



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Paul DesJardin, Director, Community Planning and Services (DCPS)
Hilary Chapman, Housing Program Manager, DCPS
SUBJECT: Housing Affordability Planning Program (HAPP) Grant Award Recommendations
DATE: June 3, 2022

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) and its members are committed to working to increase the amount, affordability, and accessibility of the region’s housing supply, particularly near transit. In 2019, the COG Board adopted housing targets calling for an additional 75,000 housing units beyond those which are already planned; at least 75 percent of all new housing should be in Activity Centers or near high-capacity transit; and at least 75 percent of new housing should be affordable to low- and middle- income households. These targets, when taken with other shared goals, are helping the region work toward creating more transit-oriented, equitable, and sustainable communities.

HAPP BACKGROUND AND SELECTION PROCESS

During the October 13, 2021 meeting, the COG Board of Directors adopted Resolution R48-2021 establishing the Housing Affordability Planning Program (HAPP). With financial support from the Amazon Housing Equity Fund, the purpose of HAPP is to award small, flexible grants of up to \$75,000 to area local governments and non-profit developers (applying in coordination with a local jurisdiction) engaged in the planning, approval, or development of housing around transit stations. HAPP grants are intended to assist with a variety of housing (rental and ownership) pre-development, project implementation activities, or housing policy studies that have the potential to increase the amount of housing opportunities near transit that are accessible to those with lower incomes.

A broad range of organizations submitted 25 proposals requesting \$1,656,300 in HAPP funding. The applications, and recommended grantees, represent COG member governments and traditional and non-traditional non-profit affordable housing developers in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

COG staff established and convened two meetings of a Selection Panel of local housing experts (shown below) who reviewed and scored the applications.

HAPP Selection Panel Member	Affiliation
Ayan Addou	Virginia Housing
Deborah Bilek	ULI Washington
Liz Price	WMATA
Clarence Snuggs	Baltimore Community Lending, Inc.
Michelle Winters	Winters Community Strategies, LLC

Transit Center-Adjacent Affordable Housing Development and Economic Feasibility Analyses
City of Alexandria

\$60,000

“The proposed project will consider the development and financial feasibility of constructing new affordable housing at two study areas. The first study area is the WMATA-owned surface parking lot at the Van Dorn Metro Station. The second study area is WMATA-owned remainder land and the City-owned Community Shelter and Substance Abuse Services Center. The second study area is located within 0.4-miles of the Eisenhower Avenue Metro Station. The City would like to explore if those parcels could potentially be assembled in a financial deal to facilitate new affordable housing on the WMATA-owned remainder land and a co-location of new affordable housing and a new City-owned Community Shelter and Substance Abuse Services Center on the City-owned parcel. This project will enable staff to conduct internal studies to inform whether the sites are feasible for development/redevelopment both from a land use perspective and economic perspective and if public planning processes should be undertaken.”

Purple Line Affordable Housing Pipeline Development Initiative
Prince George’s County, Montgomery County, and Purple Line Corridor Coalition

\$75,000

“Building a pipeline of projects to achieve PLCC’s zero net loss goal for the 16-mile Purple Line corridor is a major undertaking, involving collaboration across sectors, intensive outreach and technical assistance to property owners, strengthening public policy, and strategic monitoring of affordable housing data to ensure large-scale progress against this time sensitive goal. COG funding will support the execution of skilled pipeline development and data tasks, as well as the central coordination needed for this partner-driven work.”

Headen Springs Development

\$50,000

Prince George’s County and Sowing Empowerment and Economic Development (SEED)

“The Headen Spring Development site provides a unique opportunity to develop a mixed-use, affordable housing project within a quarter mile of the new Riverdale Park – Kenilworth Ave Station on the new Purple Line. Because of its size and complexity, the Project will be developed over several phases. One of the complications of a phased project is that upfront, at-risk capital is requested to study and plan the entire development, although predevelopment financing is only available for the early phases. COG’s planning grant will help fill this gap and provide upfront planning funds for future phases of affordable housing.”

Columbia Heights TOPA

\$75,000

District of Columbia and Jubilee Housing

“Support from COG will aid Jubilee Housing in our planning process, specifically with concept plan drawings and outreach to communities, as we begin redevelopment on 3 properties recently acquired through DC’s Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA). The TOPA project will result in 165 net new units with affordability restrictions. Two-thirds of the units will be reserved for households earning 30% or below of DC’s Median Family Income (MFI) and one-third will be reserved for households earning 60% or below of DC’s MFI. Residents will have access to onsite and nearby supportive services as well.”

