



Burlington ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Public Engagement Report

January 2022

Background

On March 11, 2021 President Joe Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act. This legislation awarded funds to states, municipalities and territories to help combat the impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

As a result, the City of Burlington will receive a total of \$27 million* to assist in addressing the public health emergency, the negative economic impacts of individuals, households and local businesses, the replacement lost public revenue and investing in water/sewer/wastewater infrastructure. While at least \$12 million has been used to replace lost public revenue and restore full City services, the remainder of the funds still must be carefully invested.

Mayor Weinberger instructed Economic Recovery Director, Kara Alnasrawi, to engage the public to better understand their desires for the best use of these one-time funds.

Process & Public Engagement Methods

The Economic Recovery Director, through input from all City Department Heads, the administration and the economic recovery team, designed a survey to gauge public sentiment.

The survey was broken into five main categories which were identified as eligible under ARPA and critical to Burlington's recovery, equity and economic health:

- Houselessness
- Racial Equity
- Housing
- Small Business Support
- Community Infrastructure

*For the purposes of this document, monetary figures have been rounded

The Economic Recovery Team then engaged in an outreach process with the goal of collecting responses from a broad base of the Burlington community. This plan included:

- Translating the survey into 8 major languages spoken in the Burlington area
- Mailers sent to every private residence in Burlington
- Lawn signs installed throughout all neighborhoods
- Appearing on the African Variety Show on both radio and television
- Meeting with the Trusted Community Voices team
- Providing paper copies of the survey to those who don't use or have access to technology
- Placing volunteers at
 - The Miller Center
 - City Market
 - Fletcher Free Library
 - Farmer's Market
 - Jake's ONE market
 - City Hall Park
 - YMCA
 - AALV & the Family Room
- Engaging the following community partners to amplify in their networks
 - Champlain Housing Trust
 - All City departments
 - Racial Justice Alliance
 - Boys & Girls Club
 - Cathedral Square
 - COTS
 - AALV
 - Heineberg/Elderwood Senior Centers
 - Mercy Connections
 - Let's Grow Kids
 - UVM
 - Burlington School District
 - Front Porch Forum
 - King Street Youth Center
 - Burlington Housing Authority
 - Sara Holbrook Center
 - Small Business Developmt. Center
 - North Avenue News
 - All local childcare centers
 - Channel 17 News
 - Center for Women ad Enterprise
 - Spectrum
 - Somali Bantu Community Center

Survey Results

Overall

5 Weeks – Length of survey and Economic Recovery Team led outreach

3,877 – Number of responses; the highest response rate of any City survey

3,000+ – Number of written-in suggestions on the survey under various categories

Who took the survey (multiple answers possible)

74% Residents

46% Work in Burlington

27% Property Owners

10% Business Owners

7% Visitors (not allowed to complete survey)

