



# COMMUNITY & CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

February 22, 2024

The Community and Cultural Development Committee of the City of Mesa met in the lower-level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on February 22, 2024, at 10:04 a.m.

## COMMITTEE PRESENT

Julie Spilsbury, Chairperson  
Jennifer Duff

## COMMITTEE ABSENT

Alicia Goforth

## STAFF PRESENT

Candace Cannistraro  
Holly Moseley  
Kelly Whittemore

Chairperson Spilsbury conducted a roll call.

Chairperson Spilsbury excused Committeemember Goforth from the entire meeting.

### 1. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

### 2-a. Hear a presentation, discuss, and provide direction on the FY 2024/2025 funding recommendations for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Human Services Programs.

Housing and Community Development Director Michelle Albanese introduced Housing and Community Development Administrator Justin Boyd and displayed a PowerPoint presentation. **(See Attachment 1)**

Ms. Albanese advised that an annual funding process allocates federal and local resources; and staff ensures that the Council's strategic priorities are met, while communicating the information to applicants during the Request for Proposals (RFPs). She added the focus is also on the Consolidated Plan priorities, which are established every five years by Housing and Urban Development (HUD). She explained the federal funds are allocated based on population and poverty in the city, and the City has received the same amount for the past four years to address poverty, the growing community, and to provide services for low-to-moderate incomes. (See Page 2 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Albanese shared that the Mesa Housing Path is the main component discussed with agencies to address homelessness holistically from emergency shelter to independence. She noted there is a significant portion of federal and local resources for services that address every

stage of the Mesa Housing Path. She provided a timeline for the funding process and described the next steps. (See Pages 3 and 4 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Albanese discussed the improvements made to the funding process since last year based on feedback and suggestions from Council, as well as approval from the Housing and Community Development Advisory Board (HCDAB). She highlighted that one of the significant changes was the establishment of a dedicated fund for non-public services activities, which is primarily intended for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). She elaborated that most of the funds go to brick-and-mortar type activities, with a requirement to spend the funds quickly due to the expenditure ratio that is monitored by HUD. She explained that the City collaborates with its departments to ensure a pipeline of three-to-five years of projects are shelf-ready. She mentioned staff has researched and compiled a three-year agency funding history as a basis for allocating funds, based on score and the history of the agency's expenditures. (See Page 5 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Albanese reviewed the improvements to the applications and the new scoring tool and criteria for staff and the HCADB. (See Page 6 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Albanese stated that applications are reviewed to ensure eligibility for the specific funding source and that the agency complies with the regulatory requirements. She emphasized the importance of an agency having the capacity, staff, and commitment to spend what is promised, while serving the community and having a positive impact. She pointed out that the HCDAB spends a great deal of time working through the funding process, and the Community and Cultural Development Committee (CCD) relies on their input to make decisions. (See Page 7 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Albanese compared the requests versus the available funding allocations for the programs. (See Page 8 of Attachment 1)

In response to a question from Chairperson Spilsbury, Ms. Albanese confirmed that funding allocation represents funding available, and that the total funding available already includes the administrative costs.

Ms. Albanese reported that each applicant is scored competitively by the HCDAB and City staff, and the agencies are ranked according to their scores. She elaborated due to the large number of requests in each category, the recommendation is that all CDBG Public Service agencies be fully funded, except for Homeward Bound and Save the Family Foundation of Arizona, where a percentage is used to ensure a minimum of \$25,000 is met, until funds are exhausted. (See Page 9 of Attachment 1)

Deputy City Manager Candace Cannistraro advised additional information was provided to Council, along with a brief summary of each program that was approved for tentative funding recommendations.

In response to a request from Chairperson Spilsbury, Ms. Albanese described the details of the scoring process.

Discussion ensued relative to the scoring process and tools, the budget for parks and funding of projects, and the intention of the CDBG program.

Ms. Albanese outlined the Human Services contributions and provided a list of agencies recommended for allocating funds. She added some of the agencies that were not able to receive funding last year have been funded this year. (See Pages 13 through 15 of Attachment 1)

Chairperson Spilsbury indicated that with the improvements and new scoring tools, she believes that the funding process is fair. She thanked staff for implementing changes based on feedback and providing agencies with opportunities to receive assistance with applications, presentations, and advice on the application process.

