

2025–2029 CONSOLIDATED PLAN – PUBLIC HEARING

Department of Housing & Human Services
Emily Freedman, Dept. Director
Alyssa McDermott, Division Director

July 16, 2025



Welcome!



Agenda

- Introduction
- Overview of the Consolidated Plan
- Community Goals & Priorities
- Application & Evaluation Process
- 2025–2026 Funding Highlights
- Housing & Homelessness Data Highlights
- Q&A and Public Comment



Meet the Team

Department Director – Emily Freedman

Division Director – Alyssa McDermott

Public Service Grants – Gail McGowan

Facility Improvement/Construction Grants --Xiomara Gonsalves

Facility Improvement/Construction Grants -- Christopher Michailides

Economic Development & PBLF– Jonathan Hernandez

CDBG Housing & HOME Grants – Jameela Dunston

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS - Xiomara Gonsalves

Emergency Solutions Grants – Xiomara Gonsalves

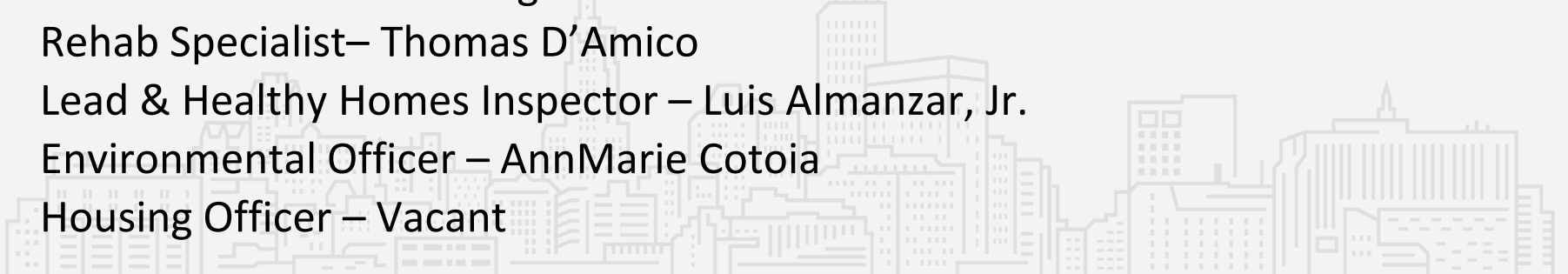
Lead Safe Providence Program– Paula Baron

Rehab Specialist– Thomas D’Amico

Lead & Healthy Homes Inspector – Luis Almanzar, Jr.

Environmental Officer – AnnMarie Cotoia

Housing Officer – Vacant

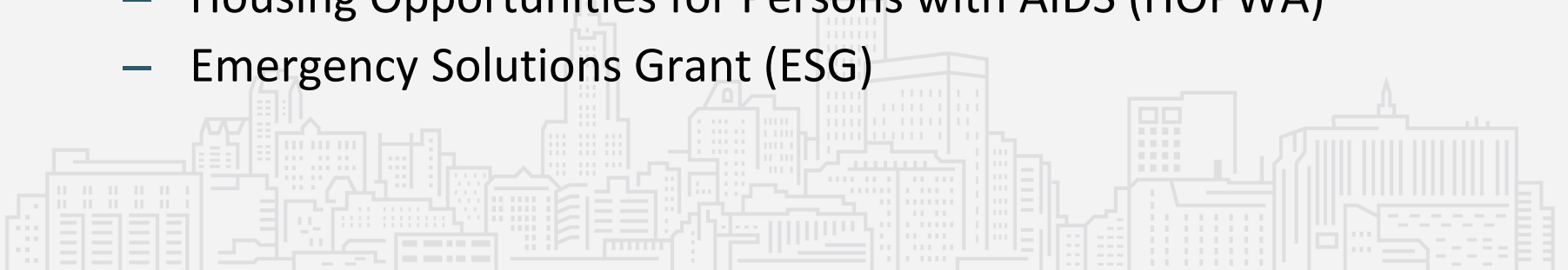


CONSOLIDATED PLANNING



5-Year Planning Process

- A City's Consolidated Plan establishes an effective, coordinated strategy for supporting housing and community development efforts over the next five years (FFY2025-2029).
- Citizen participation is a key part of creating the Consolidated Plan, and involves engaging the public to direct Plan objectives, review Plan language, and critique past and future program performance.
- Market Analysis, Needs Assessment
- Plan governs investments of following federal \$ City receives:
 - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
 - HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)
 - Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)
 - Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)



