I'll ask LaToya to send out a reminder.
- Is there a clause that we have to spend in one year?
No there isn't.
- How will YWCA maintain this property?
I will bet a plan of action from them to answer this question and I will report back.
- Have the YWCA looked at other locations?
They are looking at other properties too.
- How did the YWCA become aware these funds are available?
They contacted me. Also I have been in contact with them due to the rise in domestic violence in Topeka
- Why this one particular group not others?
That is why I'm here tonight to get input and then I will be attending Homeless Task Force meeting and two public meetings and asking of input.

I need to have feedback really soon. I will give a 30 day comments deadline soon. ED from the YWCA will be involved with the Homeless Task Force meeting. The 30 day comment period will be around the first of November.

- Like to know how the YWCA handles men who are victims of violence abuse.
I will follow up with the ED Director
- Who are members of the Homeless Task Force?
There are over 40 agencies that attend and it includes the VA
- From that committee ask them the top groups that need help
The members will help get clarity and focus from their input
- Next meeting of the task force will be November 3rd. I will ask LaToya if she can send out the link for the Zoom meeting.
- What do you want us to rank the 4 activities
Yes. I would like you to do that to let me know what you feel is the most important
- What happens if the YWCA facilities don't meet the environmental guidelines?
We wouldn't let them purchase the property if they didn't meet guidelines.

Homelessness discussion

There seems to be a lot of homeless people under bridges etc. I am saying we are not meeting the needs of the population or services are being refused. If the services are being refused. I am concerned about that and the impact on the rest of the neighborhoods.

We learned at a presentation it takes 60-70 contacts with the person to make a difference if they are homeless. There is a serious problem and crime rises. They seem to abandon items given to them.

These issues being brought up I feel that we move forward with RFP process. We need to provide services especially to those suffering from domestic assaults. I feel it would be better to focus on those who need and want help.

Michael Bell, I was homeless and I think the issue is to focus on the homeless.

I will get the information to all your questions that you asked of me tonight. Hopefully everyone on Zoom that has wanted to meet with the executive director can make that meeting next Wednesday. Well OK I didn't keep you for two hours so if there's no other questions we will go ahead and adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.