



Fairfield Housing Authority

Operation Hope of Fairfield and the Fairfield Housing Authority declare an Affordable Housing Crisis in Fairfield in the aftermath of the pandemic.

Fairfield, Connecticut May 27, 2021 – Operation Hope of Fairfield and the Fairfield Housing Authority declare a Housing Crisis for the most vulnerable residents in Fairfield in the aftermath of the pandemic.

We are calling for **immediate action** from our State elected representatives, Governor Lamont, and his staff. Today is a **Call to Action** for the General Assembly to revisit the Governor's Action plan which controls the distribution of the discretionary \$2.8 Billion of Federal American Rescue Funds. The Town's residents and the State's residents need and deserve a "housing & housing services" line item in the Gov.'s Allocation Plan. Currently, the Allocation Plan has \$0 funds available for this purpose.

The revision to the Governor's Allocation Plan needs to include the simultaneous and substantive investments in both short term and long term permanent, sustainable, affordable housing for our most vulnerable residents, with comparable investment into homeless and other support services. The system in place for housing with services is and has been a successful model, but it will fail if not given access to these federal funds. We cannot and should not let this incredible opportunity pass on this unprecedented infusion of Federal funds coming to our State.

The economic recovery, growth and sustainability of our neighborhoods, region, and state begin with the foundation that equitable access to safe and affordable housing is provided to all residents. The Lamont administration's investment of American Rescue Plan funds in education, healthcare, childcare, transportation is admirable. However, each of those critical components requires housing stability as a foundation to be successful. There are so many reasons to revise the Governor's Allocation Plan, and really no reasons not to, given the severity of this crisis.

Connecticut has an opportunity to correct the omission in its plan for ARPA funding and address the disproportionate effects of COVID 19 and a restricted economy on our most vulnerable neighbors, including those at-risk-of or experiencing homelessness, of low and moderate means, and more by allocating funds for these critical services. With the high cost of housing (especially in Fairfield County) and the significant barriers many face, this type of investment is less costly and more effective than allowing people to experience the trauma and indignity of homelessness

For more information about the Fairfield Housing Authority and Fairfield Housing Corporation :
<https://www.fairfieldhc.org/>

Operation Hope provides people the opportunity to experience transformative change. Their programs focus on eliminating hunger and homelessness, addressing complex needs, and encouraging independence. They help people solve their crises and build stability in an environment that fosters compassion, dignity, and hope.

www.operationhopect.org