Personal Identification

57% Female

34% Male

5% Prefer not to say

3% Non-binary

2% Two-spirit, a-gender, or prefer to self-describe

79% White

9% Prefer not say

4% Prefer to self-describe

2% Black

2% Biracial

2% Asian

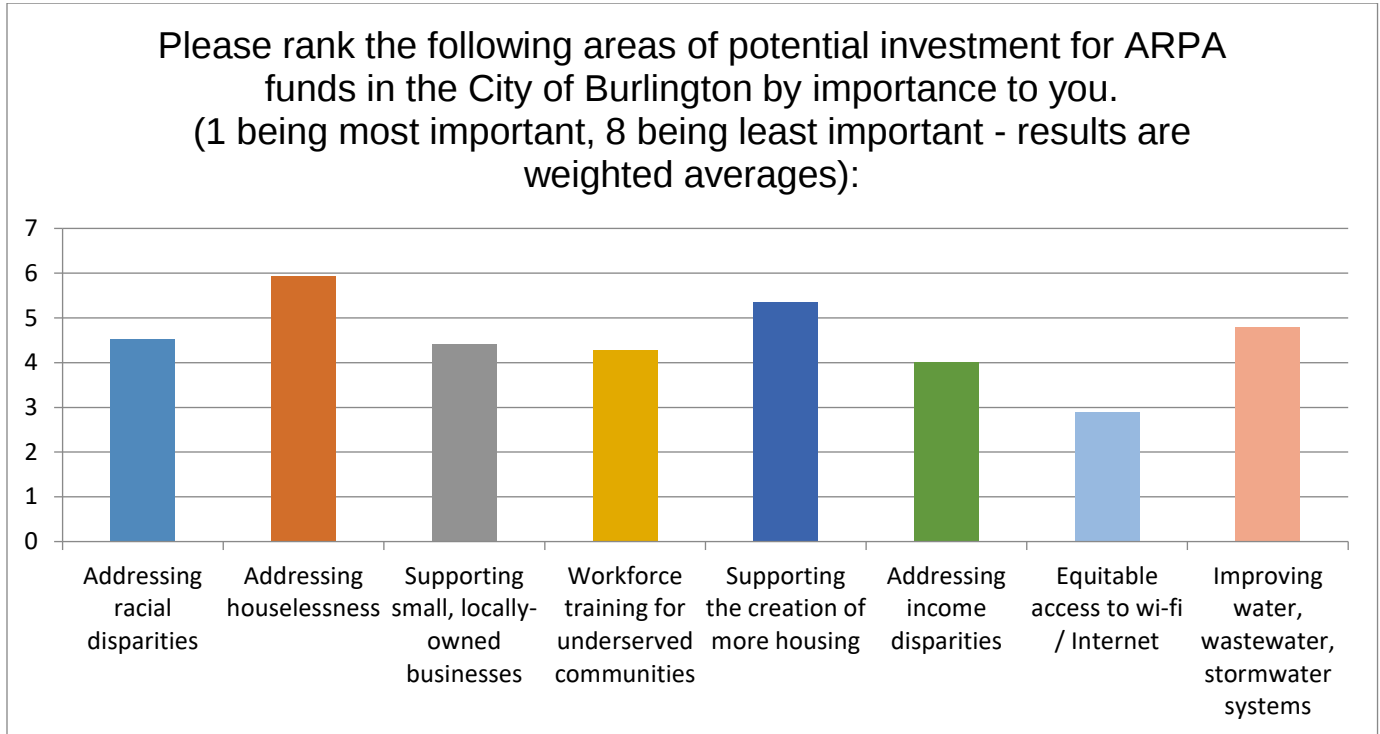
2% Lantinx

1% Native American, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian or Island Pacificer

Detailed results:

The survey asked respondents to rank their answers in order of importance – the chart results are therefore weighted. It was not required to answer all questions to complete the survey.

OVERALL

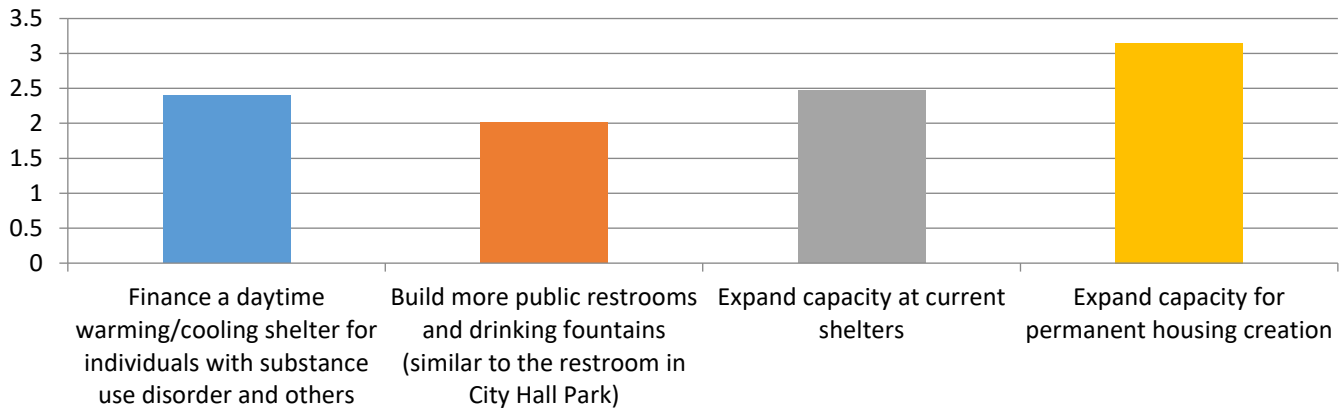


Responses from individuals who self-identified as BIPOC in order of importance:

- ❖ Support creation of more housing
- ❖ Address houselessness
- ❖ Address racial disparities
- ❖ Workforce training for underserved communities
- ❖ Support locally owned businesses

HOUSELESSNESS

Houselessness (Being without a house or home.) Please rank these potential projects around houselessness by importance to you or suggest one. (1 being most important, 4 being least important - results are weighted averages):

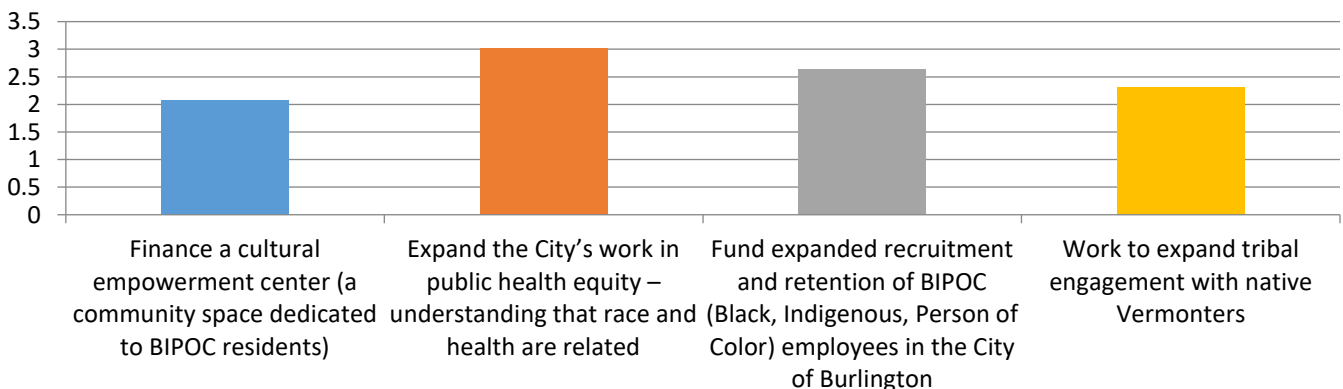


Responses from individuals who self-identified as BIPOC in order of importance:

- ❖ Expand capacity for permanent housing creation
- ❖ Finance daytime warming/cooling station
- ❖ Expand capacity at shelters
- ❖ Build more public restrooms and drinking fountains

RACE/RACIAL EQUITY

Race/Racial Equity - Please rank these potential projects around race/racial equity by importance to you or suggest one. (1 being most important, 4 being least important - results are weighted averages):

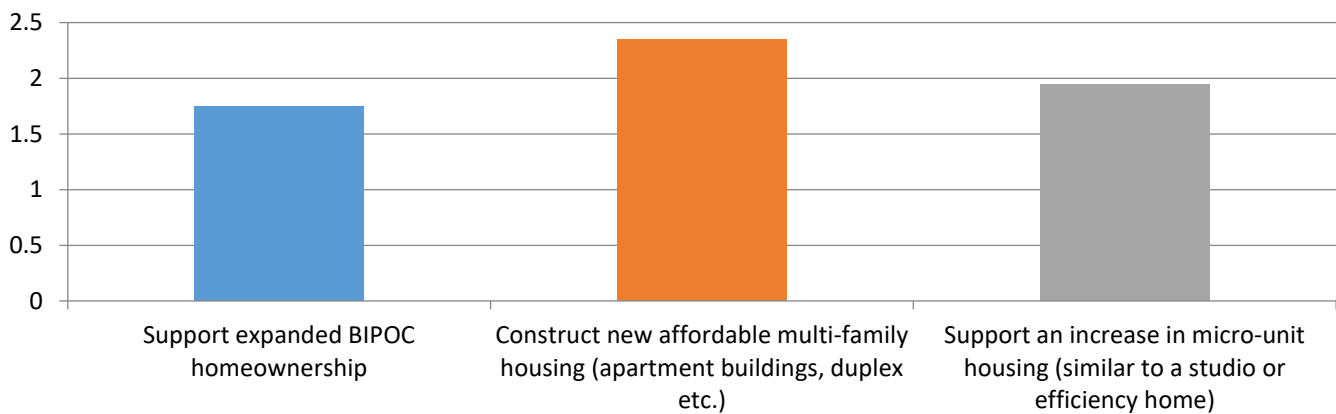


Responses from individuals who self-identified as BIPOC in order of importance:

- ❖ Expand the City's work in public health equity
- ❖ Expand recruitment and retention of BIPOC employees in the City of Burlington
- ❖ Work to expand tribal engagement
- ❖ Finance a cultural empowerment center

HOUSING

Housing - Please rank these potential projects around housing by importance to you or suggest one.(1 being most important, 3 being least important - results are weighted averages):

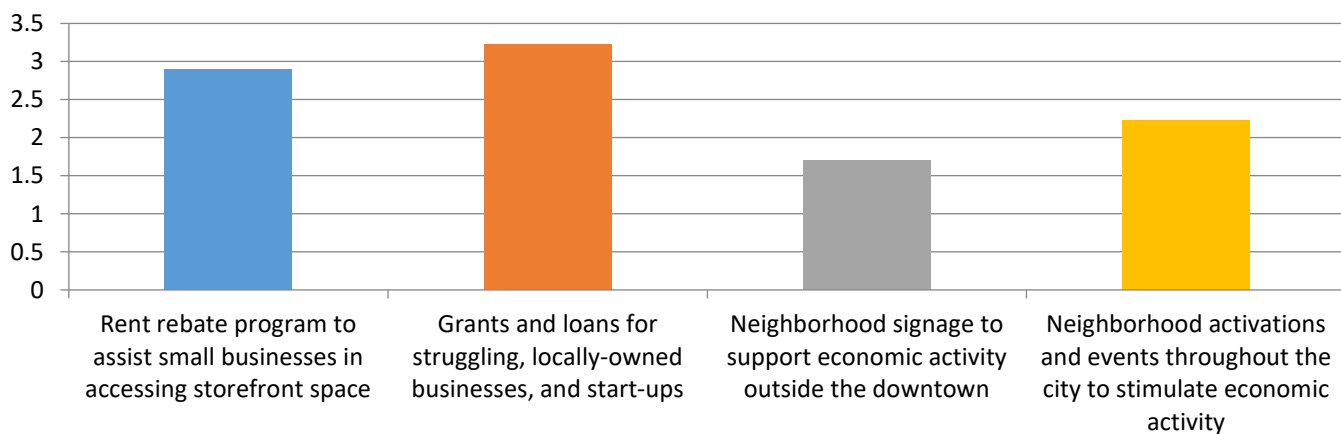


Responses from individuals who self-identified as BIPOC in order of importance:

- ❖ Construct new affordable multi-family housing
- ❖ Support expanded BIPOC homeownership
- ❖ Support an increase in micro-unit housing

ECONOMY/BUSINESS

Economy/Business - Please rank these potential projects around business and the economy by importance to you or suggest one.(1 being most important, 4 being least important - results are weighted averages):

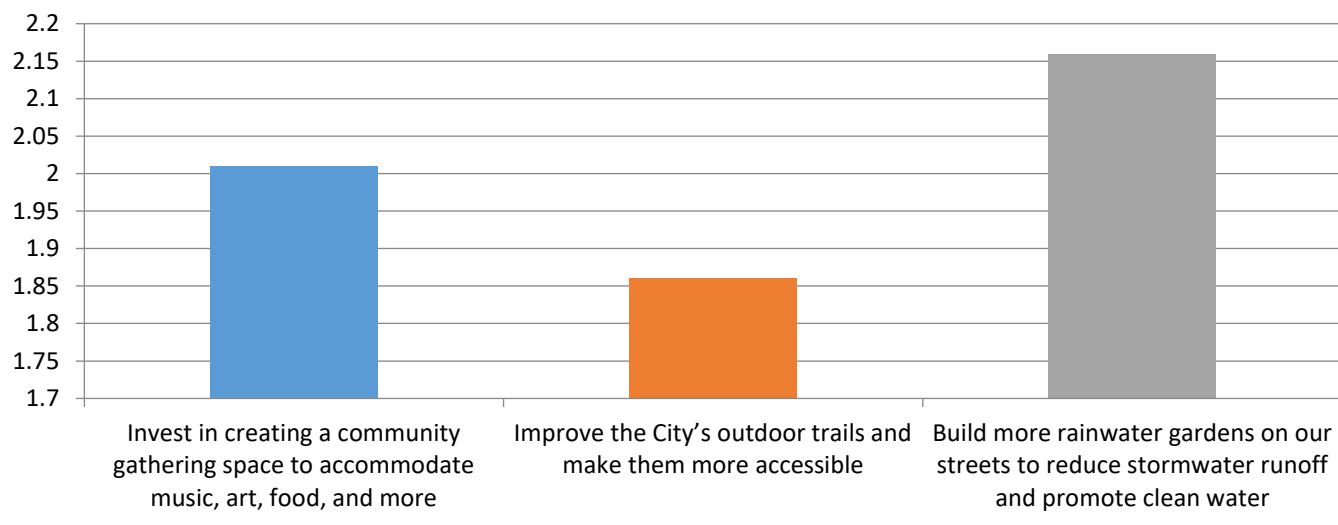


Responses from individuals who self-identified as BIPOC in order of importance:

- ❖ Grants and loans for struggling locally-owned businesses
- ❖ Rent rebate program to assist in accessing storefront space
- ❖ Neighborhood activation and events to stimulate economic activity
- ❖ Neighborhood signage to support economic activity outside the downtown

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

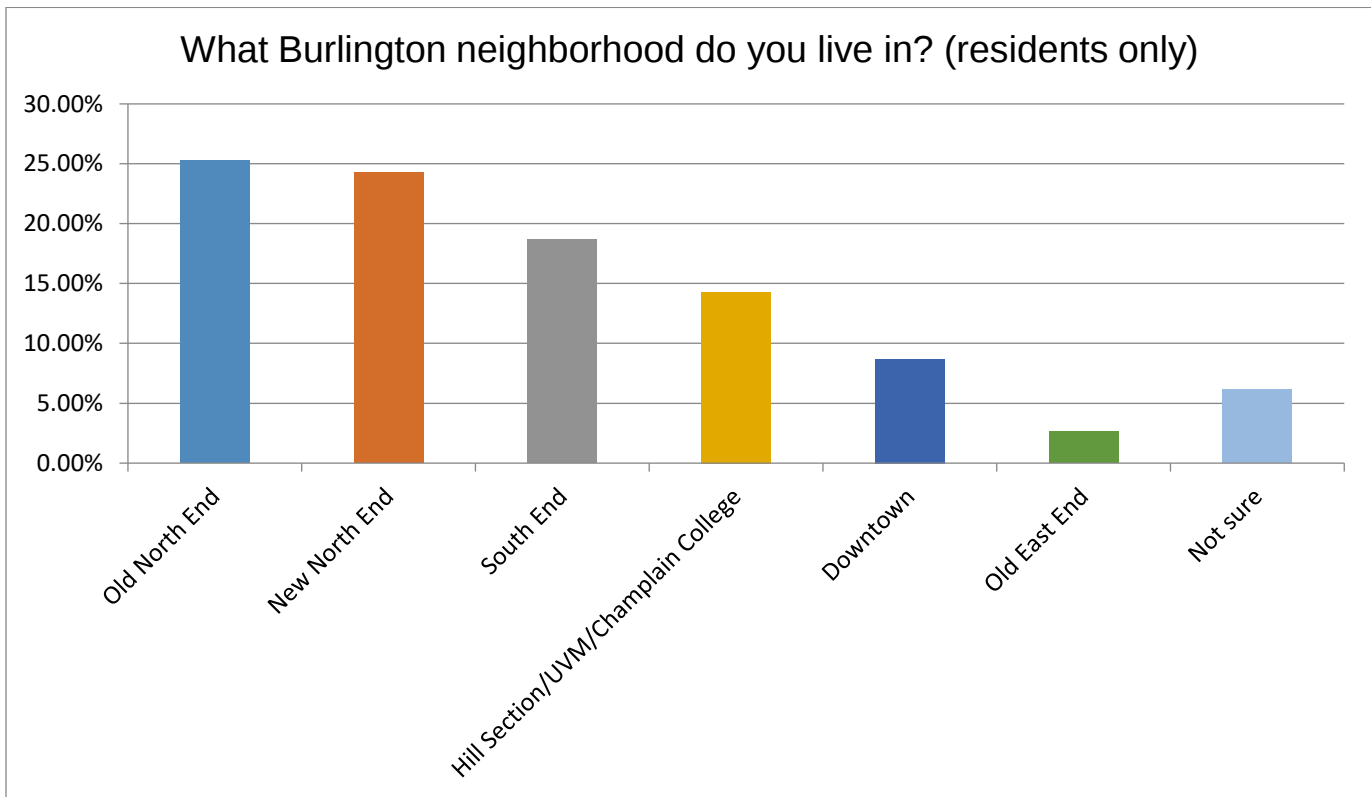
Community Infrastructure - Please rank these possible projects around community space by importance to you or suggest one. (1 being most important, 3 being least important - results are weighted averages):