Development of Goals, Priorities

- Stakeholder interviews; focus groups; neighborhood meetings
 - What should our community development priorities be?
 - Are you seeing emerging trends or areas of need that we should be planning for?
 - What are we missing?
- Build on recent engagement ([Comp Plan](#), [Statewide Housing Survey](#)) to articulate highest utility uses for HUD grants to meet community goals.



Draft Goals & Priorities

Goal Name	Increase Availability of Affordable Housing
Goal Description	The City will use HOME and CDBG funds to create, preserve, and support affordable housing, including homeownership assistance for eligible residents.
Goal Name	Improve Quality of Occupied Housing Units
Goal Description	The City will use federal funds to assist private owners in repairing aging homes, addressing lead, safety, energy efficiency, and code issues. Public housing improvements will also be supported.
Goal Name	Reduce Homelessness
Goal Description	The City will use federal funds (CDBG, ESG, HOME-ARP) to support outreach, shelters, case management, and rapid re-housing, ensuring homelessness is rare and brief.
Goal Name	Increase Housing Stability Among People Living with HIV/AIDS
Goal Description	The City will use HOPWA funds to provide stable housing, rental assistance, and support services for low-income individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

Draft Goals & Priorities

Goal Name	Improve Condition of Public Facilities
Goal Description	The City will use CDBG funds to improve public buildings and social service facilities, ensuring safety, accessibility, and sustainability for critical services.
Goal Name	Improve Streetscapes, Sidewalks and Public Infrastructure
Goal Description	CDBG funds will improve streets, sidewalks, and transit options while enhancing accessibility and supporting infrastructure for housing and economic development.
Goal Name	Improve Parks and Community Green Space
Goal Description	The City will enhance parks, open spaces, and urban farms to promote health, community engagement, and economic opportunities.
Goal Name	Provide for Basic Needs of Low/Moderate Income Persons
Goal Description	Federal funds will support community-based programs that address the basic needs of low-income residents. Services will include childcare and early learning, youth education and arts programs, job training and literacy support, healthcare access, wellness activities, and emergency housing assistance. These programs will be equitable, accessible, and culturally responsive to Providence's diverse populations, helping residents achieve stability and economic opportunity.

Draft Goals & Priorities

Goal Name	Facilitate Small Business Development and Growth
Goal Description	CDBG funds will foster business growth and job creation, focusing on small businesses, especially those owned by people of color, women, and microenterprises as they often lack the same access to financial services. The funds will provide technical assistance and access to capital through loans and grants.
Goal Name	Effectively Administer Programs & Promote Efficiency through Strategic Planning
Goal Description	Allowable percentages of CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, and ESG funds will be used to administer these respective programs; to rapidly award projects and commit funds for programs; to monitor all projects, activities, and organizations, conduct proper performance evaluations of all programs; to meet all program standards; and to plan for effective projects and initiatives.



Highlight: Increasing Affordable Housing

- Build and preserve affordable rental and ownership housing by partnering with CDCs and other developers as well as continuing the CDBG Home Repair Program.
- Maintain supportive housing for vulnerable populations through the City's HOPWA Funding.



Highlight: Improve Infrastructure & Parks

- Invest in safe streets, sidewalks, and accessibility in various wards.
- Create and improve parks, green spaces, and community gardens.
- Address public facility upgrades and energy efficiency needs.

