



CITY OF TOPEKA

City Communications
City Hall, 215 SE 7th Street
Topeka, KS 66603

Tel: 785-368-0991
www.topeka.org

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Contact for further information: Gretchen Spiker, Director of Communications, gspiker@topeka.org

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City of Topeka announces new shelter, affordable housing options

TOPEKA, Kan. – Topeka will soon be home to a new non-congregate shelter, and additional affordable housing options, the City of Topeka announced Monday. A non-congregate shelter, commonly known as a temporary shelter, provides rooms to individuals and families, and does not require occupants to sign a lease or occupancy agreement.

The projects are made possible by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) HOME Investment Partnerships American Rescue Plan Program (HOME-ARP), which provided the City \$1,754,961. HOME-ARP aims to reduce homelessness and increase housing stability across the country. Topeka's Governing Body approved the HOME-ARP funding on June 14, 2022 through the 2021 Amended Consolidated Action Plan. These dollars are not affiliated with the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

The City of Topeka sought requests for proposals (RFPs) for the shelter and affordable housing projects, and received 14 responses. The responses were then reviewed by an external review and ranking committee with expertise in grant writing, real estate or construction.

The City will award \$1 million to YWCA of Northeast Kansas to fund the non-congregate shelter, and \$754,961 to SENT, Inc. to fund new construction on three homes, and eight rehabilitations on homes for our most vulnerable citizens.

"We are so excited to add 11 new affordable housing options for Topekans. Additionally, being able to assist the YWCA in expanding their shelter is so needed and beneficial to those experiencing domestic violence, human trafficking or stalking. We all know domestic violence has been increasing across the nation. This grant will allow us to address that here in Topeka," said Corrie Wright, the City's Division Director of Housing Services.

All projects must fund and serve the qualifying population as outlined by HUD, which includes individuals experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, stalking, and human trafficking. HUD requires that all tenants and homeowners must have income levels of no more than 80% of the median household income, meaning a family of four can make no more than \$66,150. City staff will review files to ensure compliance with HUD's requirements.

The location of the shelter is not being disclosed for security purposes. The affordable housing projects will take place in Hi-Crest.