Request for Proposal for HOME Investment Partnerships Program Tenant Based Rental Assistance for the Homeless Program

The City of Worcester, Executive Office of Economic Development is seeking proposals for the use of federal HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds for the specific purpose of establishing and/or maintaining a Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) Program for unsheltered homeless individuals.

The intent of this RFP is to identify the agency that can best administer a TBRA program that targets unaccompanied, unsheltered, homeless adult individuals. The selected agency must agree to run a program that is consistent with the City of Worcester TBRA Program Guidelines (attached) and is eligible under HOME TBRA regulations at 24 CFR Part 92.209.

\$330,000 in HOME funds will be awarded under this RFP over a 2 year period (contingent upon HOME funding through the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). A written agreement shall be made for a 24-month period and may be extended and renewed at the discretion of the City and subject to the availability of funds.

Under this RFP, funds will be awarded to an applicant that demonstrates a readiness to proceed, meets the strict minimum requirements as described in this notice, and is ranked most advantageous on the evaluation criteria. Agencies are encouraged to collaborate to submit a single application; however the City reserves the right to issue more than one award under this funding announcement, if considered to be in the City's best interest.

All HOME projects require a leveraging match of at least 25% of the total HOME funds awarded. The match funds must be from non-federal sources and be permanently committed to the HOME assisted project. Eligible match for the City of Worcester's HOME TBRA for the Homeless Program includes the direct cost of supportive services to clients served by the direct rental assistance.

The City anticipates securing funds under an agreement no later than July 1, 2022.

General Information

The City of Worcester, Executive Office of Economic Development through the Housing Development Division (HDD) is soliciting proposals for the use of HOME Investment Partnership Program funds for the specific purpose of establishing a Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) Program for unsheltered homeless individuals.

The City's TBRA for the Homeless Program is designed to assist unsheltered homeless individuals obtain safe, sanitary housing. Worcester's 3-Year Plan to Address Homelessness identifies the Housing First model as a cost-effective and humane alternative to ending homelessness over shelter programs. The need for permanent housing for homeless and chronically homeless individuals is identified as a high priority in the City's 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan.

A TBRA program provides rental assistance payments to make up the difference between local rent standards and the amount that a household can actually afford to pay for housing. Tenant must be able to choose unit in which to live. Rental costs must not be above fair market rent and meet the Rent Reasonableness Test. Eligible costs and requirements are described in more detail at 24 CFR Part 92.209. Applicants must review HUD's Building HOME Manual, which discusses the rules governing Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program. https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/20655 CH07.pdf

Please also see the City of Worcester's TBRA Program Guidelines attached to this RFP for further information on local program policies and requirements.

Length and Type of Assistance:

The City expects to make a single award to a selected recipient in the amount of \$330,000 in HOME funds to be disbursed over two years (\$165,000 per year); however the City reserves the right to issue more than one award under this funding announcement. A written agreement shall be made for a 24-month period and may be extended and renewed at the discretion of the City and subject to the availability of funds.

Rental Assistance contracts with individual households may not exceed twelve months. In an effort to promote self-sufficiency and to extend the program to as many eligible participants as possible, organizations that propose a longer length of assistance to beneficiaries, provided in conjunction with stabilization services, may be considered less advantageous.

Funding under this program may support monthly rental assistance and project delivery costs associated with carrying out the requirements of the program. Organizations that propose to dedicate their entire award toward direct assistance will be considered more advantageous. TBRA payments must be made directly to the landlord or other third party. The recipient agency should demonstrate access to funds to support start-up costs including first and last months' rent, or that the individual served can provide these costs on their own.

Target Population:

All individuals served by Worcester's TBRA Program must be very low-income, as defined by HUD in the HOME regulations as households at or below 50% of Area Median Income (AMI). When drafting program policies, HOME Income Limits must be utilized.

Local Preference Criteria:

Individuals provided TBRA must meet the criteria below:

- Unsheltered homeless per HUD's definition (24 CFR 91.5(1) as updated 5/13/22
- Have an income equal to or less than 50% AMI
- Worcester County resident (as defined in the City's TBRA guidelines)

The priority of the Worcester TBRA for the Homeless Program shall be to assist unsheltered homeless individuals (with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, regular sleeping accommodations for humans, including a car, park, abandoned building, or train station). Individuals who were formally unsheltered but are now living in an emergency or transitional shelter, or in an institutional setting may be considered for assistance if funds are available and no eligible unsheltered individual is on the waiting list.

Self-Sufficiency:

In an effort to promote housing stability and independence, Worcester's TBRA program requires recipients to participate in a self-sufficiency program as a condition of their rental assistance. The selected agency must be able to provide a match commitment in case management services to create individual service plans and connect individuals to wrap-around services. These case management and self-sufficiency services <u>cannot</u> be supported with TBRA funds.

Although not all inclusive, supportive services may include:

- Tenant advocacy in applying for available subsidized housing in the area, including completing application, getting on waiting lists, etc.;
- Case management around substance abuse treatment, mental health services, budget counseling and lifeskills training
- Applying for any available public assistance programs, including TANF, food stamps, general assistance, social security, etc.;
- Referrals to job training agencies, when applicable;
- Active job search for employable tenants; and
- Ongoing monthly case management meetings with established TBRA case manager.