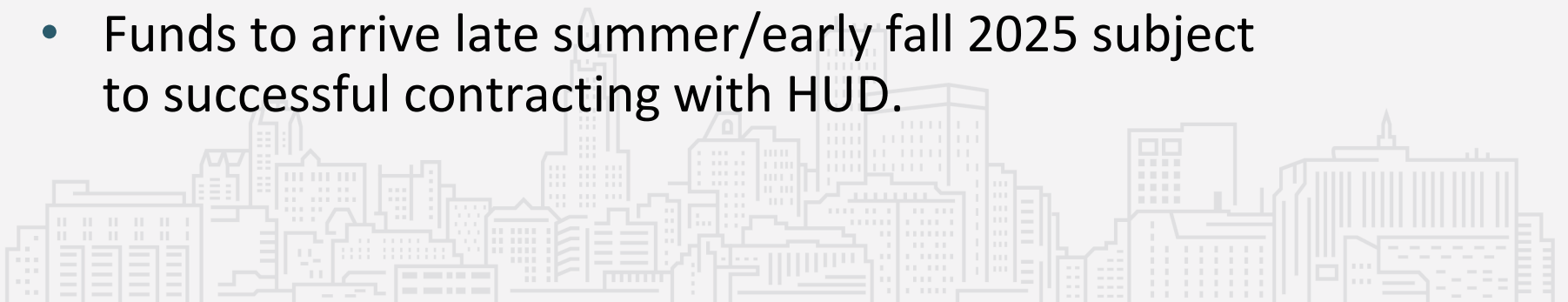


FUNDING



Funding

- The City receives “entitlement” funding from the U.S. Dept. of HUD on an annual basis.
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG): \$5,427,138
- HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME): \$2,579,533
- Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA): \$1,484,128
- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG): \$476,119
- Funds to arrive late summer/early fall 2025 subject to successful contracting with HUD.

