

CR39-2024 – Howard County’s Annual Action Plan

Position: Support

April 12, 2024

On behalf of the Association of Community Services (ACS) and our member organizations and community advocates, I urge you to support CR39-2024, which grants approval of the County’s FFY 2024 Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME). This is Howard County’s application to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for CDBG and HOME funding and is a requirement to receive these funds. The Howard County Department of Housing and Community Development is seeking a total of \$2,234,343 in CDBG and HOME funding.

The CDBG program funds essential services at many local nonprofit organizations, including:

- ReBuilding Together, to provide free home repairs to 50 low-income homeowners;
- Hope Works, to support the Transitional Housing Program for 30-40 clients experiencing homelessness;
- Community Action Council, to maintain housing for 41 households;
- Grassroots, to serve 40 households in the Family Shelter Program and 50 individuals in the Men’s Shelter Program;
- Arc of Howard County, to provide renovations at 7 locations offering safe, affordable housing for residents with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities; and
- Columbia Housing Center, to support the Affirmative Marketing Program.

CDBG and HOME funds will also be used to support a variety of additional projects, such as redevelopment of Ranleigh Court and Waverly Winds (a total of 164 units), the Roger Carter Community Center, the Safe House Lease for victims of domestic violence, and iHome’s acquisition of 2 properties to accommodate 6 residents with a developmental or psychiatric disability.

Given the lack of sufficient affordable housing in Howard County, we cannot afford to lose this critical funding. I urge you to vote to support CR39-2024.

Submitted by,

Lois K Mikkila

Lois K. Mikkila
Executive Director
Association of Community Services of Howard County
9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 301
Columbia, MD 21046
443-518-7701