General Administrative Structure:

The selected agency shall be responsible for the following:

- Marketing program to potential applicants and outreach to property owners
- Tenant Selection and Determination of Eligibility
- Annual Certification of Eligibility, if applicable
- Maintenance of Waiting List
- Assistance with housing search and placement
- Unit Inspection consistent with HUD's Habitability Standards
- Leases or Rental Agreements
- Establishing a Payment Standard by performing a reasonable rent survey
- Disbursement of funds to property owners/landlords
- Provide or assist in identifying appropriate self-sufficiency services to Tenants
- Enrolling prospective tenants under the *Massachusetts Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program* (LIHEAP) (*Fuel Assistance*) or the National Grid Discount rate for low income individuals.
- Resolving tenant and landlord disputes

The City of Worcester Housing Development Division shall be responsible for monitoring and evaluating program performance, and reporting accomplishments to HUD. The City of Worcester Budget and Accounting Office shall be responsible for executing IDIS drawdowns for reimbursements.

Monitoring Performance:

The City of Worcester will monitor progress and implementation of the program to ensure that the regulatory and statutory requirements are met and to assess program outcomes. Further discussion about performance monitoring is included in the City's TBRA Program Guidelines.

Ongoing Performance and Outcomes:

The selected agency will be required to report program performance and outcomes monthly. The following is a list of included performance indicators that must be reported on:

- Number of clients screened for potential eligibility;
- Number of clients served;
- Number of clients served who are considered chronically homeless;
- Number of clients denied (and why);
- Number of clients who exited from the program, their reason for leaving, as well as their destination;
- Length of assistance provided to clients (time period)
- Number of clients on waiting list; and
- Client case notes and records must be kept secure and will be subject to regular monitoring.

Proposal Submission Process

Eligible Applicants

Funds are available to for-profit and non-profit corporations and organizations, including Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) and Community Development Corporations.

Consistent with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, any agency selected to receive federal funds is required to obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM). The Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) is replacing the Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number. If you are already registered in SAM.Gov your Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) has already been assigned and is viewable in SAM.Gov. Completing these registration processes is free but may take up to 10 days to complete. To find information on how to obtain a UEI number and register in SAM please visit the following website https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/registration.html and https://www.sam.gov/content/entity-registration

Eligible Costs:

HOME funds available under this RFP may be used for direct rent payments on eligible units. Since the adoption of the *2013 HOME Final Rule*, the administrative cost of conducting unit inspections and determining the income of tenant-based rental assistance recipients is an eligible project-related soft cost. However, applicants who plan to direct all of their HOME funds toward direct rental assistance will be considered more advantageous. Applicants must provide proof of match either with their application, or at the release of HOME funds for the project.

Timeline:

Each grant award is subject to the execution of a final agreement between the City and the applicant. The grant amount and the project description are subject to modification by the City. No expenditure of funds can be incurred until an agreement has been fully executed and the City has issued an approved purchase order. Funds will be dispersed on a reimbursement basis subject to submission of proper documentation showing proof of payment. The City anticipates securing all funds through a written agreement no later than July 1, 2022.

Proposal Evaluation

Minimum Evaluation Criteria

The City of Worcester will be evaluating all Proposals to qualify them as being responsible and responsive to the requirements of the RFP. All Proposals must include the following elements to be considered valid for HOME funds.

- 1. Complete Proposal A complete HOME Application (attached) along with required attachments.
- 2. HOME Eligible Proposed projects must be eligible under the HUD HOME Investment Partnerships Program Final Rule as described in 24 CFR Part 92.
- 3 Evidence of Program The proposal must include information that will demonstrate to the City that the proposed organization has experience running a rental assistance program as well as experience working with homeless populations.
- 4. Proposed project must satisfy the general requirements under 2 CFR 200 Subpart D Post Federal Award Requirements

Comparative Criteria

Only proposals that meet the minimum criteria will be reviewed for eligibility under the comparative criteria. Applicants who meet all minimum criteria and are considered advantageous on all comparative criteria will be considered eligible for HOME funds. Awards will be made to highly advantageous proposals subject to the availability of HOME funds. Proposals that meet the minimum criteria but fail to meet the highly advantageous criteria may be considered in the absence of eligible highly advantageous applications. The City will not consider applications that fall into the Unacceptable criteria.

Applicants should take note to address these criteria in the narrative responses on page 9.

	Highly Advantageous	Advantageous	Not Advantageous
1. Applicant Experience	managing a rental assistance	assistance program and	Applicant has no prior experience administering a rental assistance program or working with homeless populations.
2. Staff Capacity	of successfully	project or has identified	Applicant appears to have few resources and staff capacity to administer a rental assistance program and no plans to improve capacity.
3. Past Performance	Applicant has managed other HUD grants from the City of Worcester and has received positive evaluations during past monitoring reviews.	City of Worcester with minor concerns that were satisfactorily addressed during monitoring reviews.	Applicant has managed other HUD grants from the City of Worcester and has received multiple concerns and/or findings with little or no actions taken to address concerns/findings or improve operations.
4. Financial Management	sources of funds to complete the proposed project (including self-sufficiency activities) have been identified and secured.	sources of funds to complete the proposed	Applicant has submitted an incomplete budget with no funds for self-sufficiency programs identified and no matching/leveraged funds secured.