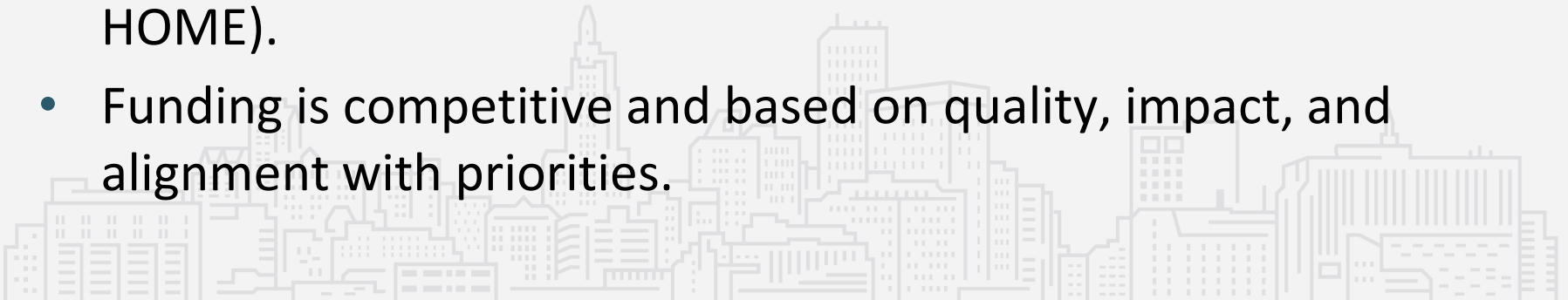


APPLICATION PROCESS



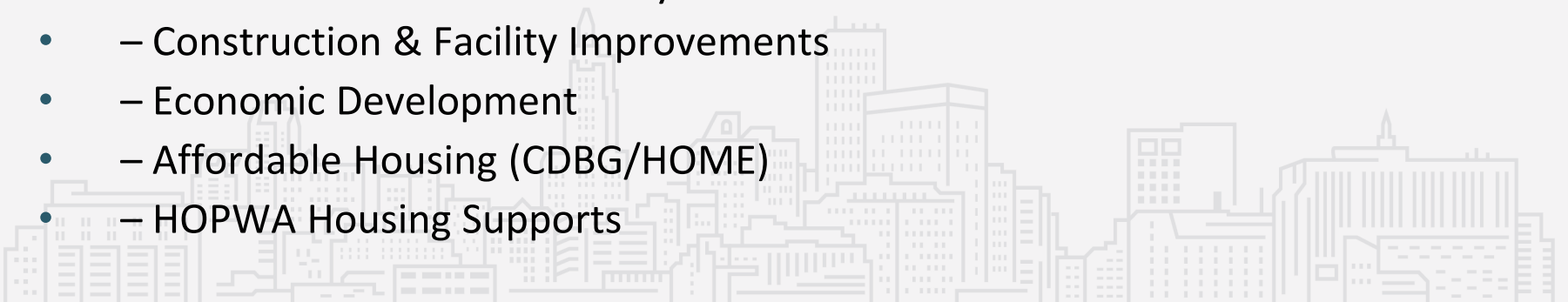
Understanding the Application Process

- City solicited proposals from nonprofits and developers to carry out federally funded programs.
- Applications aligned with community needs identified in the Consolidated Plan.
- Nonprofits applied as 'subrecipients' under a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA).
- Developers could apply for affordable housing support (CDBG, HOME).
- Funding is competitive and based on quality, impact, and alignment with priorities.



Timeline & Funding Focus Areas

- Application period closed March 5, 2025; internal application review, Urban Redevelopment, Renewal and Planning (URRP) Committee Meetings and City Council hearings followed.
- Projects are included in the Consolidated Plan/Annual Action Plan and subject to public hearing/comment.
- HUD reviews and releases funds after Consolidated Plan/Annual Action Plan submission.
- 2025–2026 Funding Focus Areas:
 - – Public Services & Community Centers
 - – Construction & Facility Improvements
 - – Economic Development
 - – Affordable Housing (CDBG/HOME)
 - – HOPWA Housing Supports

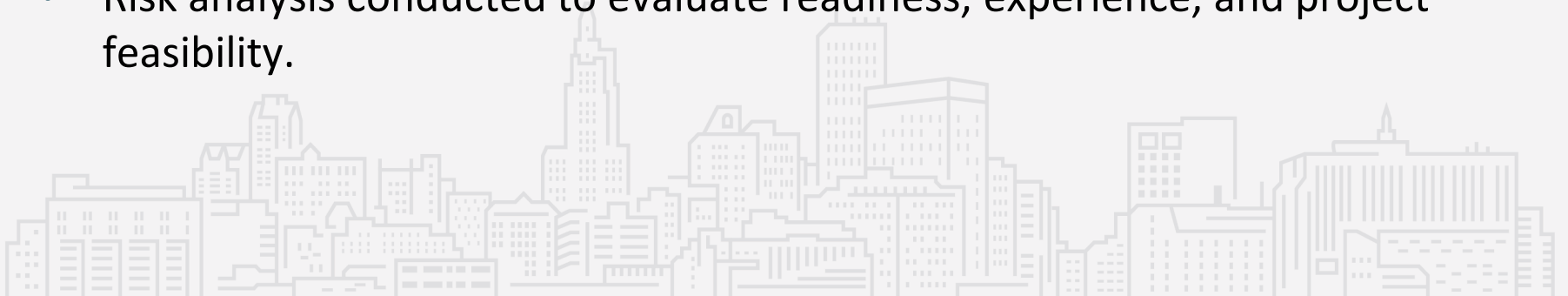


EVALUATION PROCESS



Evaluation Process

- Proposals were reviewed for eligibility, alignment with community needs, and HUD rules.
- Priority given to projects benefiting low/moderate-income residents and advancing equity.
- Review considered applicant capacity, cost-effectiveness, and community impact.
- Proposals assessed for clear goals, reasonable budgets, and ability to deliver results.
- Risk analysis conducted to evaluate readiness, experience, and project feasibility.



FUNDING OVERVIEW



CDBG - Overview

History: CDBG funded through Title I of Housing & Community Development Act of 1974.

Primary Purpose:

- Provide Quality Affordable Housing
- Create Suitable Living Environments
- Expand Economic Opportunities



