



**City of Dallas**

# **ARPA Provider Strategy Session Feedback Results**

**Citizen Homelessness Commission  
June 7, 2021**

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City of Dallas

# Presentation Overview



- Funding Availability and Requirements
- Background – OHS Strategy Sessions
- Major Topics of Discussion
  - Shelter
  - Housing
  - Supportive Services
- Other Issues and Needs Identified
- Citizen Homelessness Commission Input
- Summary
- Next Steps



# Funding Availability and Requirements



## American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

- Homelessness Assistance and Supportive Services Program (HASS)
  - Housing and Urban Development (HUD) HOME Grant
  - \$21M



# Background – OHS Strategy Sessions



## Informal Survey

- Survey of direct services providers conducted between 04/26/2021 and 05/03/2021
- Purpose of survey
  - Identify gaps in the homeless services system
  - Prioritize topics for listening sessions
    - Topics intended to establish OHS' goals and projects for anticipated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding
- Respondents had opportunity to provide feedback on listening session topics

## Listening Sessions

- First event of its kind hosted by OHS
- Video conference conducted on 05/21/2021 and 05/25/2021 (attendance at only one required)
- Representatives of 30 organizations attended the sessions
- Survey results presented followed by discussion organized by topic area
- Role of OHS staff was to listen
- Ample opportunity for every guest to be heard over the 3-hour session



# Funding Availability and Requirements



## • Eligible Uses

- Production or preservation of affordable housing
- Tenant-based rental assistance
- Supportive services including homeless prevention services and housing counseling
- Purchase or development of non-congregate shelter for individuals and families experiencing homelessness which may be used for the following:
  - Converted to permanent affordable housing
  - Emergency shelter
  - Converted to permanent housing
  - Remain as non-congregate shelter units



# Funding Availability and Requirements

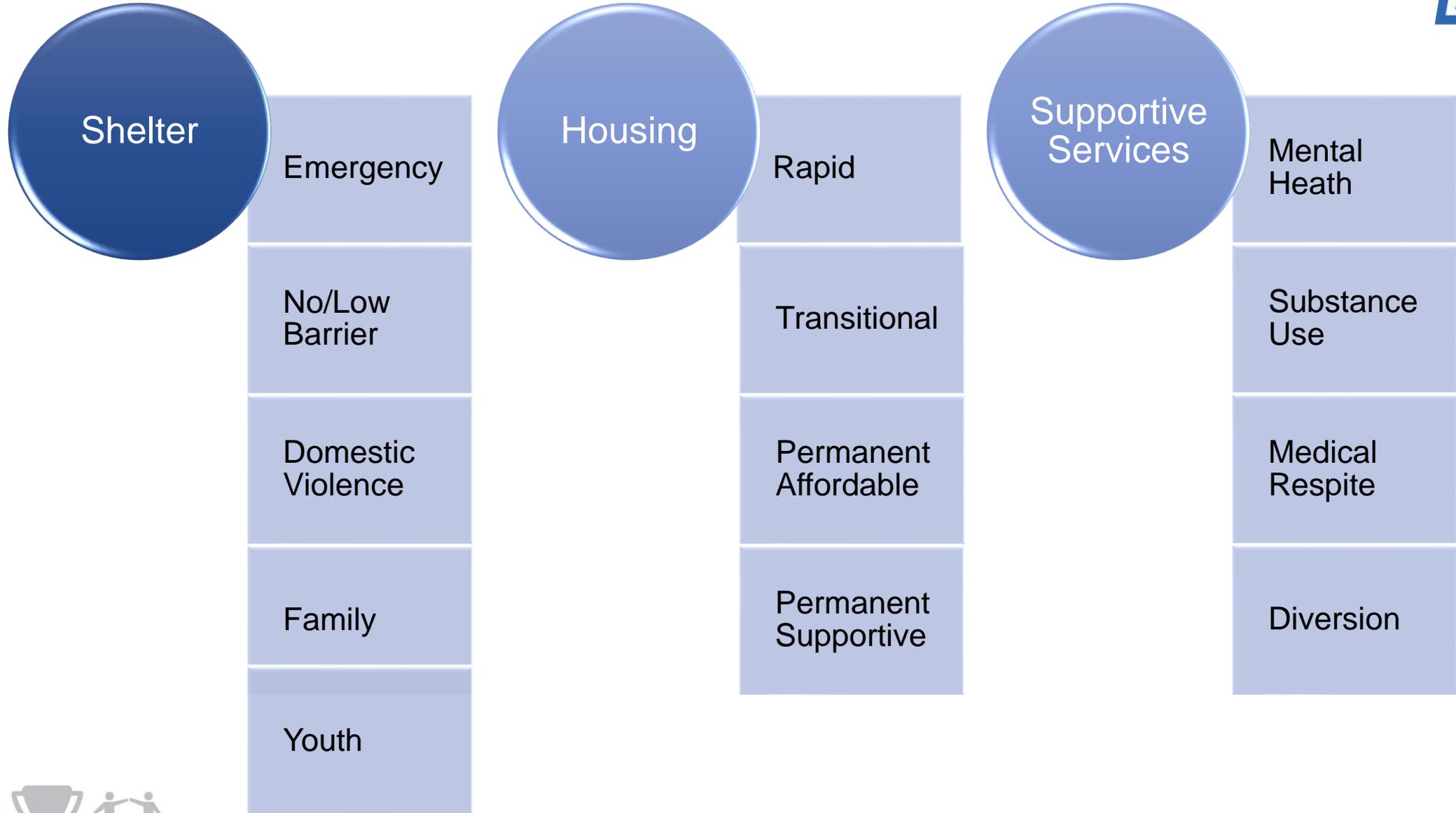


## • Eligible Uses (continued)

- Up to 15% for administrative and planning costs
- Up to 5% for operating costs for community housing development organizations (CHDO) or other non-profit organizations (including homeless providers)