Responses from individuals who self-identified as BIPOC in order of importance:

- ❖ Invest in community gathering space for music, art, food and more
- ❖ Build more rainwater gardens to reduce runoff
- ❖ Improve City's outdoor trails

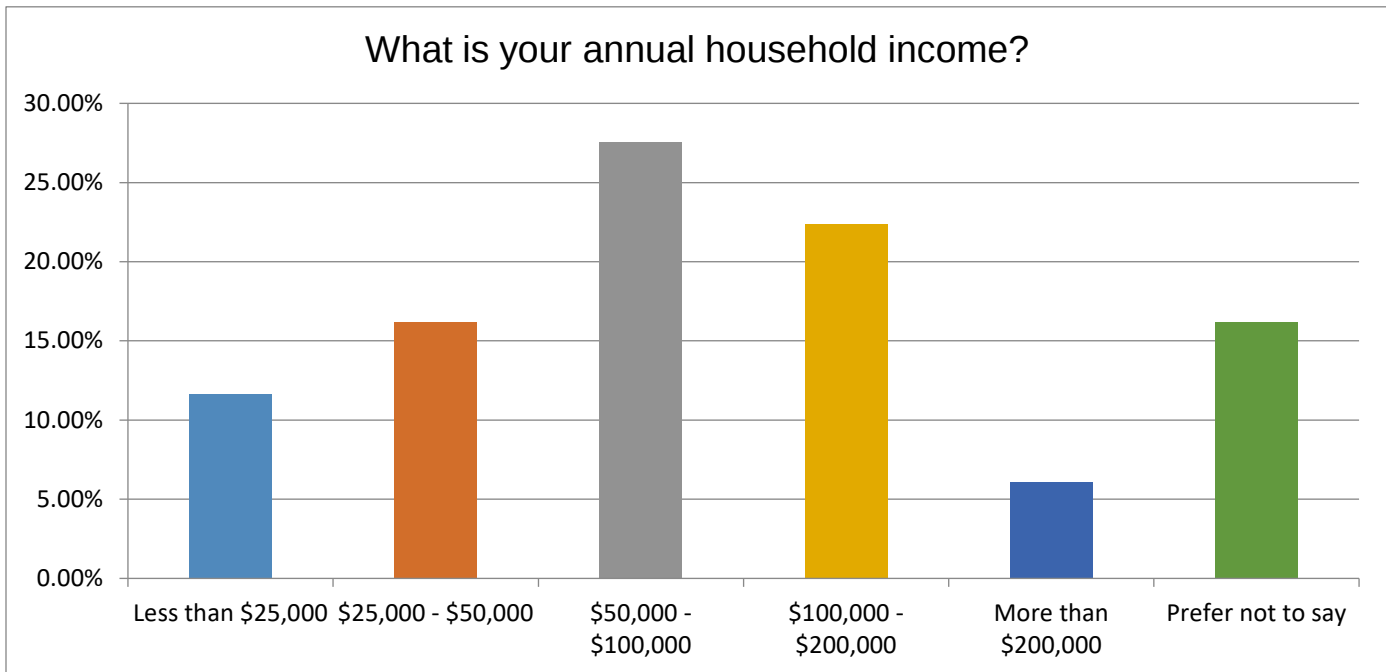
NEIGHBORHOOD



Responses from individuals who self-identified as BIPOC in order of importance:

- ❖ Old North End
- ❖ New North End
- ❖ South End
- ❖ Hill Section/UVM/Champlain College
- ❖ Downtown
- ❖ Old East End
- ❖ Not sure

INCOME



Responses from individuals who self-identified as BIPOC in order of importance:

- ❖ \$50,000 - \$100,000
- ❖ \$25,000 - \$50,000
- ❖ Less than \$25,000
- ❖ \$100,000 - \$200,000
- ❖ Prefer not to say
- ❖ More than \$200,000

Qualitative Responses:

The Economic Recovery Team spent many hours reading and sort through the over 3,000 written suggestions.