In response to multiple questions from Committeemember Duff, Ms. Albanese stated applications for the HOME program were lower compared to previous years. She said any remaining funds could be considered for other Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) projects and staff would need to bring those back to the committee. She discussed options for this funding cycle. She mentioned that since the HOME program is typically used for development projects, the funds are expected to be expended within five years. She commented that if the CDBG expenditure ratio is higher, HUD must be notified.

Ms. Cannistraro clarified that developers come to the City with ideas and concepts throughout the year and staff assists in determining eligibility for HOME funds. She noted that HOME funds are intended to finance gaps, not fund the entire project.

Ms. Albanese reviewed the next steps and stated that the funding recommendations would be submitted to HUD by March 15, 2024. (See Page 16 of Attachment 1)

In response to multiple questions from Chairperson Spilsbury, Ms. Albanese advised that the City would publish the recommended funding awards on their website after the CCD presentation. She commented that the agencies receive an updated schedule notifying them of meetings, followed by funding letters.

Ms. Cannistraro advised that the purpose of today's meeting is for recommendation to Council, which is why a tentative funding letter would be sent, since it is a committee recommendation. She added Council has the opportunity to request any changes upon review.

Chairperson Spilsbury thanked staff for the presentation.

### 3. Adjournment.

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Community and Cultural Development Committee meeting of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK



**FY 2024/2025**

# **Annual Funding Recommendations**

## **Community and Cultural Development Committee**

**Michelle Albanese, Housing and Community Development Director  
Justin Boyd, Housing and Community Development Administrator**