	<u> </u>		
of Awarded Funds	Applicant proposes to use 100% of the HOME award on direct financial assistance to eligible individuals.	than 70% of HOME award on direct financial	Applicant proposes to use less than 70% of the HOME award on direct financial assistance to eligible individuals.
	Highly Advantageous	Advantageous	Not Advantageous
6. Cost Benefit		N/A	Proposed project yields a high cost-benefit ratio.
7. Readiness to Proceed	program upon receipt of a signed written agreement as evidenced by the identification of units that are ready for occupancy and have been inspected to meet HQS standards with no outstanding code violations;	housing eligible homeless individuals within three months of signing a written agreement with the City. Case management	Applicant expects it to take more than three months from signing a written agreement with the City to begin housing eligible homeless individuals. It is unclear how soon case management and self-sufficiency services will begin.
Housing Stability	The proposed program places emphasis on ensuring that the majority of individuals served will achieve housing stability within 12 months at which time they will be able to support housing costs on	expects that the majority of individuals served will achieve housing stability within 18 months at which time they will be able to support housing costs on	The proposed program expects to provide the maximum 24 months of TBRA assistance to eligible individuals at which time they will support housing costs on their own or through a more permanent housing subsidy.
Reporting	Applicant has identified a system to measure program outcomes and to collect and report quality data in a timely manner.	system to measure program outcomes but it is unclear how the quality of	Applicant's evaluation system is output based and there is little indication that the quality of data and timeliness of reporting will be ensured.

Request for Proposal for HOME Investment Partnerships Program Tenant Based Rental Assistance for Homeless Program

Application for Funding

rippineation for Funding	
Contact Information	
Organization:	Contact:
Project Name:	Title:
Project Location:	Mailing Address:
Phone:	Email:
Signature:	
Please Identify the Type of Organization Applying for F	unds (Note: More than one may apply)
☐ 501.c3 ☐ For-profit authorized ☐ Institution of Higher	ed under 570.201(o)
UEI #: (Note: All entities receiving direct federal assistance are required to information.)	to have a UEI #. Please review instructions on page 5 for more
name of the agency, contact information and the service	rorganizations to implement your program please list the e(s) they will provide:
Attachments	
The following attachments must accompany this form: • 501(c)(3) Letter of Tax Determination Status from: • One (1) copy of most recent financial audit of letter the state of the state o	
	D ATTACHMENTS AND MAIL OR HAND DELIVER IT TO THE ON OR BEFORE Monday, June 13, 2022
Manager Tra City of Executive Office of I Housing Dev Room 4 455 N	sann Ferraro Insitional Housing If Worcester Economic Development - Ielopment Division IO5, City Hall Main Street er, MA 01608

Contact James Brooks, Housing Development Division $\underline{BrooksJ@worcesterma.gov}$ and Susann Ferraro Manager Transitional Housing Email: $\underline{FerraroS@worcesterma.gov}$ with any questions about this application.

City of Worcester Executive Office of Economic Development HOME Investment Partnership Program Tenant Based Rental Assistance for Homeless Program

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON A SEPARATE ATTACHMENT:

- *I.* Executive Summary that provides a detailed scope of work. Identify the program goal(s); describe the specific services to be provided and how services will be delivered, including how your organization will meet the requirements for determining and re-determining client eligibility, verify rent reasonableness, conduct housing standard inspections, provide case management, connect clients to mainstream services and self-sufficiency services, disbursement process and timing, determining client's share of rent, tracking client services, and termination procedures for non-compliant participants.
- **2. Agency Experience**: Please describe your experience working with housing services and the target population. Describe your experience administering a TBRA (or similar) program. Include the type of program, dates that the program operated, as well as any performance indicators that would demonstrate a successful program. Describe your familiarity with HOME regulations and knowledge of HUD TBRA programs.
- 3. Staff Training/Experience: Please provide a current organizational chart with names and titles of all staff members who will be working on TBRA. Attach the resumes and/or job descriptions of any staff or position that will be involved in the implementation of your program. Please discuss how you will ensure that staff is trained to make appropriate decisions and referrals and that they understand the methods of assisting households who are recovering from homelessness.
- 4. Financial Management: Please submit a detailed budget demonstrating the ability to administer an effective program; while remaining within the established funding budget. Include any matching/leveraged funds that have/will be secured to support the program. Also include the source of funding for the self-sufficiency activities described in the Executive Summary. Please explain the process, policies, and timing procedures for disbursements to landlords/property owners. Indicate the number of clients anticipated to be served with the resources available including average per client costs.
- 5. Outreach/Marketing Plan: Please describe how your organization will conduct outreach to ensure eligible individuals are informed of the rental assistance program and encouraged to apply. Explain how individuals hardest to reach will be made aware and given the opportunity to apply for assistance, including individuals who are chronically homeless, those with limited English-proficiency, those with visual or hearing impairment, illiterate, etc. Please also describe methods used to outreach to potential landlords and property owners to inform them of the program. Discuss how you will address any questions or concerns that property owners may have in participating in the program.
- 6. Partners: Please identify the organizations/programs that your agency is planning to partner with to implement your program. Include the name of agency, services they will provide, and an explanation of why services are needed and their capacity and experience in providing such services. If applicable, please provide copies of Memorandums of Understanding.
- 7. Written Tenant Selection Policy/Waiting List: Describe how households will be selected to receive assistance (i.e. referrals from shelter outreach providers; criteria, if any, that individuals will have to meet). Include the anticipated average length of time it will take to secure housing for eligible individuals once they have been identified and apply. Please describe how you will develop and maintain a waiting list that is consistent with the City's TBRA Program Guidelines and ensures that applicants are selected for assistance in a fair and equitable manner.
- **8. Data Collection/Performance Evaluation**: Please describe the process your organization will implement to meet the reporting requirements of this program including staff dedicated to this step, and policies and procedures to ensure timeliness and quality of data. Describe the methods you will implement to measure the outcomes of your program.

