



City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

MARY SHEFFIELD
CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT
DISTRICT 5

MEMORANDUM

TO: Julie Schneider, Director, Housing & Revitalization Department
FROM: Mary Sheffield, President, Detroit City Council
DATE: March 28, 2023
RE: Housing & Revitalization Department (HRD), Budget Hearing Questions, Fiscal Year 2023/2024

SUMMARY:

1. Federally funded homeownership programs such as the Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Program (HUD) and the Key to Own Homeownership Program (MSHDA) assist with mortgage payments, pre/post housing counseling and additional guidance throughout the purchasing process. Is there opportunity for a city-funded voucher program? What policies or programs have been/will be implemented that aligns with this idea?
2. According to a publication authored by the Detroit Rescue Mission, there were over 18,000 homeless people in Detroit a night that needed shelter in 2022. Although the number of sheltered individuals has declined since 2015, what plans, or initiatives will the department prioritize to assist the homeless population in Detroit?
3. In 2022, HRD utilized \$13 million of ARPA funds to provide down payment and homeowner assistance programs to Detroit residents. How successful were these programs? What were their utilization rates? Is there follow-up with the homeowners once they transition out of the program?
4. What educational and informational programs does HRD provide to residents that informs them of the housing services offered in Detroit?
5. Does the department plan on funding new programs surrounding home repair and rising rent costs? Will the 2022 programs surrounding home repair and rising rent costs continue to be accessible? Are there plans to expand home repair services beyond roofs and windows?
6. The inadequate supply of affordable housing units in Detroit is an ongoing issue. How does the department plan to support its resolution?
7. What programs are in place to encourage the development of new infill housing?

8. How much funding, if any, does the department plan to allocate to the Homeless Solutions Department to increase CAM support? In what other ways has the department provided assistance to Southwest Solutions?
9. What programs or initiatives does HRD provide/plan to provide that supports the landlord's ability to maintain and repair their property?
10. How will HRD support and participate in the proposed Right to Counsel Program?
11. In the department's FY 23-24 budget, the mayor proposed \$669,739 for the department's neighborhood economic development team. Will this money solely be used for salaries? Will some of this money be used towards implementing neighborhood programs?
12. Overall, does the department have a staff shortage? What is the reason for an additional \$2.5 million increase in salaries and wages?
13. Does the department plan to move affordable housing compliance for property tax abatements in house? If so, will it be contractual? How much would be allocated for this initiative?
14. How much money is allocated in the department's budget for the Homeless Solutions Department? Is the department fully staffed?
15. Please provide the fiscal year 2024 budget for the Community Health Corps. From this budget, what services will be provided? What are the current staffing needs of the department?

Please contact Caryn Shannon from my office at caryn.shannon@detroitmi.gov if you have any questions.

Cc: Honorable Colleagues
City Clerk