MDHA Requests for Metro Government's American Rescue Plan Act Funding

Demonstration Project: Human Services

Amount Requested \$800,000 I year for 2 years = \$1,600,000

Summary: Demonstrate that this funding and programming helps residents achieve self-- sufficiency and accumulate economic opportunities such that they can move to units requiring less financial support. This then frees up subsidized units. We both help individuals and families graduate to greater self-sufficiency and increase availability of our most needed affordable housing. With results, seek Federal and State funding for sustainability.

Virtually all MDHA's 13,000 residents of its Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA) properties, formerly public housing, are in very-low-income households. While MDHA was operating its properties as public housing, the public housing Operating Fund formula, as well as such grants as Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) and Resident Opportunities and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) provided funds to employ social workers, career coaches and other human services staff to assist residents with their greatest needs. But since MDHA converted its properties to an alternate funding mechanism through the Rental Assistance Demonstration program (RAD), the Agency is no longer eligible for these federal grants and the rent subsidy formula does not recognize these services as eligible property expenses. As a result, this funding has ended.

MDHA believes it can pursue Federal and/or State funding by demonstrating that these services can be used to help address the affordable housing crisis. Programmatically, the funds will be used in a more focused way to help move people to further self-sufficiency. Within the same community, this would mean moving individuals and families from a subsidized unit to a tax- credit unit. This will be accomplished from services such as training and job readiness. This then frees up subsidized units and increases our most needed housing stock.

Services will be provided by service partner organizations, which will be competitively procured. Upon receipt of funds, a competitive process would begin within the next 60 days. Program start- up could be achieved as early as January, depending on staffing ramp-up needs proposed.

Output / outcomes: Engage and assessment of 50 families at the following sites:

- Cayce Place
- Napier Place
- Sudekum Apartments
- Edgehill Apartments
- Cheatham Place
- Cumberland View
- Andrew Jackson Courts

Each participating family will execute an agreement of participation that specifies the rights and responsibilities of both parties. The agreement will identify the family's individual training and

service needs. This part of the agreement list short, intermediate, and long-term goals and the steps the family needs to take - and the services and resources they may need to access -to achieve those goals.

The agreements will be four years with two extension options of one year each. Quarterly reporting will be conducted to monitor progress of program.

Financial sustainability strategy: MDHA will work with Meharry Medical College to assess the program and use these results to pursue Federal and/or State funding for families to achieve success.