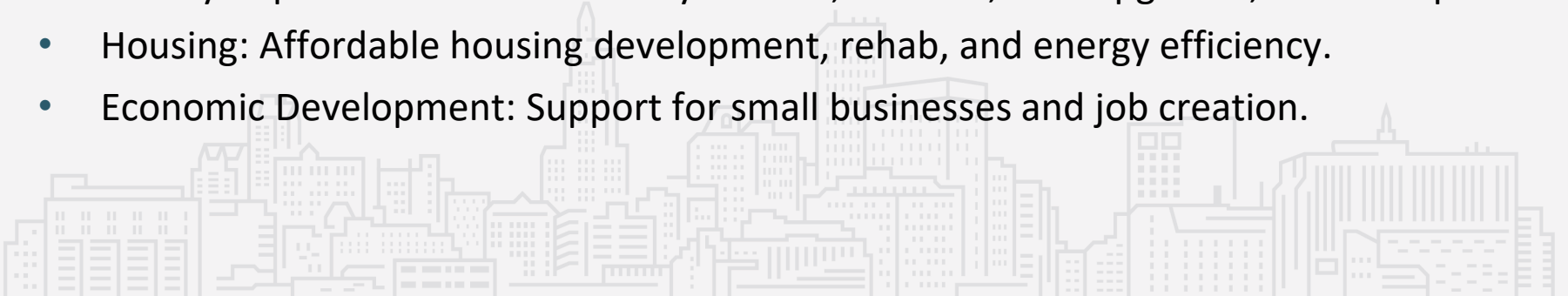
CDBG - Overview

Eligible Activities:

- CDBG can support a variety of project types.
- Most activities that benefit low- and moderate-income individuals and meet the needs of the community are eligible.
- *However, the regulations make the funding complicated to use.*

Four Primary Funding Categories:

- Public Services: Child care, job training, legal services, food access, senior and health services.
- Facility Improvements: Community centers, libraries, ADA upgrades, shelter repairs.
- Housing: Affordable housing development, rehab, and energy efficiency.
- Economic Development: Support for small businesses and job creation.



Who Benefits from CDBG?

- Families and individuals earning less than 80% of the area median income.
- Residents living in neighborhoods where most households are low/mod income.
- Seniors, people with disabilities, youth, and others with specific needs.
- Small business owners looking to grow or hire local workers.



How We Ensure Fair Use of Funds

- Activities must be open to the public or serve defined eligible groups.
- Applicants document need and track who benefits from services.
- City reviews for equity, impact, readiness, and compliance with HUD rules.
- Most funds must go to activities helping low/moderate-income residents.



HOME - Overview

HOME is authorized under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, as amended. Program regulations are at 24 CFR Part 92.

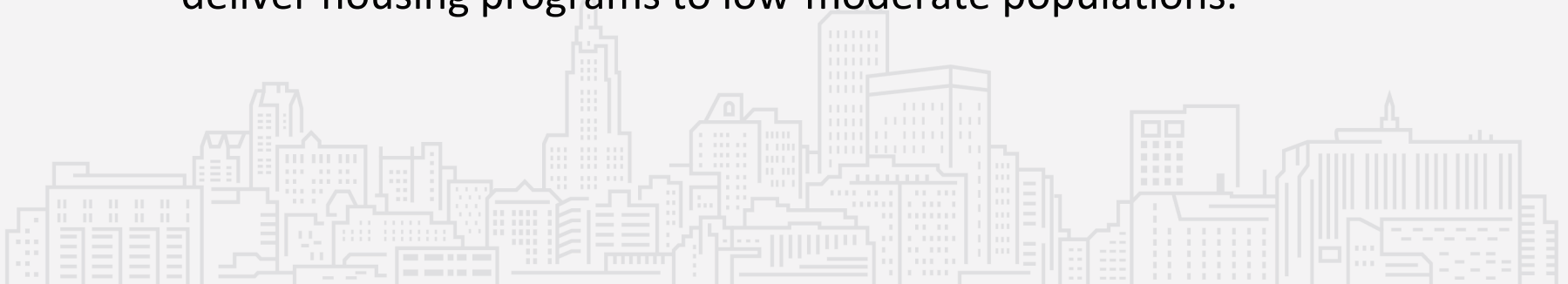
HOME provides funds to:

- build, buy, and/or rehabilitate affordable housing for rent or home-ownership;
- provide direct rental assistance programs or downpayment/closing cost assistance programs for low-income people.



