



## Barnstable County HOME Consortium HOME-ARP Program Allocation Plan Community Engagement Plan

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### INTRODUCTION

Through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (HOME-ARP), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded \$1,556,508 to the Barnstable County HOME Consortium (BCHC) for housing, services, and shelter to individuals experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness and other vulnerable populations. The BCHC includes all 15 towns of Barnstable County and administered by Barnstable County as the lead entity.

HUD requires all recipients of HOME-ARP funding to develop a HOME-ARP Allocation Plan. The Allocation Plan requires approval by HUD before BCHC can receive and begin to commit HOME-ARP funds. To ensure that resources from this one-time funding source address the most pressing homelessness and housing instability needs on Cape Cod, the BCHC will conduct broad community outreach to engage stakeholders, advocates, and housing and homelessness service organizations working in our communities. This consultation process, coupled with extensive data collection and analysis, will inform the needs assessment, gap analysis, and implementation program required for the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan.

### HOW CAN HOME-ARP FUNDS BE USED?

- Preservation and Production of Affordable Rental Housing
- Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)
- Housing-Related Supportive Services
- Acquisition and Development of Non-Congregate Shelters (NCS)

### WHAT POPULATIONS ARE HOME-ARP FUNDS DESIGNED TO HELP?

- Homeless, as defined in section 103(a) of the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- At risk of homelessness, as defined by section 401 of McKinney Vento
- Fleeing or attempting to escape domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking.
- Supported through services or assistance that otherwise prevent homelessness or risk of housing instability.
- A veteran or a family, including a veteran that meets one or more of the previous criteria.



In addition to assessing the housing and homelessness assistance needs of the program's target populations, the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan is concerned with these related issues:

- **Equity:** to ensure that individuals with fewer opportunities to access housing resources can benefit from safe, consistent programs that may meet their needs.
- **Community Connectivity:** by evaluating current institutions and housing resources, the plan aims to facilitate communication and coordination among various organizations to help people experiencing housing scarcity capitalize on new and existing programs.
- **Respect & Discretion:** to identify, understand, plan for, and address the needs of individuals with homelessness or housing scarcity without compromising their privacy, safety, and autonomy.

### **PURPOSES OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Community engagement is at the heart of the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan process. When analyzing the needs of qualifying populations, BCHC needs to consider both existing support institutions and stakeholders. Housing data and institutional resources may show a significant gap in needs; however, the personal and organizational knowledge of people in Barnstable County communities is critical for an effective planning process. Engagement and outreach opportunities will be facilitated through dialogue and participation to:

- **Evaluate** the presence of qualifying populations under 24CFR5.60 General Program Requirements.
- **Identify and involve** the people and organizations with interest in housing solutions.
- **Learn** from those familiar with the housing needs of individuals of those who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or facing housing instability due to domestic violence on Cape Cod.
- **Consult** with faith-based and cultural organizations that provide social services within Barnstable County to understand existing, successful programs, opportunities, and constraints to housing security.
- **Present recommendations** to BCHC and document feedback from in-person and online outreach methods.
- **Convey the needs assessment results** and outreach efforts to the community, the organizations involved with housing services, and BCHC decision-makers.



## STAKEHOLDERS, ADVOCATES, COMMUNITY PARTNERS, DECISION MAKERS

As used in this engagement plan, "stakeholder" means:

- Qualifying populations who are homeless, at risk of being homeless, or defined in the law as another vulnerable population,
- Individuals currently receiving services through the Continuum of Care (CoC),
- People who experience or have experienced housing insecurity, homelessness, or vulnerability.

**Advocates** are existing organizations advocating for homeless and vulnerable populations in Barnstable County, such as shelter providers, housing organizations, social service agencies, health care agencies and organizations, faith-based community leaders, and others. The initial list of identified advocates and community partners can be found in the Appendix.

**Community Partners** are the elected and appointed officials and professional staff in Barnstable County's fifteen communities.

**Decision Makers** include the Barnstable County HOME Consortium, Barnstable Human Services Department, and Barnstable County Board of Regional Commissioners.



