

City of Aurora 2023 HOME-ARP Applicant Summary

1. **Applicant:** Association for Individual Development (co-applicants: Hesed House & The Neighbor Project).

Agency Background:

AID works with individuals with developmental, intellectual, physical, and/or mental health challenges, those who have suffered a trauma, those experiencing immediate and/or chronic crises, and those at risk of overcoming personal, behavioral, societal, and environmental barriers to achieve recovery, independence, self-reliance and to live the lives they choose.

Hesed House is a national model for ending homelessness – one person, one family at a time. Hesed House is the second largest homeless shelter in the State of Illinois, and the largest shelter outside of the city of Chicago. The culmination of nearly three decades of strategic evolution.

The Neighbor Project (TNP) is a grassroots, non-profit, community development and housing organization that has been serving the greater Aurora area since 1990. As a HUD-Approved Housing Counseling Agency and Chartered Member of NeighborWorks America, TNP provides asset-building and financial-strengthening tools and services designed to help low- to moderate-income families reduce debt, build credit, save money, and build generational wealth (often through buying their first homes).

Project Type: Affordable Housing Development.

2023 Project Proposal: AID, Hesed House, and The Neighbor Project will use HOME-ARP funds to acquire a site and construct supportive housing and affordable housing for Aurora's most vulnerable tenants who need onsite supportive services to maintain their housing stability. The goal would be to develop 30 - 40 units of permanent supportive housing. The development would be open to anyone needing supportive services and earning at or below 50% and 30% of the area median income.

Project Request: \$1,500,000.

Project Recommendation: \$0.

2. **Applicant:** Association for Individual Development

Agency Background: AID works with individuals with developmental, intellectual, physical and/or mental health challenges, those who have suffered a trauma, those experiencing immediate and/or chronic crises and those at risk of overcoming personal, behavioral, societal, and environmental barriers to achieve recovery, independence, self-reliance and to live the lives they choose.

Project Type: Supportive Services.

2023 Project Proposal: The AID Street Outreach and Engagement Program will provide supportive services to individuals experiencing chronic homelessness and engage, encourage, support, and link individuals to appropriate services with the intention of reducing inappropriate use of emergency services and encouraging participation in more clinical mental health services and accessing shelter/housing. Case Managers engage individuals identified by Frequent User Systems Engagement (FUSE) committee members and the Kane County Continuum of Care (CoC), or individuals located in tent cities and other public spaces who are inappropriately using Emergency Services through Police & Fire. Case Managers meet individuals in the community and utilize needs assessments to gauge mental health needs and provide education about available recovery services and natural community supports.

Project Request: \$319,000.

Project Recommendation: \$275,000.

3. **Applicant:** Community Housing Advocacy and Development (CHAD).
Agency Background: Community Housing Advocacy and Development is committed to delivering quality, affordable housing where individuals and families can live, work, and thrive to all ethnicities that are income-qualified. The organization houses an estimated 1,250 residents annually and manages a residential portfolio of 567 housing units, including single-family homes, apartments, townhouses, and condominiums.
Project Type: Affordable Housing Development.
2023 Project Proposal: Rehabilitation of three properties in Aurora that are occupied by 12 Aurora residents. Some of the proposed rehabilitation to occur is the remodeling of bathrooms and kitchens, HVAC replacement, and roofing and siding repairs.
Project Request: \$132,000.
Project Recommendation for HOME CHDO Funding: \$132,000.

4. **Applicant:** Hesed House.
Agency Background: Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS), Inc. dba Hesed House is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to alleviating the plight of poor and homeless families and individuals. Clients of Hesed House must be homeless and include the unemployed, mentally ill, physically disabled, victims of domestic violence, the chronically homeless, veterans, displaced families, senior citizens, persons with alcohol/substance use disorders, and those experiencing homelessness due to severe economic distress.
Project Type: Supportive Services.
2023 Project Proposal: Provide substance abuse and domestic violence counselors for Hesed House clients, as well as assistance in locating affordable housing for those ready to move back to independent living. Hesed House has identified an increase in clients experiencing substance abuse and domestic and sexual violence. The ability to contract with Mutual Ground to have a substance abuse counselor and domestic violence counselor onsite will allow them to better serve their clients. Additionally, Hesed House proposes to contract with TEC Services to assist in locating affordable housing to house homeless clients.
Project Request: \$660,000.
Project Recommendation: \$440,000.

