



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR

TOM GALLIGANI,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF HOUSING STABILITY
ELLEN SHACHTER, DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Somerville Affordable Housing Trust

From: Ellen Shachter, OHS Director

CC: Tom Galligani, OSPCD Director
Alan Inacio, OSPCD Finance Director
Lisa Davidson, Housing Division Staff to the AHTF

Re: Allocation of Remaining Stabilization Funds – Affordable Housing Trust Fund

Date: May 6, 2025

BACKGROUND:

As many of you know the Flex-ARPA program and its successor, Flex-SAHTF were developed to wrap around other available local, state and federal rental assistance programs by provided significantly increased funding, and flexible terms to ensure that all eligible tenants, including those in subtenancies, could benefit from the program. New rules made the program easy to administer and highly effectively in preventing displacement. As of December 2024, the Flex-ARPA fund has prevented 415 evictions and the Flex-SAHTF fund has prevented 198, for a combined total of 613 evictions prevented.

Funding:

At its July 2023 meeting, the AHTF accepted a transfer of \$3,000,000 in Free Cash from the City to seed a flexible rental assistance program—now known as Flex-SAHTF—intended to continue the Flex-ARPA program once ARPA funds were exhausted.

In October 2023, the Office of Housing Stability issued an RFP and awarded a total of \$1,500,000 to two providers—Somerville Homeless Coalition (SHC) and Community Action Agency in Somerville (CAAS)—to run Flex-SAHTF through November 2024

In June 2024, Mayor Ballantyne and City Council authorized an additional \$2,000,000 in FY24 Free Cash for Flex-SAHTF; the Trust accepted these funds at its July 2, 2024 meeting

To date, \$3,250,000 has been awarded, leaving a current unallocated balance of **\$1,750,000**.

REQUEST:

The Office of Housing Stability seeks the Trust's approval to:

1. **Allocate the remaining \$1,750,000 equally** between the two current grantees:
 - Somerville Homeless Coalition: \$875,000
 - Community Action Agency in Somerville: \$875,000
2. **Amend each existing grant agreement** to:
 - **Extend the expenditure deadline** from November 30, 2025 to **June 30, 2026**.
 - **Increase the funding award** by **\$875,000** per grantee.

These amendments will ensure continuity of vital rental and stabilization assistance through mid-2026, allowing both agencies to address ongoing demand and prevent returns to homelessness.