

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2022 3:22 PM
To: Dan.Levine@self-help.org
Cc: Colleen Willger; Sarah Vinas; Adam Searing; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; Laura Selmer; Loryn Clark; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Maurice Jones; Rae Buckley; Ran Northam; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver
Subject: FW: Utilizing ARPA for Affordable Housing
Attachments: 020122 ARPA letter to CHTC.pdf

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



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From: Dan Levine <Dan.Levine@self-help.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 1:23 PM
To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>; Manager <manager@townofchapelhill.org>; Sarah Vinas <svinas@townofchapelhill.org>
Cc: Kimberly Sanchez <ksanchez@communityhometruster.org>
Subject: Utilizing ARPA for Affordable Housing

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report forward to reportspam@townofchapelhill.org

Dear Mayor, Council Members, Manager Jones, and Director Vinas,

Please find attached (.pdf) a letter from the Orange County Affordable Housing Coalition advocating for the Town to dedicate the majority of ARPA funds to housing-related uses.

Best regards,

Dan Levine, 2021-22 OCAHC Co-Chair
Kimberly Sanchez, 2022-23 OCAHC Co-Chair



orangehousing.org
ochousingcoalition@gmail.com

February 1, 2022

Dear Mayor Hemminger and members of Town Council,

We write to you as a coalition of housing providers and advocates who see firsthand the dire need for affordable housing and **urge you to prioritize the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds towards housing needs in our community**. We know that you have used surveys as well as office hours to gather input, but it is so important to seize this rare opportunity to use federal funds to support housing individuals and families in our community who are at the lowest income levels. This federally-fueled investment can be the catalyst for transformative progress that would have a lasting impact on our community.

According to [data just released by the North Carolina Housing Coalition](#), nearly 16,000 households, or 30% of our county population, are cost-burdened, paying more than 30% of their income toward housing. Nearly half of all renters in Orange County are cost-burdened. A renter needs to make more than \$45,000 to afford a two-bedroom apartment, meaning those in our community working in hospitality, retail, non-profit, education and childcare jobs and even some of those working in construction and health care simply cannot afford it.

During the pandemic, the need for more housing has increased at the same time construction costs and supply chain issues have slowed down the creation of units. These same COVID-related construction issues have driven up construction costs on affordable housing projects *currently* in the pipeline. And though evictions and utility payments have been paused, we have heard from utility organizations that there are families in our community who are at risk of facing incredible cost burdens from back bills once we come out of a state of emergency.

According to the [U.S. Treasury's rule on the use of these funds](#), ARPA funding can support emergency housing assistance, housing vouchers, home repair, development of affordable housing and permanent supportive housing, and even the conversion of abandoned or vacant properties to affordable housing. The leadership of our housing partners stands ready to work with staff to identify shovel-ready projects and gaps where this funding could make a transformational difference.

By creating more housing opportunities, we can make our community affordable to everyone, including service workers, teachers, bus drivers, local government staff, non-profit workers, and those transitioning out of homelessness. These individuals contribute to the diversity and strength of our community and they need a place where they can live and thrive. We hope that you'll give particular consideration to the lowest-income members of our community as well as our seniors and elders.

We urge you, as our community's leaders, to designate the majority of ARPA funding to support affordable housing in our community. Thank you for your consideration. We hope you will call on the Coalition as a resource as you plan for the use of these funds. Our contact information is below.

Dan Levine, Coalition Co-Chair, dan.levine@self-help.org
Kimberly Sanchez, Coalition Co-Chair, ksanchez@communityhometruster.org
George Barrett, Advocacy Committee Co-Chair, george@jacksoncenter.info
Jackie Jenks, Advocacy Committee Co-Chair, jjenks@ifcmailbox.org