HOME - Overview

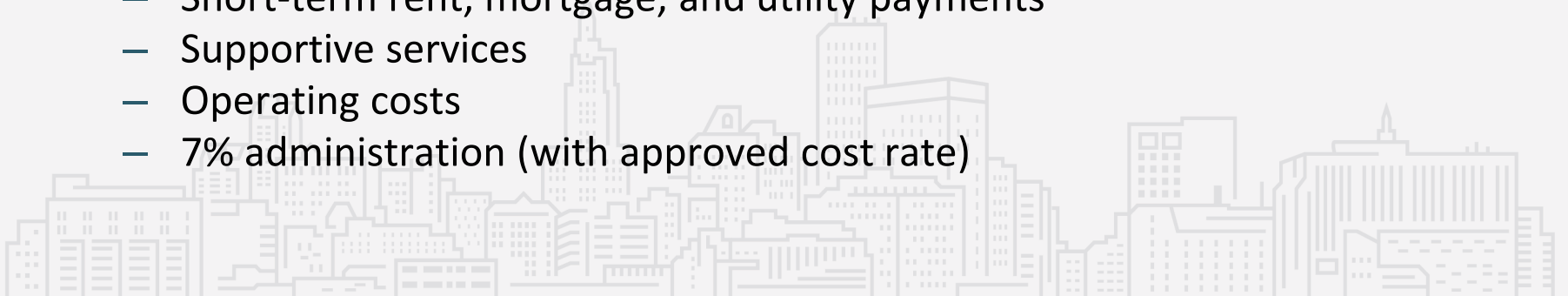
- Application requires development pro forma (template provided), and evidence of site control and appropriate income-targeting.
 - 60% AMI or below for rental projects; 80% AMI or below for homeownership projects.
- Eligible Applicants:
 - Qualified developers (for- or non-profit) with proven capacity to develop or rehabilitate housing for the low/moderate income.
 - Qualified non-profit agencies (“subrecipients”) with proven capacity to deliver housing programs to low-moderate populations.



HOPWA - Overview

The Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program was created by HUD to address the specific needs of persons living with AIDS and their families, particularly in the area of housing and supportive services. City's HOPWA program serves Providence-New Bedford-Fall River MSA.

- Eligible activities:
 - Housing information services
 - Resource identification
 - Acquisition, rehabilitation, conversion, lease and repair
 - New construction (single room occupancy and community residences only)
 - Project- or tenant-based rental assistance
 - Short-term rent, mortgage, and utility payments
 - Supportive services
 - Operating costs
 - 7% administration (with approved cost rate)



ESG – Overview (FYI)

The City also receives Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) for services, shelter, and rapid rehousing for persons experiencing homelessness.

Funds are deployed through the Consolidated Homeless Fund (CHF) funding consortium to enable a one-stop application process and a collaborative and comprehensive cross-jurisdictional approach to investment.

For more information, please visit: <https://housing.ri.gov/homelessness>.



DATA SNAPSHOTS & COMMUNITY INPUT



Housing Needs in Providence

- Nearly 50% of renters are cost-burdened (paying >30% of income on housing).
- Waitlists for public housing and vouchers remain long.
- Over 1,300 housing units in Providence lack complete plumbing or kitchen facilities, according to the 2023 American Community Survey. This highlights ongoing concerns with substandard housing conditions in the city .
- Aging housing stock: ~75% of homes built before 1970.



Homelessness

- 4,000+ people statewide access RI's shelter system annually.
- 1,000+ estimated statewide to be unhoused on any given night.
- Families with children make up 26% of the homeless population in Providence, underscoring the importance of shelter and housing programs that support parents and children together in safe, stable environments.
- Focus on prevention, shelter, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing.



Community Priorities from Public Surveys

Top priorities identified by stakeholders/community members:

- More affordable rental housing
- Repairs to existing homes
- Homelessness prevention and support
- Job training and youth services
- Safer streets and improved sidewalks



RECAP



Recap

- The City completed a competitive funding application process earlier this year.
- Projects were reviewed and recommended based on need, impact, and readiness.
- The Consolidated Plan includes these projects and guides funding for 2025–2029.
- Final Plan includes input from residents, stakeholders, and public hearings.
- Today's hearing is the final step before submission to HUD after the public comment period is over on 8/2/25



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Q & A, Public Comment

To submit written comment,
please CONTACT:

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401-680-8492

THANK YOU

City of Providence

