



Town of Sudbury

Housing Trust

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October 25, 2021

To: Sudbury Select Board, Town Manager Henry Hayes
From: John Riordan, Vice-Chair, Sudbury Housing Trust
CC: Cynthia Howe, Chair, Sudbury Housing Trust
RE: Sudbury Housing Trust ARPA Funds request

The Sudbury Housing Trust (the “Trust”) appreciates the Select Board’s interest in asking for ideas on the town’s use of state allocated American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”) funds.

With respect to housing, an affirmatively stated priority need under ARPA, we understand that program requirements limit use of ARPA funds to specified Qualifying Census Tracts for uses such as preservation or creation of affordable housing units. Assuming that Sudbury does not include designated Qualified Census Tracts, the Trust has not included housing creation in this request. If this assumption is not correct, please let us know.

The Trust does request funds to help residents cost burdened and/or at risk for homelessness due to a decrease in income due to COVID. The Trust proposes funding the following programs with state allocated ARPA funds:

1. Tenant rental assistance program for residents impacted by COVID (\$125k):
2. COVID Small Grant Program for deferred maintenance due to COVID loss of income, available to homeowners and small landlords (\$75k):
3. Mortgage Assistance program (\$75k), providing two months of mortgage principal assistance; and

In each of these program ideas, the applicant will be evaluated for eligibility under specified income limits where the applicant is cost burdened (spending more than 30% on housing), their income has decreased due to COVID, and certain other program requirements.

The Trust is well positioned to implement these program ideas, as they are similar to existing programs successfully developed and managed by the Trust during the ongoing COVID crisis. In addition the Trust has access to the Regional Housing Services Office which provides similar program design and administration for other neighboring communities. Total funding of this request for meeting these critical local housing needs would be approximately 5% of the state allocated ARPA funds to Sudbury.

The Trust thanks the Select Board and the Town Manager for considering this request.