Below are the most frequent and representative suggestions in each category:

Houselessness:

- ❖ Construct tiny home communities
- ❖ Support for mental health and substance use disorder
- ❖ Increase amount of affordable housing
- ❖ Create work programs for unhoused
- ❖ Increase low barrier beds

Racial Equity:

- ❖ Improve racial equity through better training/curriculum/hiring in school system
- ❖ Scholarships to subsidize BIPOC adult education
- ❖ Job training for BIPOC residents
- ❖ Multi-cultural events & community spaces for all to share/learn from each other

Housing:

- ❖ Convert existing structures into housing
- ❖ Build more affordable housing
- ❖ Support homeownership for everyone
- ❖ Support/grant to existing organizations (Habitat for Humanity, CHT frequently noted)

Economy/Small Business:

- ❖ Grants and loans to small locally owned businesses (access to capital)
- ❖ Public safety and security, especially downtown
- ❖ Events, Markets, and festivals
- ❖ Increase support for local startups
- ❖ Increase BIPOC business support

Community Infrastructure:

- ❖ Create a community gathering space (Memorial, Moran and 405 Pine St. most frequently noted)
- ❖ Protect the lake
- ❖ Community gardens
- ❖ Playgrounds
- ❖ Bike infrastructure (lanes, trails)



CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT
CITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT &
NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE
c/o Community & Economic Development Office
City Hall, Room 32 • 149 Church Street • Burlington, VT 05401
802-865-7144 VOX • 802-865-7024 FAX • www.burlingtonvt.gov/cedo

Councilor Sarah Carpenter, Chair, Ward 4
Councilor Zoraya Hightower, Ward 1
Councilor Joe Magee, Ward 3

Thursday, January 27th, 2022

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

**City Hall – Sharon Bushor Conference Room
OR**

Attend via Zoom by clicking the link below:

****Members of the public are strongly encouraged to join remotely****

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87019811191>

Telephone: +1 929 205 6099

Webinar ID: 870 1981 1191

To participate in public forum please email Christine Curtis before or during the meeting:
ccurtis@burlingtonvt.gov. Comments can also be made during the meeting by using the raise
hand function or the chat function.

Draft Agenda

1. Approve agenda
2. Approve minutes: 12/16/21
3. Public Forum
4. ARPA survey-Public Engagement Report – Kara Alnasrawi
5. Draft HOME-ARP Plan – CEDO
6. Houseless and Housing Initiatives – CEDO
7. Encampment Policy update – Councilor Magee
8. Just Cause Eviction update
9. Tax Policy discussion
10. Other Business
11. Adjournment

The programs and services of the City of Burlington are accessible to people with disabilities.
For accessibility information, call 865-7144. For questions about the meeting,
contact Christine Curtis at ccurtis@burlingtonvt.gov

