

**ARPA SLFRF Working Group**  
**Safe Spaces, Healthy Minds: Kane County Affordable Housing Initiatives**  
**Considerations for Notice of Funding Opportunity**

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**Notice of Funding Opportunity Community Support Grants** (*Competitive*)

**Description:** This document will serve as the public funding announcement and should be consistent with the requirements per [2 CFR 200.204](#)

**Program Title:** Safe Spaces, Healthy Minds: Kane County Affordable Housing Initiatives (Program)

**Assistance Listing:** Assistance Listing Program Title is CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS and Assistance Listing Number is 21.027

**Key Dates:** Cost allowability period January 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026; closing date of applications November 6, 2024.

**Funding Availability:** \$1,000,000.00 total. Each organization may apply for between \$250,000.00 and \$1,000,000.00

**Program Description**

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated housing insecurity for many individuals and families in Kane County, creating a heightened need for affordable housing options. As residents continue to face economic hardships, this funding will help community organizations provide crucial housing services, create sustainable housing solutions, and ensure that the most vulnerable populations have access to safe, affordable homes. The relation between affordable/stable housing and behavioral health outcomes is well-documented and cyclical. The COVID-19 pandemic created an environment in which housing/rental prices soared, while at the same time folks were unable to work. The market has yet to “level out” and people are still experiencing major strain finding vacancies and affordable housing. Below are just a few ways that housing and behavioral health are related.

- **Mental Health:** Affordable housing can reduce stress and improve mental health by limiting financial stressors and frequent moves. A study found that housing assistance can help reduce anxiety and improve other variables that affect mental health.
- **Substance Use:** Lack of housing can make it difficult to adhere to treatment plans for substance use, which can lead to increased anxiety, depression, and paranoia.
- **Eviction:** Being evicted can have adverse effects on mental health, including increased rates of depression and suicide.
- **Overcrowding:** Overcrowded living conditions can intensify the spread of airborne contagions and can adversely affect children's development and behavior.

KCHD will award up to \$1,000,000 to eligible organizations to support affordable housing initiatives for Kane County residents. This funding is intended to assist community-based organizations in developing and expanding housing solutions that directly address the economic and housing challenges brought on by the pandemic, particularly for low-income residents and families at risk of homelessness. Funding is available to support programmatic expenses, staffing and operational expenses. Organizations may

apply together or separately for funds that support eligible collaborative projects.

The Safe Spaces, Healthy Minds: Kane County Affordable Housing Initiatives Program will support a variety of activities designed to address the housing needs of residents impacted by the pandemic. These activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Expansion of rental assistance programs or subsidies for low-income residents
- Creation of transitional housing solutions<sup>1</sup> for individuals or families experiencing homelessness or are underhoused
- Implementation of eviction prevention programs
- Support services that complement affordable housing initiatives, such as case management, legal services, or tenant counseling
- Programs that address housing instability caused by pandemic-related job losses or reduced income
- Emergency funds for the mitigation of environmental safety issues in transitional housing units, like black mold, broken temperature control systems, or appliances.

All awards under this Program shall be issued as grants and shall be disbursed to grantees on a reimbursement basis.

Grantees will be expected to enter into a funding agreement with Kane County and shall be required to present appropriate documentation to substantiate their request(s) for reimbursement. All awarded grant funds must be spent before September 30, 2026. Any organization requesting an extension for grant fund expenditure must submit such request to the American Rescue Plan Committee in writing thirty (30) days prior to September 30, 2026.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible to apply for assistance under this Program, organizations must meet the following criteria:

- Be fully incorporated and operating as one of the following organizations as of Jan 1, 2019:
  - State and Local Government Agencies
  - 501(c)3 Non-profit organization
  - Tribal Organization
  - Community-based organization
  - Academic Institution
  - Healthcare Provider
- Deliver services from a facility that is physically located within Kane County.
- Provide, as its primary mission, services and/or aid to Kane County residents in the areas of behavioral and mental health.

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<sup>1</sup> Transitional housing is defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as temporary housing and supportive services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness with the goal of interim stability and support to successfully move to and maintain permanent housing. (HUD, 2024)

- Be in good standing with all applicable federal, state, and local standards and requirements.

### **Eligible Expenses**

- Programmatic Expenses: Expenses related to the operation of housing support programs that promote improvements in behavioral health. This may include costs associated with the operation of the programs that the County has approved grant funding for.
- Operational Expenses: Expenses related to the operation of organizations. This may include non-C-suite payroll, contracted labor such as staffing agencies, and goods and services required for operation.
- Rent/Mortgage: Rent, lease and mortgage for the physical place of business, limited to unpaid rent/mortgage. Rent for temporary emergency accommodations, including hotel rooms and short-term rentals.
- Acquisition, development or rehabilitation of real property is not allowed.

