

## **2023 ARPA Press Release - 82 Organizations Urge ARPA Public Health Funds go to Housing and Homelessness Prevention Resources**

Lawmakers should jump-start housing and homelessness prevention services across Alabama with an allocation of \$25 million from Fiscal Recovery funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), according to a letter that 82 Alabama community, civic, nonprofit and service organizations across the state sent to Finance Director Poole, Gov. Kay Ivey, and legislators.

The organizations asked Gov. Kay Ivey, Finance Director Bill Poole, and the Legislature to invest \$25 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to existing grantees of CDBG, ESG and HOME grants. That amount is just 45% of the \$55 Million ARPA funds allocated to address public health issues.

Alabama has 170,510 extremely low-income households but only 84,148 affordable rental homes available to them the letter says. Those who are lacking this housing option most are working, disabled, and/or senior citizens, the letter says.

“We know robust investments in affordable housing will provide strong benefits for people across Alabama. Greater access to higher-quality jobs, goods schools, childcare and medical care are just a few examples of how affordable housing in every community is critical not only for an individual’s quality of life but for the state’s economic development and prosperity,” the letter says.

Investments in home building and stability services would expand economic opportunity.

“In a state with extreme levels of poverty and historic injustices, over hundreds of years, we have to be more intentional in our efforts to create a safe place for everyone to call home through state investments in housing. This is the only way all Alabamians will have a chance to thrive,” According to LIHCA Executive Director, Dr. Russell Bennett.