City of Burlington HOME-ARP Funding Update

January 27, 2022

Community Development & Neighborhood Revitalization Committee Meeting



- Homelessness Data Snapshot
- HOME-ARP
 - Summary
 - Outreach
 - Next Steps

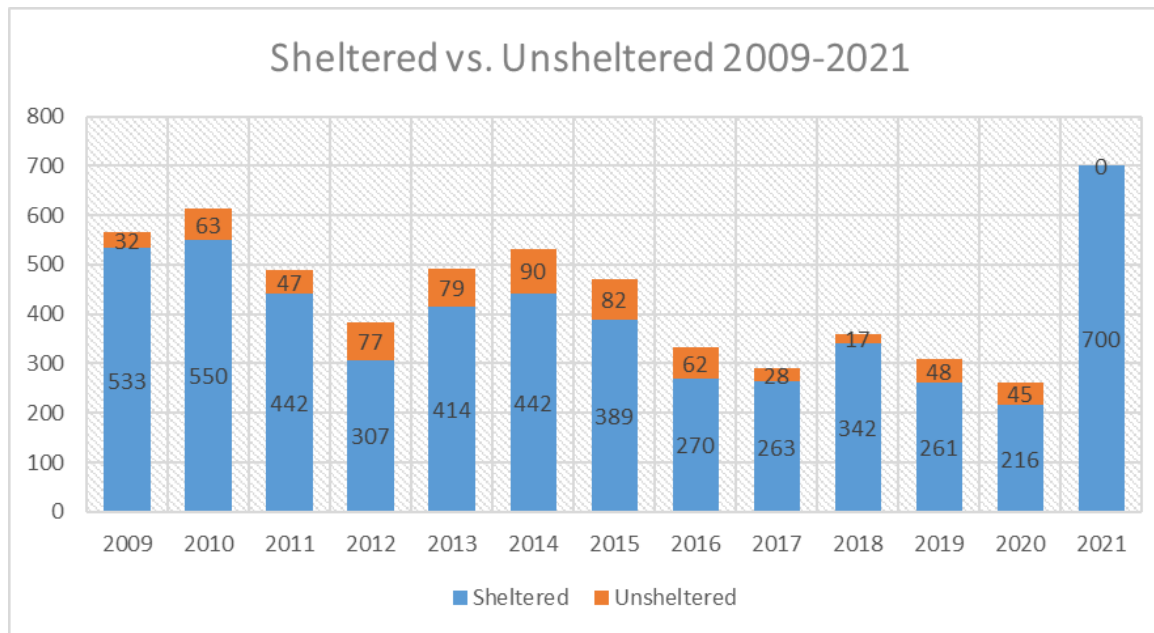
Homelessness Data Snapshot

Current Situation

From 2020 to 2021, **threefold increase** in population of homeless individuals:

- 261 to 700 in Chittenden County and
- 849 to 1891 in all areas in Vermont except Chittenden County

Historic Data



Data is for Chittenden County. No Burlington-specific data available.

HOME-ARP Funding

How much?

- City of Burlington is receiving **\$1,500,494**
 - After Admin, **\$1,275,420** available for other eligible uses:
 - Up to 5% for non-profit operating expenses and an additional 5% for capacity building (up to **\$127,542** total)
 - **\$1,147,877** available for:
 - Rental Housing Development
 - Support Services
 - Non-Congregate Shelter

Deadline to use?

- Funds were allocated on April 8th, 2021 and funds must be spent by September 30, 2030

Beneficiaries (a/k/a Qualified Population)?

Funds can only be used to support persons experiencing homeless, or at-risk of homelessness, persons fleeing/attempting to flee Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking, and other populations where assistance would prevent the family's homelessness *or* serve those with the Greatest Risk of Housing Instability, including veterans.

Other requirements?

- Majority of HOME regulations still apply, including cross-cutting regulations (NEPA, Davis-Bacon, HQS, etc.)

How can it be used?

Rental Housing

- Includes new construction, acquisition, and rehabilitation
- Allowable costs include:
 - Development hard and soft costs
 - Relocation
 - Operating cost assistance

Support Services

- Funds can be used for support services only for persons that meet the Qualified Population characteristics
- The definition of eligible activities is broad, including but not limited to:
 - Employment assistance and job training
 - Food
 - Housing search and counseling services, including retention
 - Mental health services
 - Outreach services
 - Substance abuse and treatment services
 - Case management
 - Landlord/tenant liaison
 - Services for special populations

Non-Congregate Shelter

- Acquisition, rehabilitation, or new construction of a non-congregate shelter
- After defined minimum use period, property can be converted to rental housing or CoC permanent supportive housing

Nonprofit Operating and Capacity Building Assistance

- Up to 5% of allocation can be used to pay operating expenses of nonprofit organizations undertaking HOME-ARP activities
- Up to an additional 5% can be used for capacity building at organizations undertaking HOME-ARP activities
- Eligible costs are general operating costs

What's the process?

- City must draft an allocation plan
- Must include a needs assessment and gap analysis using data gathered during outreach process
- City must consult: CoC, Homeless and domestic violence service providers, Veterans groups, Public Housing Agencies, Agencies that provide services to the homeless, and organizations that address fair housing, civil rights, and needs for persons with disabilities
- Public notice/comment for at least 30 days, one public hearing
- City council required to approve plan before submitting to HUD for approval
- Obligation of funds can only begin after the allocation plan is approved by HUD

What was our outreach?

- Continuum of Care (CoC) presentation in early December 2021, followed by 19 individual meetings with CoC partners:
 - Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (CCHA)
 - Champlain Housing Trust (CHT)
 - Cathedral Square Corporation (CSC)
 - Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS)
 - Steps to End Domestic Violence
 - Burlington Dept. Of Racial Equity Inclusion and Belonging (REIB)
 - Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO)
 - ANEW Place
 - Spectrum Youth and Family Services
 - Pathways Vermont
 - Burlington Police Department (BPD)
 - Burlington Housing Authority (BHA)
 - Community Health and Centers of Burlington (CHCB)
 - Veterans Administration - Vermont
 - Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) (pending)
 - Vermont Legal Aid
 - Turning Point
 - Vermont Agency of Human Services
 - CVOEO – Fair Housing Project
 - Persons with Lived experience through PIT COUNT

What did we hear?