# Major Topics of Discussion



# Topic 1: Shelter



Emergency Shelter	No/Low-Barrier	Domestic Violence	Family	Youth
Additional space Shelter capacity with intake/extended hours of operation including weekends	Low barrier shelter for singles and families	Only 5 domestic violence (DV) shelters in Dallas	High rate of crossover between family and domestic violence (DV) shelters	Only one youth-specific shelter (Promise House)
Shelter specifically for people unable to fully ambulate or use facilities without assistance	Most of the existing youth housing is not low barrier	Not enough beds for single women	Overflow into family shelters when DV beds are full but family shelters do not offer the required security	Most shelters do not offer a separate space for youth who feel singled out in larger shelters
Shelter in Southern sector and/or Oak Cliff area	Increases shelter opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals			Shelter with LGBTQ-specific and trauma-informed case management
Access to public restrooms on weekends				



# Topic 2: Housing



Rapid Rehousing (RRH)	Transitional	Permanent Affordable	Permanent Supportive	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Per the 2021 Point In Time Homeless Count, need exists for additional RRH</li> <li>Target groups are homeless veterans and the chronically unsheltered population</li> </ul>	<p>Needed for those who are either not ready or unable to sign a lease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Victims of domestic violence</li> <li>Youth with no credit history</li> </ul>	<p>More workforce or affordable housing</p>	<p>Many of the current unsheltered residents are chronically homeless and need housing with supportive services</p>	<p>Housing with case management to ensure stability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More project and tenant-based vouchers</li> <li>Creative solutions for more housing</li> </ul>
	<p>Evidence-based practices at one shelter for homeless families indicates those placed into transitional housing do not re-enter homelessness due to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They are ready for housing when they present at the shelter</li> <li>Supportive services provided in transitional shelter essential to successful outcome</li> </ul>	<p>Rapid Rehousing needs more stock of affordable housing to ensure clients exit the program into permanent housing and remain housed</p>		<p>Specialty housing for pregnant teens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need exceeds availability</li> <li>Following delivery, most shelters will not accept individuals under the age of 18</li> <li>5-10 teens each week need housing</li> </ul>
	<p>Supportive services needed in this type of housing in order to prepare residents for permanent housing</p>	<p>Housing needed in high opportunity areas</p>		<p>Specialty Housing for formerly incarcerated having difficulty securing housing</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People engage more deeply with providers and resources in the shelters providing day and night services</li> <li>Providers need access to affordable housing for clients</li> </ul>		



# Topic Area 3: Supportive Services



Mental Health	Substance Use	Medical Respite	Diversion
Treatment Team approach at shelters	Lack of funding for clients transitioning to sober living upon release from treatment facilities	Medical respite – should be short term	Sponsor pop up case managers for youth at locations such as libraries
Recognize mental health crisis due to social isolation caused by COVID compounded by homelessness		Medical procedures postponed due to the lack of a discharge address	Counseling and therapy to address trauma experienced by homeless youth
Mental health workers at homeless encampments		Respite should include transition into housing (technical requirement)	Coordinated hotline or access point for youth experiencing homelessness
Preventative Health Services to help people stay housed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow single mothers with children in day care to access counseling while working</li> </ul>		Number of persons experiencing homelessness with co-occurring amputations and mental health needs is increasing	Diversion for entry into housing attached to programming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional funding needed to reduce recidivism</li> </ul>



# Other Issues and Needs Identified



- Increase in tenant evictions
- Legal services for evictions and credit restoration assistance
- Landlord incentivization
- Payee program to teach residents to save money and pay rent to landlords on their behalf
  - Already successful with residents on SSI/SSDI
  - Provides additional insurance for landlords
- Childcare (affordable)
  - HUD funding eliminated for organizations that only provide support services
- Dental care
- State Supplemental Income (SSI) far below Dallas Fair Market Rent (FMR)
- More data to increase accountability and stewardship of funds
- Increased infrastructure, training, and appreciation needed for employees serving persons experiencing homelessness
- Identify opportunities for faith organizations



# Summary



## **More services and funding needed at all levels**

According to the 2021 Point In Time Homeless Count, 87% of the homeless population is over the age of 24, 74% are male, and 55% are Black/African American

### • **HOUSING**

- Transitional housing not HUD recommended but still needed by this community
- Additional permanent supportive housing needed for the aging and chronically unsheltered population
- Affordable housing needed in high opportunity areas

### • **SERVICES**

- Shelter is more successful when it includes case management
- Supportive services are crucial to reducing homelessness but providers need funding to support the activities
- OHS contract awards pending for the following:
  - Homeless Diversion
  - Emergency Services
  - Youth Homelessness



# Next Steps



- **Public Engagement (Dates Pending)**

- Community Feedback Survey
- Listening Session A: Dallas residents
- Listening Session B: Unsheltered/Recently Unsheltered Population
- Racial Equity Discussion
  - Requested moderator – Regina Cannon, Chief Equity and Impact Officer, C4 Innovations
- City Council assistance needed with the following:
  - Share information about the community survey and listening session with constituents
  - Refer interested participants to OHS ([strategicpartners@dallascityhall.com](mailto:strategicpartners@dallascityhall.com))

- **CHC and City Council HHS Committee Presentations**

- Provider Listening Sessions
  - CHC – 06/07/2021
  - HHS Committee – 06/08/2021
- Community Survey and Listening Sessions
  - CHC and HHS Committee – Dates Pending





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