



205.939.0411

P.O. Box 130159

Birmingham, AL 35213-0159

www.collaborative-solutions.net

Dear Director Poole,

Every single child, family and veteran in the state of Alabama needs a safe, affordable place to call home. As you consider how to distribute \$55M of remaining state Fiscal Recovery funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), we strongly encourage you to support affordable housing agencies from across Alabama. Specifically, we ask you to invest \$25M in allocations to existing grantees of CDBG, ESG and HOME grants.

It is clear to the undersigned organizations that the COVID-19 pandemic only worsened the harm to families resulting from a lack of safe, affordable homes. According to a recent analysis from the Low Income Housing Coalition of Alabama, our state [lacks over 86,000 affordable housing units](#) for people living with extremely low incomes. Currently, there are 170,510 extremely low-income households but only 84,148 affordable rental homes available to them. Those who are lacking this housing option are mostly working, disabled, and/or senior citizens.

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.

We urge you to invest \$25 million in affordable housing, to be distributed via ADECA, today. If more revenue replacement funds are available for this purpose, this would allow these funds to go even further to match existing federal funds. These investments will make Alabama a better place to live and work for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

82 number of Alabama community, civic, nonprofit and service organizations:

Our Mission:

LIHCA's mission is to increase housing opportunities for Alabamians with the greatest financial need..

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Signers:

1. Alice Westery, Youth Towers
2. Allie Cannington, The Kelsey
3. Angel Walker, Macon-Russell Community Action Agency, Inc.
4. Anna Pritchett, AARP Alabama
5. Audrey Noel, Community Enabler
6. Benard Simelton, Alabama State Conference of the NAACP
7. Benjamin Jones, Montgomery Community Action Committee & CDC, Inc.
8. Carla Crowder, Alabama Appleseed Center for Law and Justice
9. Carlos Aleman, ¡HICA! Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama
10. Carol Binder, Prince of Peace Catholic Church
11. Cicely Turner, C.H.O.I.C.E.
12. Clifford E. Jones, Greater Peace Community Development Corporation
13. Connie Graham, C&S
14. Cynthia Harris, UAB Hospital
15. Cynthia W. Burton, Community Service Programs of West AL
16. Dale Braxton, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Alabama - Northwest Florida
17. Daniel Schwartz, Faith in Action Alabama
18. Daniel Tait, Energy Alabama
19. David Clark, Central Alabama Labor Federation AFL-CIO
20. David Crosby, Community Action Agency of Northwest Alabama
21. Dawn Ellis-Murray, National Association of Social Workers - Alabama Chapter
22. Dominick Jones, Affordable housing
23. Donald Heard, Outreach for Oasis Resource Center
24. Douglas C. Seay, Interfaith Mission Service
25. Eileen Knott, Interfaith Montgomery
26. Emma Steelman, Love Huntsville
27. Esther Brown, Project Hope to Abolish the Death Penalty
28. Evangelist Ramona Russell, Mission Possible Community Services, Inc.
29. Felecia Lucky, Black Belt Community Foundation
30. Frederick Spight, Alabama Appleseed
31. Gordon Sullivan, One Roof
32. Gwendolyn S. Smith, Jackson District Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society A.M.E.
Zion Church
33. Heidi Johnston, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
34. James Tucker, Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program
35. Jamie Sledge, Gadsden Housing Authority
36. Jamie Sledge, Immediate past chair Gadsden Housing Authority
37. Janice Durr, Church Women United Montgomery
38. Jim Williams, Church & Society Committee, Anniston First United Methodist Church
39. Joan Gatewood, Communities of Transformation
40. John Zippert, Alabama State Association of Cooperatives
41. John Zippert, Save Ourselves Movement for Justice and Democracy
42. Judith Taylor, Grace Presbyterian Church
43. Justin Vest, Hometown Organizing Project
44. Karen Thompson-Jackson, Temporary Emergency Services Inc
45. Karinne Simmons, Southeast Alabama Community Action Partnership
46. Karren Crowson, Monte Sano UMC
47. Kelly Greene, Food For Our Journey

48. Kendra Williams, Community Action Partnership of Middle Alabama Inc
49. Kimberly Ray, Kimberly
50. Kris Rowe, Community Action Association of Alabama
51. Krystal Spillers, One Roof
52. Larry Toups, No organization
53. Leevones Fisher, Bay Area Women Coalition, Incorporated
54. Lenice Emanuel, Alabama Institute for Social Justice
55. Linda Lee, Alabama Chapter-American Academy of Pediatrics
56. Lori Floyd, The Right Place, Inc.
57. Marco Mays, Live Like An Icon
58. Mary Ellen Judah, Neighborhood Concepts, Inc.
59. Matthew Wilson, Providence Baptist Church Marion, Alabama
60. Megan Cheek, HIVE Alabama
61. Melinda Sledge, Jefferson County Housing Authority
62. Meta Ellis, Montgomery Pride United/ Bayard Rustin Community Center
63. Patricia Hooper, P Wedge Lawncare Service
64. Patricia Todd, Jobs to Move America
65. Rev. Jennifer Sanders, Beloved Community Church, UCC
66. Rev. Shane Isner, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Montgomery, AL
67. Robyn Hyden, Alabama Arise
68. Ronald E. Truss MA JD, Birmingham District Lay Leader, CME Church
69. Dr. Russell Bennett, Collaborative Solutions, Inc.
70. Scott Douglas, Greater Birmingham Ministries
71. Shelley Douglass, Mary's House Catholic Worker
72. Shelli Davis, Shelby County - Community Services Department
73. Shirley Turner, C.H.O.I.C.E.
74. Sister Rose Marie Tresp, Sisters of Mercy in Alabama
75. Stanley Easton, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Jacksonville
76. Susan Ellis, People First of Alabama
77. Thomas Moss, North Alabama Peace Network
78. Tim Thrasher, Community Action Partnership of North Alabama
79. Turkessa Coleman Lacey, Huntsville Housing Authority
80. Vanessa Tate Finney, AIDS Alabama
81. Velea Davis, AshaKiran
82. Veronica McGee, Accessible Alabama