Note: Projects are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Additional documentation may be requested. Applicants should take note to address the comparative criteria beginning on page 5 of the RFP in their narrative response.

ATTACHMENT A: APPLICATION CHECKLIST

The following documents in compliance with City, State and Federal regulations must be submitted as part of your application package. Please use this checklist as a guide to complete your proposal. If you feel the item does not apply to your proposal,

please indicate with "N/A" and provide additional justification within the comment s
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	DESCRIPTION	YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
1.	Application Completed & Signed including Budget Attachment A				
2.	Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws				
3.	State and Federal Tax Exemption Determination Letters				
4.	Federal Employment Identification Numbers				
5.	Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM)				
6.	List of Board of Directors, Titles and Contact Information				
7.	Board of Director's Designation of Authorized Official				
8.	Most Recent Organization Chart				
9.	Resume of Chief Fiscal Officer				
10.	Financial Statement and Most Recent Audit Report				
11.	Matching Funds Commitments Documentation.				
12.	List of Collaborative Partners and their role, including letters of support.				
13.	504 Self Evaluation Plan (Americans with Disabilities Act) Agencies with 15 Employees or More				
14.	Employee Handbook				
15.	Grievance Procedure/Policy (Clients)				
16.	Project Implementation Timeline & Additional Outcome Objectives				
17.	Program Income Plan				
	Certificate of Authority be submitted after funding is allocated & attached to contract				
	Certificate of Insurance be submitted after funding is allocated & attached to contract				
	Tax Certification be submitted after funding is allocated & attached to contract				
21.	Anti-discrimination policy. Include hard copy.				

ATTACHMENT B: TBRA SAMPLE BUDGET PROPOSAL

LINE ITEM	HOME FUNDS	MATCH RESOURCES	TOTAL PROJECT
		(PLEASE SPECIFY SOURCE)	COSTS
HOUSING COSTS			
RENT FOR HOUSING			
UTILITY COSTS FOR HOUSING			
TOTAL HOUSING COSTS			
SECURITY DEPOSIT ASSISTANCE			
SECURITY DEPOSIT ASSISTANCE			
TOTAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE			
UTILITY DEPOSIT ASSISTANCE (ONLY ELIGI	BLE AS PART OF A TBR	A SECURITY DEPOSIT OR RENT	TAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM)
UTILITY DEPOSIT ASSISTANCE			
TOTAL UTILITY DEPOSIT ASSISTANCE			
TBRA ACTIVITY DELIVERY ADMINISTRATIVE	EXPENSES		
ACTIVITY DELIVERY & ADMIN COSTS			
TOTAL ACTIVITY DELIVERY & ADMIN			
		l	
TOTAL TBRA COSTS			
BUDGET NARRATIVE: USE THIS BOX TO EXI	PLAIN ANY BUDGETED (COSTS THAT REQUIRE ADDITIO	ONAL CLARIFICATION

ATTACHMENT C FY 2021 FAIR MARKET RENT DOCUMENTATION SYSTEM

https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/home/home-rent-limits/

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HUD

STATE: MASSACHUSETTS ------ 2021 HOME PROGRAM RENTS -----

EFFECTIVE DATE: JUNE 1, 2021

PROGRAM	EFFICIENCY	1 BR	2 BR	3 BR	4 BR	5 BR	6 BR
Worcester, MA HUD Metro FMR Area							
LOW HOME RENT	865	926	1112	1285	1433	1581	1729
HIGH HOME RENT	1063	1134	1423	1635	1805	1973	2141
For Information Only:							
FAIR MARKET RENT	1063	1134	1450	1804	1966	2261	2556
50% RENT LIMIT	865	926	1112	1285	1433	1581	1729
65% RENT LIMIT	1104	1184	1423	1635	1805	1973	2141

SRO HOME Rent limit is based on 75 percent of the zero-bedroom fair market rent.

ATTACHMENT D FY 2021 UTILITIES ALLOWANCES

Utility Allowance Schedule

See Public Reporting and Instructions on back.