Congress Heights Metro Residential
District of Columbia and NHT Communities

\$75,000

“NHT Communities (NHTC) is a non-profit affordable housing developer based in the District of Columbia. In 2015, NHTC started working with a group of residents at a property above the Congress Heights Metro Station in Ward 8 who sought to preserve and improve their affordable homes. After a long legal battle with the owners of the property, the residents were able to assign their development rights to NHTC, who acquired the property in December 2021. Our development plan calls for a nine-story building, with ground floor retail and 179 affordable apartments, ranging from 30-80% AMI, with the vast majority at the 50% AMI level. The former residents of the property will return to the new building upon completion. NHTC will use the funds to expand our community outreach during the development process seeking input on design elements, through an expanded set of design charettes with former residents and stakeholders.”

Lincoln Legacy Affordable Housing Development
District of Columbia and Lincoln Congregational Temple United Church of Christ

\$71,300

“Lincoln Congregational Temple UCC, located in the Shaw neighborhood (1701 R Street, NW) of DC, proposes the rehabilitation and repurposing of its three-story underutilized historic church building into 19 units of affordable housing and 5,290 square feet of community facility space. The project will create new and affordable housing for families earning between 30% and 80% of MFI and rental space for nonprofit and community services uses. HAPP grant funds will be used for predevelopment activities including architectural and development consulting services, an engineering assessment, a Phase I Environmental report, and asbestos, lead and mold studies, all of which are needed to prepare the project for regulatory and funding approvals.”

**Committed Affordable Unit Preservation Analysis at
Ballston Park Apartments**
Arlington County

\$25,000

“Ballston Park Apartments is a 512-unit rental apartment complex in Arlington that has had 233 committed affordable units since the 1990's. The 30-year affordability period will be ending for these units and in order to possibly extend affordability into the future, the County is considering two scenarios: (1) rehabilitation and preservation of the existing units, or (2) partial redevelopment, where the number of committed affordable units is maintained, perhaps in a combination of new and rehabilitated units.”

College Park Community Housing Trust Program
College Park City-University Partnership

\$75,000

“The City of College Park’s neighborhoods are under increasing pressure from absentee investors who are competing with prospective homeowners and purchasing single-family houses to turn them into student rental properties. This has made affordability a problem for families seeking to buy a home in our neighborhood and has eroded neighborhood stability and balance. The College Park City-University Partnership is seeking to establish a Shared Equity Housing Trust to address the cost of housing and maintain long-term affordability in College Park. This initiative is part of the University Community Vision 2030 which explicitly calls for a focus on addressing two critical needs: preserving affordable housing and stabilizing our neighborhoods. College Park has two Metro stations, future Purple Line stops, and one of the region’s largest employers, the University of Maryland. As the City redevelops and experiences significant growth, it is imperative to ensure that employees can live near work and it’s crucial for the city, with incredible transit access, to have residents who can afford

to live in College Park and have access to employment and all of the richness of our entire metropolitan Washington region. HAPP funds will be used to start up and launch the Trust.”

Housing Affordability Planning Program (HAPP) Summary of Grant Award Recommendations June 3, 2022

Project Name	Jurisdiction & Sponsor	Recommended Award
Fort Totten Senior Affordable Housing Project - Studies and Planning	District of Columbia / Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH)	\$75,000
Residences at Forest Glen	Montgomery County / Montgomery Housing Partnership	\$75,000
Transit Center-Adjacent Affordable Housing Development and Economic Feasibility Analyses	City of Alexandria	\$60,000
Purple Line Affordable Housing Pipeline Development Initiative	Prince George’s County, Montgomery County, Purple Line Corridor Coalition	\$75,000
Headen Springs Development	Prince George’s County / Sowing Empowerment and Economic Development (SEED)	\$50,000
Columbia Heights TOPA	District of Columbia / Jubilee Housing	\$75,000
Congress Heights Metro Residential	District of Columbia / NHT Communities	\$75,000
Lincoln Legacy Affordable Housing Development	District of Columbia / United Church of Christ	\$71,300
Committed Affordable Unit Preservation Analysis at Ballston Park Apartments	Arlington County	\$25,000
College Park Community Housing Trust Program	Prince George’s County / College Park City-University Partnership	\$75,000
TOTAL		\$656,300