## APPROACH, SCALE OF ENGAGEMENT, PROJECT SCHEDULE

### OVERVIEW

Community outreach opportunities will advance equity and encourage community conversation. Considerations made to further these intentions include:

- **Equity.** The intentional inclusion of community members who have experienced housing scarcity aims to elevate the voices of those who have faced uncertainty due to various circumstances and are not always included in traditional modes of outreach.
- **Access to Information.** Documents regarding the federal standards of the HOME American Rescue Plan Act and additional interim updates will be accessible through the Barnstable County Human Services Department website:  
<https://www.capecod.gov/departments/human-services/initiatives/housing-homelessness/home-arp/>
- **Community.** The Barnstable County HOME Consortium covers a large area with fifteen towns. Although these towns share many of the same affordable housing challenges, they also have quite different patterns of residential development, different market conditions, different social and economic obstacles, and different development constraints. The focus of the HOME-ARP planning process ultimately must focus on qualifying populations.
- **Multiple & Iterative.** Opportunities to engage agencies, organizations, and individuals will be iterative through scheduled public consultation, site visits, and the option for asynchronous feedback through community surveys.

### RESOURCES

The Barnstable County HOME Consortium (BCHC) has engaged Barrett Planning Group to assist with developing the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan.

### SCALE OF ENGAGEMENT

This engagement plan aims to connect existing advocacy and support networks within Barnstable County to assess the current needs of people experiencing homelessness or housing instability. Public consultation meetings open to all community members will be held in Cape Cod's four subregions. An additional focus on the engagement of individuals in settings such as senior centers, food pantries, educational and cultural institutions, and health care settings will help to focus in on the needs of vulnerable or immigrant populations. The engagement process will also include at least one survey. Needs for language interpretation and translation will be assessed and addressed as appropriate.

### PROJECT SCHEDULE & MODE OF PARTICIPATION

#### Phase I: July-August 2022

- Mobilization and Outreach
  - Begin public information process through online platforms and social media.
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- Reach out to advocates, community partners, and stakeholders.
- Begin to schedule interviews.
- Confirm dates for major information and consultation meetings for the four subregions.
- Gather data.

#### **Phase II: July-September 2022**

- Interview organizations and agencies responding to the outreach process.
- Facilitate the four subregional community meetings.
- Conduct selected site tours.
- Explore alternative/additional organizations and stakeholders.
- Specific consultation meetings with advocates and service organizations representing immigrant and minority populations.
- Conduct survey of public officials and staff in Barnstable County and the participating communities.

#### **Phase III: September-October 2022**

- Needs assessment
- Gap analysis
- Initial consultation with BCHC Staff, Advisory Council: options for programming HOME-ARP funds

#### **Phase IV: October-December 2022**

- Programmatic goals
- Draft HOME-ARP Plan preparation
  - Draft recommendations and implementation program
  - Draft plan
  - Public hearing
  - Draft submission for HUD review
  - Response to HUD comments
- Revisions and final plan
- Submission of HOME-ARP Plan



## COMMUNICATIONS

### Communication Venues

Information about the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan will be made available primarily through the Barnstable County Human Services Department on a page set up for the HOME ARP Allocation Plan: <https://www.capecod.gov/departments/human-services/initiatives/housing-homelessness/home-arp/>

The consulting team will create consistent design elements for all PDF and print materials, advertisements, and engagement events. The consulting team will deliver all materials produced to BCHC for dissemination throughout Consortium communities.

Throughout the planning process, announcements for engagement will be provided using display boards, flyers, email lists, and other available means. Locations for display boards include town halls, the public libraries, senior centers, and other community centers throughout the consortium communities. Flyers and short news items will be delivered primarily through email blasts, Barnstable County's Twitter and Facebook accounts, social media accounts held by participating communities, and members of the BCHC Advisory Council. Upon request, the consulting team will provide newsletter updates or PDF flyers for printing or electronic distribution to the groups below and other groups identified during the planning process.

## MESSAGING

This planning process is defined by the current needs of residents in Barnstable County. Outreach opportunities facilitated by the consulting team aim to orient the plan toward the equitable allocation of funds to meet the needs of qualifying populations.

The needs of the homeless, those at risk of homelessness, and populations with housing instability are unique. The consulting team aims to prepare materials to depict personal realities and the need for additional resources. An informational campaign depicting individuals included in the qualifying populations and beneficial programs may alter misconceptions of this planning process and begin community discourse.