**February 22, 2024**

# Council Strategic Priorities



**Community  
Health & Safety**



**Strong Community  
Connections**



**Skilled & Talented  
Workforce**



**Thriving  
Economy**



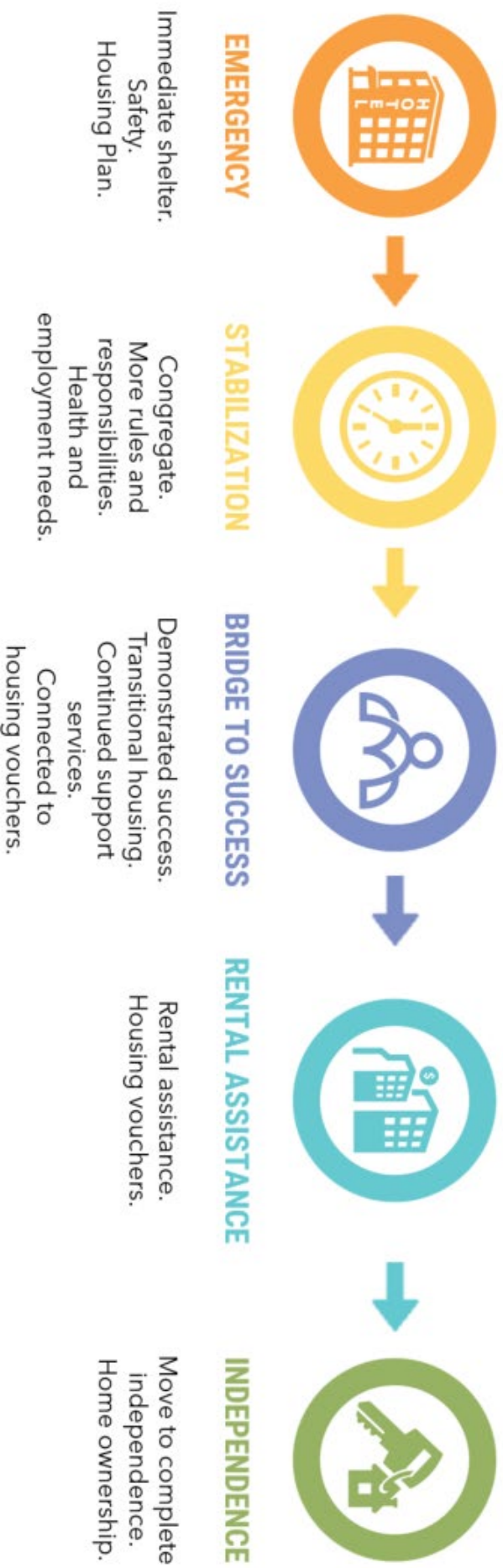
**Neighborhoods &  
Placemaking**



**Sustainable  
Environment**

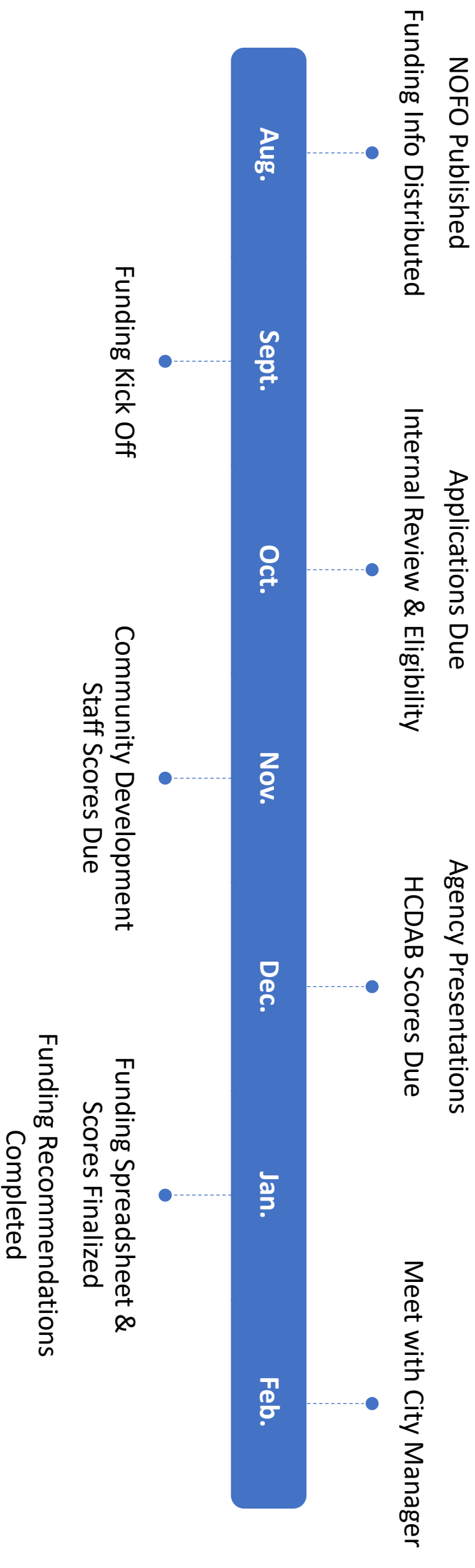


# Mesa Housing Path





# Timeline





# FY 24/25 Funding Process Improvements



**Set Aside:**

Funds for Non-Public Services City Projects (Capital Need & Shovel-Ready Projects)