- “Three legged stool” of housing, vouchers, and supportive services
- Plenty of vouchers available, many going unused due to lack of available affordable rental housing
- New units must have services, but can be partially funded in operating budget. Assumption is that State will continue to provide shelter and service resources
- Need for no-barrier/very low barrier shelter/permanent housing
- No preferences re: subgroups within those experiencing homelessness (i.e. veterans, victims of domestic violence) other than chronically homeless and those suffering with mental illness
- Between funding new affordable rental, services, vouchers, and shelter—all were necessary, but vast majority prioritized new affordable rental housing

Next Steps

- **Now:** Continue conversations with key partners to determine how best to blend HOME-ARP, ARPA, and other local resources to maximize impact
- **Mid-February:** Finalize draft allocation plan and release for public comment
- **Early March:** Hold public hearing
- **Late March:** Bring plan to Board of Finance/City Council and, if approved, submit plan to HUD for approval
- **Late April:** Once the plan is approved, publish the RFP

Todd Rawlings,
CEDO Housing Program Manager
(802) 652-4209 (direct line)
trawlings@burlingtonvt.gov



CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT
CITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT &
NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE
c/o Community & Economic Development Office
City Hall, Room 32 • 149 Church Street • Burlington, VT 05401
802-865-7144 VOX • 802-865-7024 FAX • www.burlingtonvt.gov/cedo

Councilor Sarah Carpenter, Chair Ward 4
Councilor Zoraya Hightower, Ward 1
Councilor Joe Magee, Ward 3

Committee members: Chair Sarah Carpenter (SC), Joe Magee (JM), Zoraya Hightower (ZH)

City staff: Christine Curtis

Other Attendees: Brian Pine, Todd Rawlings, Marcella Gange, CEDO; Kara Alnasrawi, Church Street Marketplace

Thursday, January 27th, 2022

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

City Hall – Sharon Bushor Conference Room & Virtual Zoom

Draft Minutes

Meeting Started at 5:03 PM

1. Approve agenda

MOTION by Councilor Magee, SECOND by Councilor Carpenter, to adopt the agenda as presented

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

2. Approve minutes: 12/16/21

MOTION by Councilor Hightower, SECOND by Councilor Magee, to adopt the minutes as presented

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

3. Public Forum

No one spoke at public forum.

4. ARPA survey-Public Engagement Report – Kara Alnasrawi

- Kara reported on ARPA funds data results from a survey her team put into the community to gauge how the public would like to see the City spend the federal funds
- 15 million dollars is currently available to the City and that is what the community survey is in response to
- Eligible categories: economic response, housing, homelessness
- Outreach was conducted by a City task force – mailers were sent out and the survey was available in 8 different languages
- 4,000 responses to the survey with 3,000 written in responses
- 79% of responders were white, the remaining being “other” race
- Housing and Homelessness were priority number one based on survey
- Wastewater and stormwater were also a concern but there are restrictions on the funds for this cause
- Businesses having access to capital was an additional concern per the survey
- ZH asked what the next steps are, Kara stated they might do a town hall and internally they are taking the results and putting them into buckets that clearly define each request and then submit a report to City Council

5. Draft HOME-ARP Plan – CEDO

- Brian Pine gave a background on the HOME program
- City receiving HOME funds annually roughly \$500,000
- HOME-ARP specific to homelessness and around \$1.5 million, a one-time allocation
- Todd Rawlings presented on the outreach process and data collected surrounding the HOME-ARP funds and the homeless population
- Funds can be used for rental housing and for support services
- CEDO will continue discussions with key partners on how to best blend HOME-ARP, ARPA, and other local resources to maximize impact
- Late April will publish an RFP after BOF, CC, and HUD approval

6. Houseless and Housing Initiatives – CEDO

- Brian Pine updated the Committee on other City projects that will be tied to ARPA funds
- Pine discussed shelter pods – 30 cluster pods with one common facility, still discussing locations
- Seeking funding for new position in CEDO – Special Assistant to End Homelessness, will work closely with CVOEO and coordinated entry system

- Funding for the Community Resource Center to help manage the shelter pods
- SC asked how to invest in the Community Resource Center to make it permanent. Marcella Gange stated it did start as a response to the pandemic and noted the high demand for the Center. Moving forward to make it a permanent space
- JM asked about a timeline for the shelter pods and if the hours of the CRC could be expanded. MG responded with staffing concerns at the Center and that it is difficult due to funding and staffing resources

7. Encampment Policy update – Councilor Magee

- Councilor Magee stated he was working with a group to update the City's camping ordinance – goals are to outline where camping is prohibited and outline a series of procedures for City action taken when a campsite is found to be in a high sensitivity area
- Plans to circulate a draft of ordinance changes and to introduce at February 7th CC meeting
- Wants to acknowledge the gaps that exist with City interaction with houseless population
- SC is concerned that the draft would allow camping in Burlington and would like to look deeper in policies and procedures and how to deal with an encampment, more guidance is needed

8. Just Cause Eviction update

- SC stated this is being considered by the House Committee and testified on the matter
- House Committee is still seeking people to testify

9. Tax Policy discussion

- Adopted resolution to look at tax policy issues
- Discussing who can help with this issue

10. Other Business

- No other business discussed

11. Adjournment

MOTION by Chair Carpenter to adjourn meeting at 6:54 PM.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.