## **APPENDIX A: LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS, ADVOCATES, COMMUNITY PARTNERS FOR OUTREACH PROCESS**

### **Housing and Homelessness Services**

Cape & Islands CoC  
Carriage House  
Champ Homes  
Chatham Ecumenical Council for Homeless (CECH)  
Community Development Partnership (CDP)  
Coordinated Entry System (CES)  
Duffy Health Center  
Falmouth Housing Corporation  
Falmouth Housing Trust (FHT)  
Habitat for Humanity  
Harwich Ecumenical Council for the Homeless (HECH)  
Homebuilders & Remodelers Association of Cape Cod  
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)  
Homeless Prevention Council (HPC)  
Housing Assistance Corporation of Cape Cod (HAC)  
Independence House  
Maplewood Nursing Home  
Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH)  
Regional Network on Homelessness Policy Board (RSAC)  
WE CAN  
Youth & Young Adults (YYA)

### **Health Care, Substance Abuse Services**

Barnstable County Human Services/Behavioral Health  
Behavioral Health Innovators, Inc.  
Cape Cod Health Care  
Cape Cod Health Care Foundation  
Gosnold Behavioral Health Treatment Center  
Outer Cape Health Services  
Regional Substance Addiction Council (RSAC)  
Visiting Nurses Association (VNA)  
Whole Health Pharmacy

### **Human Services**

AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod  
Cape Abilities of Cape Cod  
Cape and Islands Veterans Outreach Center



Cape Cod Disability Network, Inc.  
Cape Cod Hunger Network  
Cape Organization for Rights of the Disabled (CORD)  
Catholic Social Services  
Community Action Committee of the Cape and Islands  
Driven Women  
Elder Services of Cape Cod and the Islands  
Family Service Association-Seaview Adult Day Health Director  
Falmouth Human Services  
Head Start at YMCA Cape Cod  
Healthy Aging Cape Cod  
Helping Our Women  
Mashpee Human Services  
No Place for Hate  
Samaritans on Cape Cod & Islands  
Sight Loss Services, Inc. Cape & Islands  
South Coastal Counties Legal Services  
YMCA Cape Cod

**Faith Communities**

Barnstable Interfaith Council (BIC)  
Cape Cod Council of Churches  
Islamic Center of Cape Cod  
Nauset Interfaith Council

**Employment, Job Training, Workforce Development**

Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce  
Cape Cod Canal Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Chambers of Commerce in Yarmouth, Chatham, Dennis, Falmouth, Brewster, Orleans, Eastham,  
Mashpee, and Provincetown  
Greater Hyannis Chamber of Commerce  
Job Training and Employment Corporation (JETC)

**Immigration, Cultural Organizations**

Cape Cod Cape Verdean Museum and Cultural Center  
Cape Cod Children's Place  
Immigration Resource Center  
Independence House/LatinX in Action  
Wampanoag Tribe





### **Education and Child Care**

Cape Cod Community College (CCCC)  
Cape Cod Cooperative Extension  
Cape Cod Technical High School  
Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical School

### **Charitable Organizations, Community Foundations**

Cape Cod Foundation

### **County Partners**

Cape & Island State Senators & Representatives  
Cape & Islands District Attorney's Office  
Cape Cod Cooperative Extension  
Barnstable County Administrator  
Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates  
Cape Cod Commission  
Barnstable County Board of Regional Commissioners  
Barnstable County Probation Department

### **Community Partners**

*In the Town of Bourne, Sandwich, Falmouth, Mashpee, Barnstable, Dennis, Yarmouth, Harwich, Brewster, Orleans, Chatham, Eastham, Wellfleet, Truro, Provincetown*

Town Administrators  
Town Planners  
Housing Coordinators  
Housing Authorities  
Police Departments  
Emergency Medical Personnel  
Health and Human Services Departments  
Public School Guidance /Student Services Departments



## APPENDIX B: SOURCES OF DATA

- Barnstable County Continuum of Care (CoC)
  - Barnstable County Homeless Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, 2021, 2022
    - ⊕ Age Cohort
    - ⊕ Household Type
    - ⊕ Category of Qualifying Populations
  - Barnstable County Housing Inventory Count (HIC)
  - Barnstable County, Racial Equity Analysis (2021)
  
- Chapter 40B Subsidized Housing Inventory
  
- HUD Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) Data
  
- Housing Market Data
  - CoStar Market Data
  - Reonomy
  - Rentometer
  - Banker & Tradesman
  - Homebuilders & Remodelers Association of Cape Cod
  - Cape Cod & Islands Association of Realtors
  - Cape Cod 5
  - Housing Lottery and Lease-Up Data
  
- U.S. Census Bureau
  - American Community Survey
  - Decennial Census (2020, 2010, 2000)
  - *Income and Poverty in the U.S.* (2020)