U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development

Office of Public and Indian Housing

OMB Approval No. 2577-0169

exp. 7/31/2022

Locality / PHA Worces		Unit Type Dup	lex or Tw	o Family		oate (mm/dd/yyyy) 05/17/2021	
Utility or Service	Fuel Type	0 BR	1 BR	2 BR	3 BR	4 BR	5 BR
Heating	Natural Gas	34	45	62	76	93	108
	Bottled Gas	80	107	147	181	220	256
	Electric	81	109	150	184	224	261
*	Electric - Heat Pump	53	71	97	120	146	170
	Fuel Oil	87	116	159	186	239	278
	Other				,		
Cooking	Natural Gas	3	4	5	6	7	8
······································	Bottled Gas	15	21	27	33	43	49
	Electric	5	7	9	10	12	15
	Other		L				
Other Electric		30	38	49	58	67	79
Air Conditioning	,						
Water Heating	Natural Gas	7	9	12	15	18	21
	Bottled Gas	30	41	53	65	83	95
	Electric	27	35	47	56	67	78
	Fuel Oil	24	34	44	53	68	78
Water		6	12	24	35	47	59
Sewer		10	21	42	63	84	105
Trash Collection		5	8	11	14	18	24
Natural Gas	Customer Charge	10	10	10	10	10	10
Range/Microwave		2	2	2	3	3	3
Refrigerator		3	3	3	3	4	4
searching for a unit.	nces - May be used by the	family to co	mpute allowar	nce while	Heating	ce/Appliance	Allowance
Head of Household N	lame				Cooking Other Electr	ic .	
					Air Condition		
Unit Address					Water Heati		
					Water		
					Sewer		1
					Trash Collec	tion	
· ·					Other		
Number of Bedrooms	3				Range/Micro	owave	
					Refrigerator		
					Total		

See Public Reporting and Instructions on back.

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exp. 7/31/2022

Locality / PHA Worces	ter, Massachusetts		Unit Type Single	Family [Detached]		m/dd/yyyy) 17/2021
Utility or Service	Fuel Type	0 BR	1 BR	2 BR	3 BR	4 BR	5 BR
Heating	Natural Gas	40	53	73	90	110	128
	Bottled Gas	94	125	173	212	259	302
	Electric	96	128	176	216	264	307
	Electric - Heat Pump	62	83	115	141	172	200
	Fuel Oil	102	136	188	230	281	327
	Other						
Cooking	Natural Gas	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Bottled Gas	15	21	27	33	43	49
	Electric	5	7	9	10	12	15
	Other				2		
Other Electric		30	38	49	58	67	79
Air Conditioning							
Water Heating	Natural Gas	7	9	12	15	18	21
*	Bottled Gas	30	41	53	65	83	95
	Electric	27	35	47	56	67	78
	Fuel Oil	24	34	44	53	68	78
Water		6	12	24	35	47	59
Sewer		10	21	42	63	84	105
Trash Collection		5	8	11	14	18	24
Natural Gas	Customer Charge	10	10	10	10	10	10
Range/Microwave		2	2	2	3	3	3
Refrigerator	,	3	3	3	3	4	4
Actual Family Allowa searching for a unit. Head of Household N	ances - May be used by the	family to co	mpute allowar	nce while	Utility/Service Heating Cooking	,	Allowance
					Other Electri		
Unit Address					Water Heatin Water Sewer Trash Collec	ng	,
Number of Bedrooms	S				Other Range/Micro Refrigerator Total	owave	

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exp. 7/31/2022

Locality / PHA Worces	ter, Massachusetts		Unit Type Low R	ise [3 or	4 Stories]	Date (m)	m/dd/yyyy) 17/2021
Utility or Service	Fuel Type	0 BR	1 BR	2 BR	3 BR	4 BR	5 BR
Heating	Natural Gas	26	35	48	58	82	87
	Bottled Gas	65	88	120	147	179	208
	Electric	67	90	123	150	183	212
	Electric - Heat Pump	43	58	80	97	119	138
	Fuel Oil	71	95	131	159	194	226
	Other	*		,			
Cooking	Natural Gas	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Bottled Gas	15	21	27	33	43	49
	Electric	5	7	9	10	12	15
	Other	:			26. 7		
Other Electric		30	38	49	58	67	79
Air Conditioning					:		
Water Heating	Natural Gas	7	9	12	15	18	21
	Bottled Gas	30	41	53	65	83	95
,	Electric	27	35	47	56	67	78
	Fuel Oil	24	34	44	53	68	78
Water		6	12	24	35	47	59
Sewer		10	21	42	63	84	105
Trash Collection		5	8	11	14	18	24
Natural Gas	Customer Charge	10	10	10	10	10	10
Range/Microwave		2 ,	2	2	3	3	3
Refrigerator		3	3	3	3	4	4
Actual Family Allowa searching for a unit.	ances - May be used by the	family to co	mpute allowa	nce while	Utility/Service/Appliance Heating		Allowance
Head of Household N	lame				Cooking Other Electr	ic .	
					Air Condition		
Unit Address					Water Heati	ng	
					Water		
					Sewer		
					Trash Collec	tion	
					Other		
Number of Bedrooms	S				Range/Micro		
					Refrigerator		
					Total		

See Public Reporting and Instructions on back.