**Researched:**

3-Year Agency Funding History



**Scheduled:**

More Time Between CCD and Study Session



**Prepared:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Study Session Scheduled (If Needed)



**Informed:**

Councilmembers of Key Dates/Updates throughout the Funding Process





# FY 24/25 Application & Agency Improvements



**Developed:**  
Three Separate Application Categories



**Implemented:**  
Application Minimum - \$25,000 CDBG Public Services



**Implemented:**  
Human Services Maximum Funding Request - \$60,000



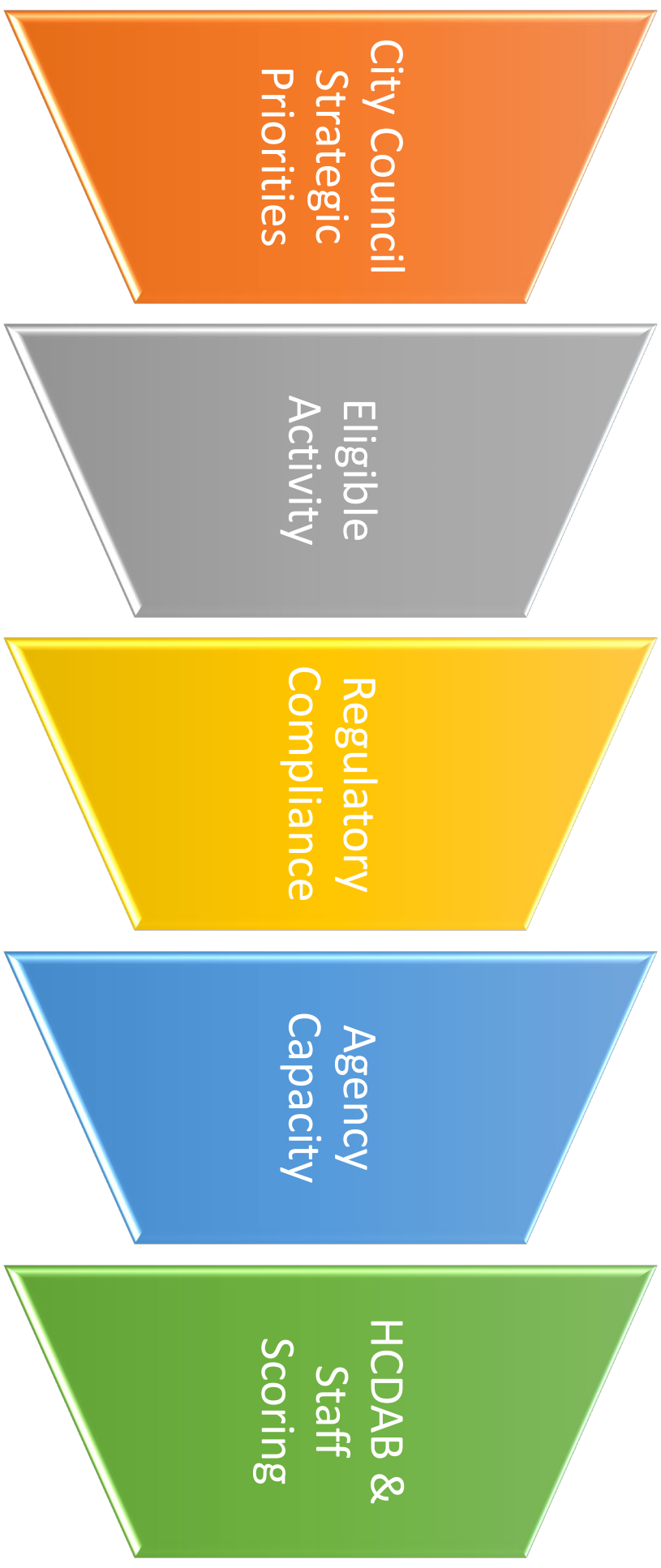
**Created:**  
New Scoring Tool & Criteria for Staff



