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**TO:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission

**FROM:** Rickelle Williams, City Manager

**DATE:** July 2, 2026

**TITLE:** Public Hearing Approving an Amendment to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 2021-2022 HOME Investment Partnership-American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) Allocation Plan - **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

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**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the City Commission approve the Amended United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 2021-2022 HOME Investment Partnership-American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) Allocation Plan.

**Background**

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) appropriated \$5 billion nationwide to provide housing, shelter, and supportive services for individuals experiencing homelessness and other vulnerable populations. This one (1)-time funding opportunity is administered through HUD's HOME-ARP. On April 28, 2021, the City of Fort Lauderdale was awarded Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 HOME-ARP funds in the amount of \$2,589,019.

The City of Fort Lauderdale's Housing and Community Development (HCD) Division of the Community Services Department (CSD) is responsible for the administration, oversight, and compliance monitoring of these funds, including all activities carried out by grant subrecipients. Per HUD regulations, operating funds provided to non-profit subrecipients implementing these programs are strictly capped at five percent (5%) of the total allocation.

In accordance with federal guidelines, HOME-ARP funds must be used exclusively to benefit HUD-defined Qualifying Populations (QPs) and must fall within four (4) eligible activity categories. To receive assistance, individuals or families (including veterans and their family members) must meet the criteria for at least one (1) of the following four (4) federally defined QPs:

1. Homeless: As defined in 24 CFR 91.5 – paragraphs (1), (2), and (3).
2. At Risk of Homelessness: As defined in 24 CFR 91.5.
3. Fleeing/Attempting to Flee: Domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, as defined by HUD.

4. Other Vulnerable Populations: Families requiring housing assistance or services to prevent homelessness who do not otherwise qualify under categories one (1) through three (3), or those at the greatest risk of housing instability.

The City's \$2.58 million allocation may only be expended on the following four (4) eligible activities:

- Development and support of affordable rental housing;
- Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA);
- Provision of supportive services (e.g., case management, legal services, childcare); and
- Acquisition and development of non-congregate shelter units.

The City of Fort Lauderdale conducted three (3) public engagement meetings via Zoom and in-person on July 9, 2021, November 30, 2021, and January 10, 2022, to gather input from community members and stakeholders. This feedback influenced the development of the City's HOME-ARP Allocation Plan.

On June 17, 2022, a public hearing was held to review comments received regarding the proposed HOME-ARP allocation plan and to approve an amendment to the 2021-2022 Housing and Community Development Annual Action Plan for inclusion of the approved HOME-ARP Allocation Plan.

HUD subsequently approved the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan on August 30, 2022, which is attached as Exhibit 1.

The HOME-ARP Activities Section of the Plan describes the City's method for soliciting applications for funding and/or selecting developers, service providers, subrecipients and/or contractors, which is limited to a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process with established ranking criteria.

City staff recommends amending this section of the plan to allow the City to accept and consider unsolicited proposals outside of the formal RFP process when such proposals are determined to meet a demonstrated need, align with HOME-ARP priorities, and provide a unique or time-sensitive opportunity that may not be effectively addressed through the standard competitive process.

A Public Notice, included as Exhibit 2, was published on May 11, 2026, inviting citizens to review and comment on the amended draft. The draft was available for a fifteen (15)-day public review period spanning from May 11, 2026, to May 25, 2026.

### **Resource Impact**

There is no fiscal impact on the General Fund.

### **Strategic Connections**

This item is a FY 2026 Commission Priority, advancing the Bolster Thriving Communities

initiative.

This item supports the Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029 Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Housing Focus Area, Goal 2: Enable housing options for all income levels.

This item advances the Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Community.

This item supports the Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan specifically advancing:

- The Neighborhood Enhancement Focus Area
- The Housing Element
  - Goal 1: The Comprehensive Plan shall support the provision of adequate sites for future housing, including affordable workforce housing, housing for low-income, very low-income, and moderate-income families, mobile homes, and group home facilities and foster care facilities, with support infrastructure and public facilities.
  - Goal 2: Be a community of strong, beautiful, and healthy neighborhoods.

### **Attachments**

Exhibit 1 – Amended City of Fort Lauderdale HOME-ARP Allocation Plan

Exhibit 2 – Public Hearing Notice

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