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exp. 7/31/2022

Locality / PHA Worces	ter, Massachusetts		Unit Type High Ris	se [5 or l	More Units		m/dd/yyyy) 17/2021
Utility or Service	Fuel Type	0 BR	1 BR	2 BR	3 BR	4 BR	5 BR
Heating	Natural Gas	22	30	41	49	70	74
	Bottled Gas	56	75	103	125	153	177
	Electric	57	76	104	127	156	181
	Electric - Heat Pump	37	50	68	83	101	117
	Fuel Oil	60	81	111	136	166	192
	Other						
Cooking	Natural Gas	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Bottled Gas	15	21	27	33	43	49
	Electric	5	7	9	10	12	15
	Other						
Other Electric		30	38	49	58	67	79
Air Conditioning							
Water Heating	Natural Gas	7.	9	12	15	18	21
	Bottled Gas	30	41	53	65	83	95
*	Electric	27	35	47	56	67	78
	Fuel Oil	24	34	44	53	68	78
Water		6	12	24	35	47	59
Sewer		10	21	42	63	84	105
Trash Collection		5	8	11	14	18	24
Natural Gas	Customer Charge	10	10	10	10	10	10
Range/Microwave		2	2	2	3	3	3
Refrigerator		3	3	3	3	4	4
•	ances - May be used by the	family to co	mpute allowar	nce while	Utility/Service/Appliance		Allowance
searching for a unit.	lama				Heating		
Head of Household N	vanic				Cooking Other Electri	ic	
					Air Condition		
Unit Address		(4)			Water Heati		
					Water	,	
					Sewer		
					Trash Collec	tion	
			,		Other		
Number of Bedroom	S				Range/Micro	wave	
					Refrigerator		
					Total		

Utility Allowance Schedule

See Public Reporting and Instructions on back.

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OMB Approval No. 2577-0169

exp. 7/31/2022

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<u>ATTACHMENT E</u> FY 2021 HOME INCOME LIMITS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HUD

STATE: MASSACHUSETTS ------ 2021 ADJUSTED HOME INCOME LIMITS -----

EFFECTIVE DATE: JUNE 1, 2021

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
PROGRAM	PERSON							
Worcester, MA HUD								
Metro FMR Area								
30% LIMITS	20800	23750	26700	29650	32050	34400	36800	39150
VERY LOW INCOME	34600	39550	44500	49400	53400	57350	61300	65250
60% LIMITS	41520	47460	53400	59280	64080	68820	73560	78300
LOW INCOME	55350	63250	71150	79050	85400	91700	98050	104350

$\frac{ATTACHMENT\,F}{\text{City of Worcester HOME TBRA Program Guidelines}}$

Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program

Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) is form of direct rent assistance in which the recipient tenant may move from a dwelling unit with a right of continued assistance.

Policies and Procedures

OVERVIEW

Definition: Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) is a rental subsidy used to help individual households afford housing costs. Clients choose their housing and the subsidy stays with the client (not the unit) if they move. This assistance is provided to households who are under 50% AMI.

Portability: Tenant must be able to choose unit in which to live. Rental costs must not be above fair market rent and meet the Rent Reasonableness Test.

Contract funding: The agency contract with the City of Worcester is limited to 24 months.

Payment Standards:

- Apartments rented cannot exceed the maximum fair market rent as established annually by HUD.
- Maximum Rental Assistance: Difference between rent and 30% of Adjusted Gross income (certificate method).
- Minimum Tenant Payment: 30% of Income (or \$25/month in the case of no income)
- TBRA funds cannot be used for the following:
 - Assistance to resident owners of cooperative housing that qualifies as home ownership housing;
 - O Displacement or relocation assistance to tenants as a result of activities other than the HOME program;
 - o Overnight or temporary shelter; or
 - o In conjunction with another rental assistance program.

Location: Rental property may be located anywhere in Worcester County.

Record Retention: All records must be retained for five years after final rental assistance is provided.

MARKETING

Agencies must establish how potential applicants will be notified and selected for the TBRA program. Description should include:

- Local preferences (i.e. homeless, participants in self-sufficiency programs)
- Where applications are available and how they are submitted
- Agency steps to reach applicants who are least likely to apply
- Outreach to property owners

FAIR HOUSING

The following information should be included in marketing and agreements with the landlords/owners.

Non-Discrimination: The Agency or landlord shall not, in the provision of services or in any other manner, discriminate against any person on the grounds of age, race, color, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, handicap, national origin, or familial status.

TENANT SELECTION

All applicants must be screened and selected through a fair, written and public process.

Applications: Agencies must use a written application to determine eligibility. Application will include income information, household information, program rules & policies, complaint & grievance procedures, rent standards, rent calculation form, income limits and adjustments.

Sample TBRA Application

Residency Eligibility: Tenants must be residents of Worcester County, working in Worcester County, or have a bona fide job offer in Worcester County. Documentation may include driver's license, utility bills, and copies of benefit or banks statements.

Eligibility: Agencies shall review income and program eligibility prior to admission and recertify every 90 days.

Waiting list: Agencies are permitted to maintain a written waiting list. If using this option, agency must describe how people are selected from list to participate. In addition to maintaining a HOME TBRA waiting list, per 24 CFR 92.209(1), agency must indicate whether or not participant is on the Section 8 waiting list (so that they may ensure households maintains its place on the list).

Notification: Prospective tenants must be notified in writing regarding the outcome of their application. Requirement extends to all unsuccessful applicants as well as selected tenants.

INCOME ELIGIBILITY AND SUBSIDY AMOUNTS

A three step process is used to arrive at the maximum subsidy amount, per 24 CFR 92.203(b) For assistance with calculating income inclusions and exclusions, see One CPD Income Calculator

- Income Determination
- Calculating Adjusted Income
- Total Tenant Payment Calculation

Income Determination Process: Agencies will use the Annual Income as Defined in 24 CFR Part 5, to determine TBRA income eligibility. This is also referred to as Part 5 Annual Income; and was based on the Section 8 model. The income definition is defined as the gross amount of income of all adult household members that is anticipated to be received during the coming 12-month period. Program participants will provide proof of income (such as wages or governmental benefits GAU, ADATSA, SSI, SSDI) at enrollment and each time household income changes. A copy of the proof of income or self-declaration of no income is stored in the program participant file.