**Created:**  
New Scoring Tool & Criteria for Housing and Community Development Advisory Board

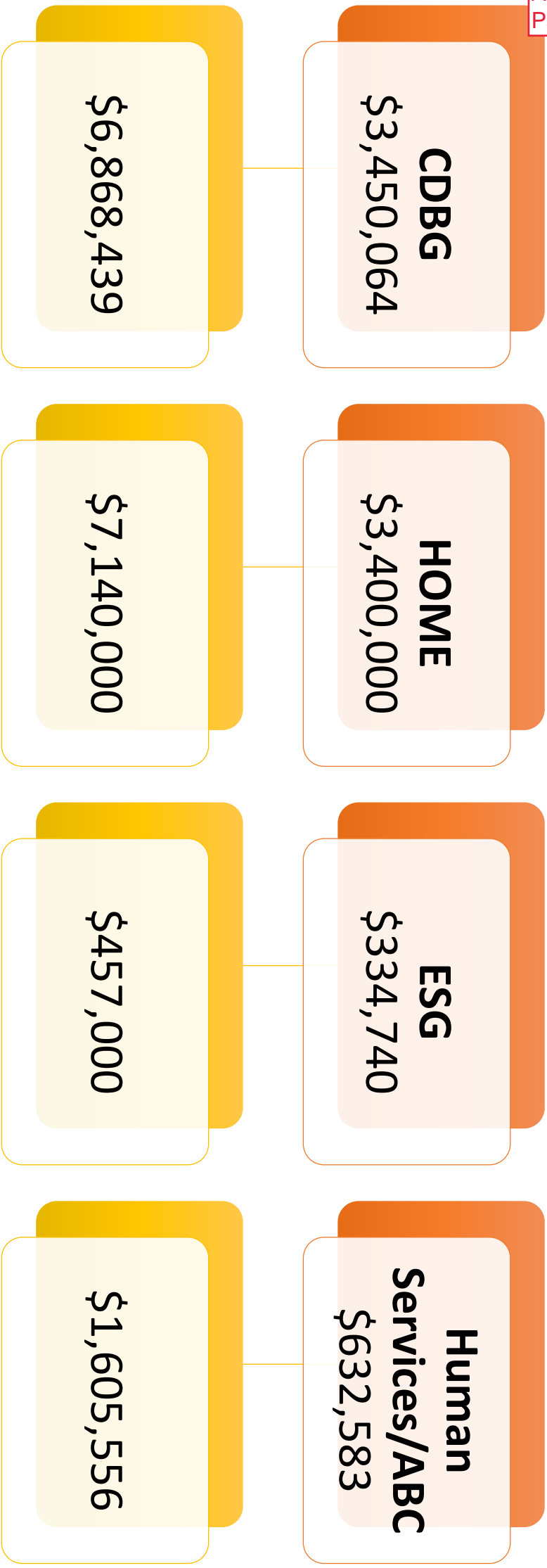


# Considerations for Funding





# FY 24/25 Funding Allocations vs. Request





# CDBG Public Services

Agency	Project Name	Recommended Award
A New Leaf	Housing Support Services	\$ 75,000
A New Leaf	Mesa Family Shelter Services	\$ 149,892
Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS)	Case Management for Homeless Mesa Individuals	\$ 100,381
Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS)	Flexible Housing Assistance for Mesa Individuals Facing Homelessness	\$ 25,000
Child Crisis Arizona	Early Education Services for Low-Income Mesa Families	\$ 80,000
Family Promise - Greater Phoenix	Mesa Family Shelter Program	\$ 79,076
Homeward Bound	Shelter and Family Services	\$ 69,312
Save the Family Foundation of Arizona	Mesa Homeless Families Navigation & Case Management	\$ 60,850
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 639,511</b>

\*Agencies listed in alphabetical order.



# CDBG Non-Public Services

Agency	Project Name	Recommended Award
City of Mesa (Set Aside)*	Emergency Rehabilitation Program	\$ 2,460,553
City of Mesa (Set Aside)*	Aripine Park	\$ 350,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,810,553</b>



# HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)

Agency	Project Name	Recommended Award
A New Leaf	La Mesita Phase IV Construction Project	\$ 3,000,000
City of Mesa (set-aside)	Rental and Utility Deposit Program	\$ 400,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,400,000</b>

\*Agencies listed in alphabetical order.



