

ARP Funding Requests – Affordable Housing

Catalyst Fund: \$10M requested

Challenge: The housing market nationally and locally remains extremely competitive and state law prevents us from providing expanded tenant protections. Timely, strategic housing preservation is a crucial aspect of housing stability, especially for residents who are especially exposed to economic pressures. The Catalyst Fund allows developers to compete against market rate developers in speed and offer structure to preserve affordable housing. Additionally, when proposed investments are announced, proactive acquisitions can be made to develop affordable housing near assets.

Solution: Metro provides \$10M in funding. This will launch an RFP to recruit an experienced partner that will manage the fund and pursue additional investors to the Fund. By being housing outside Metro, the Fund can move quickly to acquire land. Metro will preset deal terms and guidelines for qualifying deals. For example, housing along transit access could be prioritized.

Additional Benefits: Provides an avenue for recruiting national partners, both corporate and philanthropic, to invest in Nashville's affordable housing market.

Examples:

[New Generation Fund in Los Angeles](#): this fund offers discounted financing options for flexible acquisition, predevelopment and rehab for affordable housing creation and preservation. California does not have discounted debt options through CITC.

[Denver Regional TOD Fund](#): this fund offers debt financing for acquisition of land or operating properties near public transit in the Denver Metro area. Colorado does not have access to discounted debt options through CITC.

Centralized Housing Platform: \$200,000 requested

Challenge: Residents seeking affordable housing must call 15-20 providers to see if a unit is available. Then, they complete separate affordability certification documents for every provider. Different properties have different requirements based on their funding source or impact focus. The burden on our residents is too great. This investment centralizes units to increase transparency, efficiency, and choice for residents.

Solution: \$200,000 will pay for licensing, technical assistance, and onboarding to bring every subsidized housing unit in the county onto a central, transparent, accessible platform.

Structure: Going forward, all Metro subsidized contracts will require providers to maintain real-time availability of listings and to utilize the centralized platform. Dr. White is enthusiastic about bringing all MDHA properties and units onto the platform. Technical assistance will be provided to insure successful, thorough onboarding to support our providers in making this adjustment. Market testing has been conducted with housing providers to inform an eventual contract.

The Barnes Fund: \$10M Requested

Challenge: Nonprofit developers have multiple projects in the pipeline and the only bottleneck to increasing affordable housing supply is funding. The Barnes Fund is an efficient, effective funding tool for affordable housing development. An additional funding round will be invested in developments that are ready to proceed but only need equity to help unlock bank loans. On average, each Metro dollar into the Barnes Fund leverages an additional \$7 in private, philanthropic or state/federal funding. This housing is affordable for 30 years which provides essential stability for Nashvillians.

Solution: \$10M will provide an additional round of funding that can be launched early 2022. The current round is open, and awards will be finalized before the end of the year. These equity grants provide an invaluable source of funding to support nonprofit housing developers as they create and preserve units throughout the county.

Structure: All Barnes awards are made after an open and competitive application and review process. The final contracts are structured on a reimbursement basis. Work is completed, inspected by a third party and reviewed by staff before funds are disbursed. This monitoring is invaluable to not only ensure strong stewardship of public funds but also to allow us to work closely with our grantees to navigate any challenges that may arise in the development process.