Calculating Adjusted Income: After gross income is determined, calculation for the "adjusted income" as defined in 24 CFR 5.611 is used to determine total tenant payment (TTP), which is a measure of a household's ability to pay housing costs.

Total Tenant Payment Calculation: The TTP is the final calculation used to determine the Agency's subsidy and tenant's share of rent under a HOME-funded TBRA program. Resident rents are calculated by using annual incomes and applying standard allowances for dependents, childcare, disabilities and medical expenses and based upon established HUD guidelines, Notice CPD-96-03.

If all utilities are included in the rent, the tenant's entire share of housing costs goes directly to the landlord. If utilities are paid separately, the Agency must make utility reimbursements to the household whenever the household's share of housing costs is insufficient to cover expected utility costs. Agencies must use the utility allowance established by the Housing Authority of the City of Worcester. Recent versions are available at http://worcester-housing.com/.

Maximum Income: Family income must not be above 50% adjusted median income (AMI) on admission and recertification. Income limits are established by household size and revised annually by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

See HUD Income Limits

UNIT SELECTION/APPROVAL

Unit Inspections: Prior to completing the lease or making any payments, a unit must be inspected to meet the housing quality standards (HUD-52580A). The Agency has the option of performing an HQS; Agencies cannot complete the inspections if they own the units.

Units must meet housing quality standards (HQS) before tenancy and at least annually. Complete records of certification, inspections, and follow-up actions must be kept in the client's files. Housing safety standards:

HUD HOS Checklist

Units built before 1978 must pass the lead based paint inspection.

See Attached Form, Lead-Based Paint Visual Inspection Report.

Occupancy Standards: HUD has established occupancy standards that comply with the HQS requirements and how the number of bedrooms needed by the household will impact the unit size and subsidy. The following basic standards can be modified to take into consideration specific household composition and circumstances (i.e., pending child custody cases, chronic illnesses, family member who is absent most of the time, etc.). Occupancy standards are used to provide consistent criteria for determining the unit size for which the household is eligible and thus, the amount of assistance provided. Fair housing rules permit a household to select smaller units that do not create seriously overcrowded conditions.

- No more than two persons are required to occupy a bedroom;
- Persons of different generations (i.e., grandparents, parents, children), persons of the
 opposite sex (other than spouses/couples) and unrelated adults are not required to share a
 bedroom;
- Children of the same sex (regardless of age) and couples co-habiting (whether or not legally married) must share the same bedroom for purpose of assigning the bedroom size on housing coupon;
- A live-in care attendant who is not a member of the family is not required to share a bedroom with another household member.
- Individual medical problems (i.e., chronic illness) sometimes require either separate bedrooms for household members who would otherwise be required to share a bedroom or an extra bedroom to store medical equipment;
- In most instances, a bedroom is not provided for a family member who will be absent most of the time, such as a member who is away in the military.

Ownership: Units may be privately or publicly owned.

Rent Reasonableness: Rent for each unit must be determined to be reasonable when compared to unassisted units. This can be calculated by using the Rent Reasonableness Form. Tenants must complete this form prior to proposing any lease.

HOME Rent Reasonableness Checklist and Certification

Rent Increases: Any rent increased must be approved by the City of Worcester. Individuals will be asked to provide documentation from the landlord about rent adjustments. Adjustment of the subsidy may be recalculated providing rent amounts continue to maintain the Fair Market Rent standards for the area.

Security Deposit Assistance: If the agency is using HOME funds to provide security deposit assistance, the funds provided for a security deposit may not exceed the equivalent of two month's rent for the unit.

Landlord-Tenant Law: Tenants should receive a user-friendly copy of the Landlord-Tenant Law and be informed on how to use this law when problems arise. Copies of signed receipt of the landlord-Tenant Law should be included in the individual's file.

For more regarding landlord-tenant law, see <u>State of MA AGO website</u>

Lead Based Paint: Tenants will be notified of/about the potential presence and hazard of lead. All individuals receiving tenant-based rental subsidies will receive a copy of the Environmental Protection Agency brochure titled "Protect Your Family From Lead In Your Home".

A signed receipt of the copy should be maintained in the individual's file.

EPA Disclosure Requirements for All Leased Housing Built Before 1978 the lessor shall provide the lessee with the EPA-approved lead hazard information pamphlet entitled Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home (EPA #747-K-94-001).

See Attached Form; Lead Based Paint EPA Disclosure Form.

• The lessor shall disclose to the lessee the presence of any known lead based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards, in any housing built before 1978 that is being leased. The lessor shall also disclose any additional information available such as the basis for the determination that lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards exist, the location of the lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards, and the condition of the painted surfaces.

- The lessor shall disclose to each lessee the existence of any available records or reports pertaining to lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards. This requirement includes records or reports regarding common areas. This requirement also includes records or reports regarding other residential dwellings in multifamily housing built before 1978, provided that such information is part of an evaluation or reduction of lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards in the housing built before 1978 as a whole.
- If any of the disclosure activities identified in this section occurs after the lessee has provided an offer to lease the housing, the lessor shall complete the required disclosure activities prior to accepting the lessee's offer and allow lessee an opportunity to review the information and possibly amend the offer.