### **Selection Criteria and Application Evaluation Metrics**

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

#### 1) Impact (30 points)

##### a. Target Population:

*How well does the proposal define the housing needs of the community, particularly for those most affected by housing instability?*

Evaluation Metrics:

- (i) Clarity in identifying the target population (e.g., low-income residents, individuals impacted by COVID-19).
- (ii) Estimated number of residents or households that will directly benefit from the project (e.g., number of housing units created, families provided with housing support).

##### b. Scope of Benefit:

*What is the scale and reach of the proposed project in terms of affordable housing solutions?*

Evaluation Metric:

- i. Number of individuals or families who will benefit from the project.
- ii. Broader community impact (e.g., reduction in homelessness, improvement in housing stability, access to essential services).

2. Feasibility (25 points)

a. Clarity and Detail of Implementation Plan:

*Is the implementation plan clear, actionable, and realistic?*

Evaluation Metric:

- i. Detailed project timeline with clear phases, milestones, and responsible parties.
- ii. Alignment of project goals with specific, measurable objectives that can be realistically achieved within the funding period.

b. Project Readiness:

*Does the organization demonstrate the ability to implement the project promptly and efficiently?*

Evaluation Metric:

- i. Evidence of preparedness to start the project (e.g., existing partnerships, prior work in the community).
- ii. Availability of required resources (staff, materials, and expertise) to execute the project successfully.

3. Sustainability (20 points)

a. Long-term Impact:

*Can the project's benefits be sustained beyond the grant period?*

Evaluation Metric:

- i. Presence of a sustainability plan (e.g., future funding sources, partnerships, or revenue-generating components).
- ii. Potential for ongoing operation or maintenance of affordable housing units created or services provided.

b. Post-Grant Continuity:

*Does the organization have a strategy to continue the project or its impact after the grant ends?*

Evaluation Metric:

- i. Identification of additional funding opportunities, such as government grants, donations, or other external resources to ensure long-term success.
- ii. Evidence of the organization's past ability to sustain programs beyond initial funding.

4. Collaboration (15 points)

a. Partnerships:

*How effectively does the proposal demonstrate collaboration with community stakeholders?*

Evaluation Metric:

- i. Strength and relevance of partnerships (e.g., social service providers, government agencies).
- ii. Inclusion of letters of support or partnership agreements detailing the roles of each collaborator in the project.

b. Community Engagement:

*Does the project engage the broader community in meaningful ways?*

Evaluation Metric:

- i. Level of community involvement in project planning and implementation.
- ii. Mechanisms for gathering community feedback and responding to local housing needs.

5. Cost-Effectiveness (10 points)

a. Budget Alignment:

*Is the proposed budget reasonable and aligned with the project's scope and goals?*

Evaluation Metric:

- i. Clear and justified allocation of grant funds, including personnel, materials, and overhead costs.
- ii. Percentage of funds going directly to housing services or development versus administrative costs.

b. Value for Money:

*How efficiently will the project utilize funds to achieve affordable housing goals?*

Evaluation Metric:

- i. Cost-effectiveness in delivering housing solutions (e.g., cost per household served).
- ii. Demonstrated ability to leverage additional resources (e.g., matching funds, in-kind support) to maximize the grant's impact.

**Submission Instructions**

All proposals must be submitted electronically at the following link by 11:59pm on Wednesday, November 6, 2024: <https://redcap.dph.illinois.gov/surveys/?s=FTW3KMPL94CTCK34>

Proposals submitted by other methods such as email or hard copy will not be accepted.

**Appeals**

If your application is not selected for funding, an appeal may be submitted to the ARPA Committee by November 27, 2024 via [KaneARP@co.kane.il.us](mailto:KaneARP@co.kane.il.us). The email must be sent by the email registered in the application. Information should include a description of how your organization meets the eligibility requirements, specifically its primary mission, and include any supporting documentation you deem relevant. Awarded amounts are considered final and the County will not consider appeals requests for awarded amounts.

**Terms & Conditions**

The Community Support Grant Program is funded by Department of Treasury Coronavirus Local and Fiscal Recovery Fund ("Fund") established by Section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Applicants must comply with all requirements of the Fund and guidance issued by the Department of Treasury. An amendment is forthcoming that contains the terms and conditions for this Program. Terms and conditions will be entered into by grant agreements to be signed by approved applicants and the County.