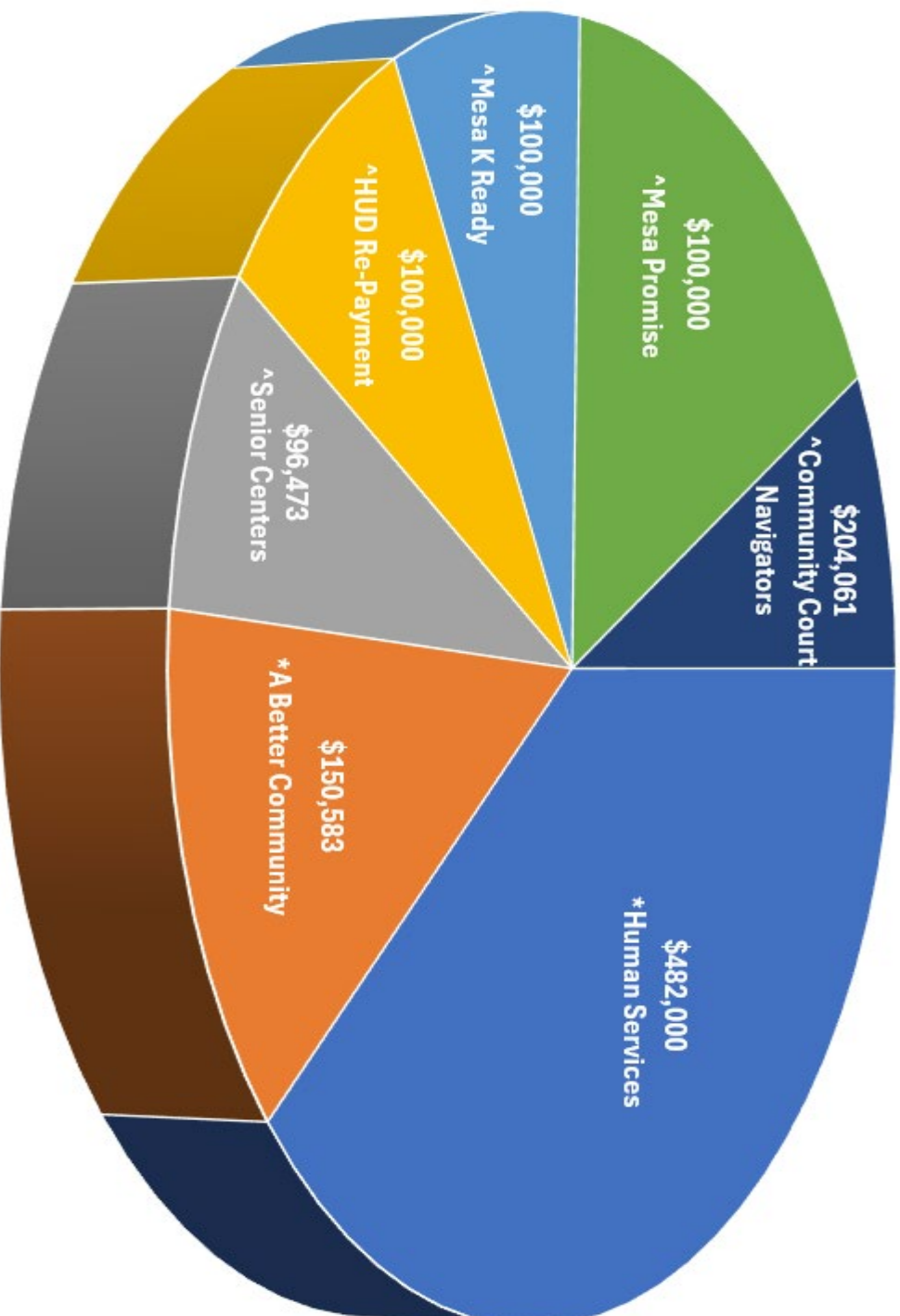
# Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

Agency	Project Name	Recommended Award
A New Leaf	East Valley's Men's Center	\$ 150,000
Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS)	CASS Family Shelter	\$ 67,129
Save the Family Foundation of Arizona	Rapid Rehousing	\$ 117,611
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 334,740</b>

\* Agencies listed in alphabetical order.



# Total Human Services Contributions



\*Available to Agencies: \$ 632,583

\$ 600,534

\$1,233,117





# Human Services/ABC Program

Agency	Project Name	Recommended Award
Arizona Brainfood	Weekend Food Bags	\$ 35,000
Aster Aging, Inc.	Meals on Wheels	\$ 60,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona (BBBSAZ)	Mesa Community & Site-Based Youth Mentoring Programs	\$ 25,000
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Valley, Inc.	Boys & Girls Clubs for Mesa Youth	\$ 35,000
Community Legal Services	Legal Advocacy & Education for Low-Income Mesa Residents	\$ 33,660
Dress for Success Phoenix	Educate HER Mesa Program	\$ 30,000
Dress for Success Phoenix	Teen Workforce Initiative Career Services for Low-Income Mesa Residents	\$ 30,000
House of Refuge, Inc.	Transitional Housing for Homeless Families	\$ 60,000

\*Agencies listed in alphabetical order.