LEASE ADDENDUM

Terms: At least one year unless the tenant and agency agree otherwise.

Un-allowable terms in lease: The lease between the owner and the tenant may not contain the following:

- (1) Agreement to be sued. Agreement by the tenant to be sued, to admit guilt or to a judgment in favor of the owner in a lawsuit brought in connection with the lease;
- (2) Treatment of property. Agreement by the tenant that the owner may take, hold, or sell personal property of household members without notice to the tenant and a court decision on the rights of the parties. This prohibition, however, does not apply to an agreement by the tenant concerning disposition of personal property remaining in the housing unit after the tenant has moved out of the unit. The owner may dispose of this personal property in accordance with State law;
- (3) Excusing owner from responsibility. Agreement by the tenant not to hold the owner or the owner's agents legally responsible for any action or failure to act, whether intentional or negligent;
- (4) Waiver of notice. Agreement of the tenant that the owner may institute a lawsuit without notice to the tenant;
- (5) Waiver of legal proceedings. Agreement by the tenant that the owner may evict the tenant or household members without instituting a civil court proceeding in which the tenant has the opportunity to present a defense, or before a court decision on the rights of the parties;
- (6) Waiver of a jury trial. Agreement by the tenant to waive any right to a trial by jury;
- (7) Waiver of right to appeal court decision. Agreement by the tenant to waive the tenant's right to appeal, or to otherwise challenge in court, a court decision in connection with the lease;
- (8) Tenant chargeable with cost of legal actions regardless of outcome. Agreement by the tenant to pay attorney's fees or other legal costs even if the tenant wins in a court proceeding by the owner against the tenant. The tenant, however, may be obligated to pay costs if the tenant loses; and
- **(9)** Mandatory supportive services. Agreement by the tenant (other than a tenant in transitional housing) to accept supportive services that are offered.

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA): The lease addendum must contain the following provisions:

- The Landlord may not consider incidents of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking as serious or repeated violations of the lease or other "good cause" for termination of assistance, tenancy or occupancy rights of the victim of abuse.
- The Landlord may not consider criminal activity directly relating to abuse, engaged in by a member of a tenant's household or any guest or other person under the tenant's control, cause for termination of assistance, tenancy, or occupancy rights if the tenant or an immediate member of the tenant's family is the victim or threatened victim of that abuse.
- The Landlord may request in writing that the victim, or a family member on the victim's behalf, certify that the individual is a victim of abuse and that the Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence or Stalking, Form HUD-91066, or other documentation as noted on the certification form, be completed and submitted within 14 business days, or an agreed upon extension date, to receive protection under the VAWA. Failure to provide the certification or other supporting documentation within the specified timeframe may result in eviction.

HOME Lease Addendum

AGREEMENT WITH PROPERTY OWNER/LANDLORD

The Agency should have an agreement with the property owner/landlord providing information regarding terms, amounts, security deposit fair housing and termination. Written agreement with landlord should enumerate responsibilities of each party with respect to the HOME TBRA. HOME Rental Assistance Contract

TERMINATION

Agency must notify tenant in writing when terminating tenant assistance. Agency must follow landlord tenant rules of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

End of Assistance Time Period: Provide notice in writing to tenant and landlord.

Property Owner Termination: If a property owner terminates the tenancy through no fault of the tenant, and the tenant is still eligible for assistance, the Agency will work to find another unit.

Tenant Caused Eviction: If tenant is evicted due to breaking the lease or participating in illegal activities, the agency is under no obligation to continue to provide rental assistance.

Tenant Moves: Tenant moves are accommodated only on rare instances such as family size or job change.

UTILITIES

Utility Deposits: Funding associated with the TBRA program cannot be used for utility deposits.

Utility Costs: Utilities costs are included in the fair market rental calculation. Agencies must use the utility allowance established by the Housing Authority of the City of Worcester. Recent versions are available on the City of Worcester website.

The rents must be reduced for tenant paid utilities.

BENCEFICIARY DATA / RECORDS

Each agency will track TBRA tenants, rents and occupancy data and submit to the City of Worcester with each invoice. The agency may use the <u>TBRA Set up Form</u> to fulfill this requirement.

Each agency will maintain a Microsoft Excel reporting checklist format provided by City of Worcester that includes:

- Individual's name
- Individual's date of birth
- Receiving case management
- Financial eligibility
- Rent below FMR
- HQS Inspection completion date
- Lead based paint inspection
- Lease in file
- Amount of subsidy
- Rental start date

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

Note: all forms must have signatures. Agencies receiving HOME funding are required to maintain adequate documentation of the eligibility of persons served using the HUD, Community Planning and Development, Office of Affordable Housing Programs, <u>Tenant-Based Rental Assistance</u> <u>Guidelines</u> Records will be retained for five years after final rental assistance is provided.

- Application
- Income verification and subsidy calculations
- Notice of eligibility or ineligibility to prospective applicants
- Rent Reasonableness
- HQS Inspection Checklist
- Tenant, Rents and Low-Income Occupancy Data
- Lead Based Paint Inspection Report (Units built before 1978)
- Lease and addendums
- Agreement with owner/landlord
- Case management records
- Notice of end of rental assistance to both tenant and landlord/property owner