



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Mayor Victoria Woodards and Chief Policy Analyst Bucoda Warren
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: A resolution declaring the City of Tacoma's commitment to ensuring all residents have a safe and affordable place to live by joining House America – Requested for May 17, 2022
DATE: May 12, 2022

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution declaring the City of Tacoma's commitment to ensuring all residents have a safe and affordable place to live by joining House America.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Mayor Woodards and Council Members Blocker and Daniels

BACKGROUND:

House America is a federal initiative, led by Housing and Urban Development Secretary Marcia L. Fudge. As Secretary of HUD and Chair of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), Secretary Fudge invites mayors, county leaders, Tribal nation leaders, and governors into a national partnership to use the historic investments provided through the American Rescue Plan to address the crisis of homelessness through a Housing First approach.

Through the American Rescue Plan, communities now have historic resources—70,000 emergency housing vouchers, \$5 billion in HOME grants, \$350 billion in State and Local Recovery Funds through the Department of the Treasury, and significant investments to preserve and protect housing on tribal lands - to help more Americans obtain the safety of a stable home. Communities also have resources through the CARES Act, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, and other state, tribal, and local resources to re-house people experiencing homelessness and create additional dedicated housing units to address homelessness. House America provides communities with the focus, resolve, and technical know-how needed to deploy these resources to maximize impact.

The City of Tacoma will partner with HUD to use American Rescue Plan resources, alongside other federal, tribal, state, and local resources to re-house households experiencing homelessness through a Housing First approach, and to add new units of affordable housing into the development pipeline by December 31, 2022. Tacoma will set a goal of 96 units of new, permanent supportive housing in the pipeline by the end of 2022. This initiative and the affordable housing goal will be monitored by Community and Economic Development.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

Affordable Housing and Supportive Housing for our community experiencing homelessness continues to be a priority of the Council and the City. There is still a need to develop more affordable housing options that can support individuals experiencing homelessness find the resources they need to stabilize themselves and find permanent housing stability. This initiative will target new housing options to help make that transition possible and increase housing availability for our community.



2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

We know that often those who experience homelessness in Tacoma are those already facing other barriers, those being our communities of color and those who may suffer from chronic conditions. Supportive housing not only provides stable housing but, also wrap around services to help address chronic issues and chart a path forward for success.

Economy/Workforce: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity

Increase the percentage of people relocating to the city and affordability of housing compared to neighboring jurisdictions.

Decrease the number of vacant properties downtown and in the neighborhood business districts.

Livability: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity

Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

Improve health outcomes and reduce disparities, in alignment with the community health needs assessment and CHIP, for all Tacoma residents

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s)?

By providing supportive housing we can build more units of housing specific to our houseless neighbors that will help support them on their transition to stable housing. This will improve their lives and health outcomes and will also help move others off the streets into other shelter options and improve overall livability. Housing projects will also help to utilize vacant property and add to the affordable housing stock overall of Tacoma.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
1.Do not adopt resolution		Tacoma will not have formal access to the House America best practices and technical support that it offers.
2.Amend goals	Setting higher goals can set a policy direction for how to utilize federal funds for housing in Tacoma.	Tacoma may not meet the goals with the limited time left this year to get projects in the pipeline.

EVALUATIONS AND FOLLOW UP:

Community and Economic Development staff will track new units over the course of the year and report back to council early in 2023 on the House America goals and outcomes.

SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

I recommend we join House America to make use of federal and state funds we are already utilizing. Joining other governments and tribes across the Country will help bring best practices to our staff, and bring technical support from Housing and Urban Development as we tackle new problems for our community.



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

FISCAL IMPACT:

To meet the House America goal for Tacoma, we will utilize existing federal funding from the American Rescue Plan, HOME grants, and other state and federal recovery funds.