5. **Applicant:** HOPE Fair Housing.
Agency Background: Home Fair Housing provides fair housing outreach and enforcement services across forty counties throughout Illinois, including Chicago's west suburbs, several other metropolitan areas in Central Illinois, and rural communities across many of these counties.
Project Type: Admin & Planning.
2023 Project Proposal: Hope Fair Housing will provide technical assistance to inform planning activities, educate and assist HOME-ARP grantees on new fair housing rights in Illinois, and directly serve City residents who face housing discrimination. They will provide this by developing an online renter-specific fair housing survey to identify impediments to fair housing, developing and disseminating to Aurora HOME-ARP grant recipients a toolkit to advocate for their clients when landlords refuse to accept emergency rental assistance, providing technical assistance when encountering fair housing issues, conduct housing discrimination investigations, provide fair housing intake, enforcement, and referral services, and counsel victims of housing discrimination.
Project Request: \$50,000.
Project Recommendation: \$50,000.

6. **Applicant:** Ladder Up.
Agency Background: Ladder Up is a Chicago-based nonprofit providing low-income, underserved communities in Illinois with free financial services that help address many systemic inequities that can hold people back from realizing economic stability.
Project Type: Supportive Services.
2023 Project Proposal: Provide low-income, underserved communities with free financial services through 1. Tax preparation, securing the maximum allowable tax credits and refunds through their Tax Assistance Program; 2. Pro Bono Tax Clinic, helping resolve client tax issues and controversies; and 3. Financial Capabilities/Education, providing information and instruction on obtaining financial aid, deciphering award letters/loans, etc. for post-secondary education and personal tax/small business informational programs.
Project Request: \$125,750.
Project Recommendation: \$0. Applicant will be referred to Quality of life for consideration.

7. **Applicant:** Loaves & Fishes.
Agency Background: Loaves & Fishes' vision is to end hunger and transform lives. Their integrated food and support programs promote long-term results for families and individuals struggling with hunger and economic stability.
Project Type: Supportive Services.
2023 Project Proposal: Emergency rent and utility payment assistance to residents of Aurora who are experiencing a sudden loss of income to prevent families from becoming homeless. This program will aid families at risk of becoming homeless by paying rent or utility expenses directly to landlords and utility providers to keep low- and moderate-income residents housed, and utilities connected. This saves the community the expenses associated with re-housing homeless families and providing additional services. More importantly, it spares a family from the upheaval and trauma of becoming homeless, particularly the effects on children and their ability to stay engaged and succeed in school.
Project Request: \$50,000.
Project Recommendation: \$50,000.

8. **Applicant:** Mutual Ground.
Agency Background: Mutual Ground, Inc. is a not-for-profit social service organization, established in 1975, that operates one of the oldest and largest domestic and sexual violence programs in Illinois. Services are provided across these three programs (Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence, and Substance Use) and six departments within those programs (Hotline, Shelter, counseling, Legal Advocacy, Family Services, and Prevention).
Project Type: Supportive Services.
2023 Project Proposal: Mutual Ground has the intention to provide transitional housing opportunities to survivors of Domestic Violence as well as emergency rent assistance. Mutual Ground plans to do this by hiring a housing coordinator who will be the liaison between private and subsidized housing programs to assist clients in finding safe, affordable, and sustainable housing, as well as emergency rent to maintain their housing.
Project Request: \$300,000.
Project Recommendation: \$200,000.

9. **Applicant:** Prairie State Legal Services.

Agency Background: Prairie State Legal Services has a long-established track record in providing legal services to protect, retain, and enable people to move freely into the housing that best suits their situation. Their attorneys are experienced litigators and adept at negotiation with both private landlords as well as with housing authorities.

Project Type: Supportive Services.

2023 Project Proposal: Prairie State Legal Services will provide legal services to prevent homelessness and ensure long-term access to housing. The attorneys that will be supported by this funding will provide legal advice and/or representational services to maintain their housing and avoid eviction as well as other services directly relating to individuals experiencing housing instability.

Project Request: \$441,950.

Project Recommendation: \$100,000.

10. **Applicant:** VNA Health Care.

Agency Background: VNA Health Care delivers comprehensive primary care, as well as mental and behavioral health, and other enabling services for individuals with little or no insurance and who face barriers to care and health disparities.

Project Type: Supportive Services.

2023 Project Proposal: VNA Health Care will deliver comprehensive primary care, mental/behavioral health, and dental services for low-income residents who are homeless or at increased risk of housing instability. The ability to provide health care to individuals who are homeless or who are housing unstable will ensure their ability to maintain employment which will allow them to either keep their housing or maintain their income to obtain housing. The loss of employment due to poor health becomes a vicious cycle and individuals can find it difficult to regain housing.

Project Request: \$500,000.

Project Recommendation: \$200,000.