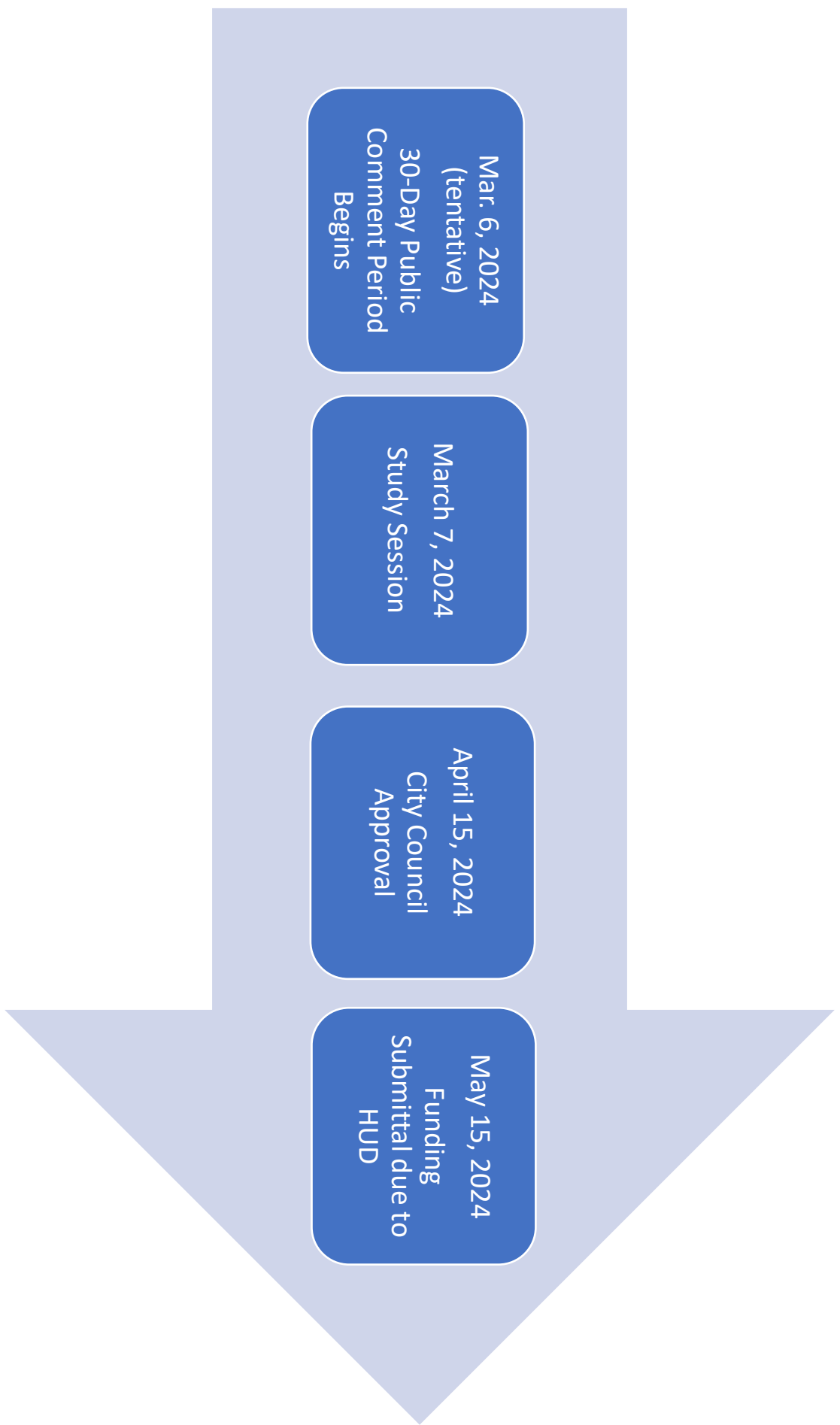
# Human Services/ABC Program Cont.'

Agency	Project Name	Recommended Award
ICAN: Positive Programs for Youth	Positive Youth Development Program	\$ 40,000
Maggie's Place, Inc.	Shelter Services at the Hannah House	\$ 45,000
Oakwood Creative Care, Inc.	Respite & Nursing Care for Low-Income Mesa Seniors with Cognitive & Physical Impairments	\$ 45,000
Oakwood Creative Care, Inc.	Dementia Hub Family Support Navigation for Mesa Families	\$ 3,923
Paz de Cristo Community Center	Homelessness Relief Services	\$ 60,000
Save the Family Foundation of Arizona	Family Adult's & Children Empowerment Services	\$ 60,000
United Food Bank	Emergency Food Assistance	\$ 60,000
Valley of the Sun YMCA	Ross Farnsworth Easy Valley Family YMCA Childcare, Early Learning and Meals Program	\$ 10,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 632,583</b>

\*Agencies listed in alphabetical order.



# Next Steps





# Questions?

**Thank you!**  
**Questions?**