

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

City of New Bedford Office of the Mayor Contact: Holly Huntoon (508) 989-4407

Holly.Huntoon@newbedford-ma.gov

Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 For Immediate Release

## PRESS RELEASE

## New Bedford Residents Invited to Participate in New Survey on the Use of Federal HOME-ARP Funding

**New Bedford, Massachusetts**– The City of New Bedford's Office of Housing & Community Development has published a new Public Residential HOME-ARP Survey to encourage public input relative to the development of the HOME Investment Partnerships American Rescue Plan Program (HOME-ARP) Allocation Plan arising out of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD).

The City of New Bedford was awarded \$3,175,399 million in HOME-ARP funds from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) to help individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. In order to access that funding, the City must develop a HOME-ARP Allocation Plan that addresses the city's approach to using such funds for qualifying populations in specific eligible areas including: Affordable Housing, Supportive Services, Tenant-Based Rental Assistance, Homeless Prevention Services and Non-Congregate Shelter.

The Public Residential HOME-ARP Survey focuses on soliciting resident input to help shape the program design as the city develops its Allocation Plan. In addition to the results from the survey, resident input was also welcomed during two public meetings held on January 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of this year and are welcome through March 8<sup>th</sup> by contacting the Office of Housing & Community Development directly.

This survey is an excellent opportunity for citizens to voice their opinions about how the city can best use its federal funding consistent with HUD requirements and all are encouraged to participate. Surveys in English, Portuguese and Spanish are available on the OHCD website at: <a href="https://www.newbedford-ma.gov/community-development/home-arp-allocation-plan/">https://www.newbedford-ma.gov/community-development/home-arp-allocation-plan/</a>.

Questions regarding the HOME-ARP or survey may be directed to Joshua Amaral, Director, or Jennifer Clarke, Deputy Director, Office of Community Development at (508) 979-1500 or by email at <u>Joshua.Amaral@newbedford-ma.gov</u> or <u>Jennifer.Clarke@newbedford-ma.gov</u>.