

**From:** [Sarah J. Stevenson](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Conner, Jessica](#)  
**Subject:** Support for ARPA Housing Stabilization Services  
**Date:** Monday, July 26, 2021 3:42:32 PM  
**Attachments:** [Letter of support for ARPA Eviction Prevention and Foreclosure Prevention packages.pdf](#)

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Attached please find a letter from Innovative Housing in support of Eviction Prevention and Defense and COVID Homeowner Foreclosure Prevention packages.

Thank you,

Sarah Stevenson (she, her, hers)  
Executive Director

***Due to COVID-19, IHI staff is working remotely. Please do not send overnight, special delivery, or Fed Ex packages to our office as no one is there to receive them. If you need to send overnight, please use this address: 3439 NE Sandy Blvd. #507, Portland, OR 97232. For all other mail please continue to use our regular mailing address and it will be forwarded to us. Thank you!***

Innovative Housing, Inc.

219 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

Portland, OR 97209

(503) 998-6112

[www.innovativehousinginc.com](http://www.innovativehousinginc.com)



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INNOVATIVE HOUSING, INC.  
CREATING SOLUTIONS TO UNMET HOUSING NEEDS

July 28, 2021

Mayor Ted Wheeler  
Commissioner JoAnn Hardesty  
Commissioner Mingus Mapps  
Commissioner Carmen Rubio  
Commissioner Dan Ryan  
1221 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Rm 130  
Portland, Oregon 97204

Re: American Rescue Plan Act Allocations – Support Housing Stabilization Services

Dear Portland City Council,

Innovative Housing, Inc. fully supports the housing stabilization service packages, **Eviction Prevention and Defense** and **COVID Homeowner Foreclosure Prevention**, proposed for funding allocations through the State and Local Relief Funds of the American Rescue Plan Act.

As the Executive Director of Innovative Housing, an organization that develops and operates affordable rental housing and provides wraparound support services to our low-income residents, we know how critical it is to get housing resources to Portland's most at-risk households.

Portlanders, like many others across our country, lost jobs and income due to necessary shutdowns in efforts to stem the spread of COVID-19. Many Portland homeowners and renters found themselves unemployed and facing bills they cannot pay through no fault of their own.

Portlanders are now getting back to work or finding new employment, but they are still saddled with housing debt they are unable to pay. Individual community members should not have to bear the financial burden of the economic fallout of a global pandemic.

These programs will offer foreclosure counseling, legal counsel for eviction proceedings, and financial assistance for mortgages, rents, and utilities. To reach our most impacted communities, both programs will deliver their services through culturally specific and community-based organizations.

We urge you to support the **Eviction Prevention and Defense** and **COVID Homeowner Foreclosure Prevention** packages.

Sincerely,

Sarah J. Stevenson  
Executive Director

**From:** [Charles Smith](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Marcia Taylor](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony for the July 28th meeting- ARPA and CARES Tech Kit project  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 2:26:24 PM  
**Attachments:** [Testimony for PDX City Council- Tech Kit ARPA Investment- July 2021.pdf](#)

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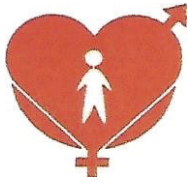
Please see the attached testimony on the ARPA and CARES Tech Kit project plan.

Sincerely,

Chuck Smith

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Charles Smith  
Project Coordinator  
Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation of Oregon  
[charles@sicklecelloreign.org](mailto:charles@sicklecelloreign.org)  
[charles.smith@gowebway.com](mailto:charles.smith@gowebway.com)  
c- 503-502-2965



# The Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation of Oregon, Inc.

Marcia Taylor, Executive Director

4566 NE 87<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Portland, OR 97220 (503) 249-1366

July 27, 2021

To: Portland City Council  
Re: ARPA Investment Feedback

I am writing to today on behalf of the Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation of Oregon (SCAFO). Our mission is to improve the quality of life of those suffering with sickle cell disorders and to inform and educate the general population. We are dedicated to serving the needs of sickle cell patients across the pacific northwest through patient advocacy, access to support groups, parent education, referrals for genetic testing and counseling, ongoing education about SCD and available treatments, support with basic needs, and providing moral support to families and individuals living with sickle cell disease.

The needs of people with sickle cell disease and their families for health care, safe and affordable housing and food, connecting through technology, engaging in social networks and community life, and providing safety for their children to grow to their potential is the same as everyone. However, the intensity of these unmet needs and the barriers that people with sickle cell disease face is significantly greater. Sickle cell disease is debilitating and disruptive to every aspect of a person's life as sickle cell crisis periods are unpredictable and life threatening.

We have found the Housing stability, Household assistance, Houseless response, and Community safety support areas to be especially relevant to the lives of people living with sickle cell disease. This disease often renders people unable to work consistently due to medical complications, pain, and low stamina. Income instability leads to unstable housing, food insecurity, and isolation from community and social connections. This especially affects the social and emotional health of the children. Funds to support families over the past year have been vital in reducing homelessness, hunger, medical crises, and stress for the nearly 150 families that SCAFO has reached.

COVID has accentuated the vital role that technology plays in keeping these families connected to informal and formal resources and supports for all aspects of family life. SCAFO utilizes web based resource distribution, on line education and support groups for sickle cell patients and families, on line youth programming to reduce the impact of violence and racism, and live remote health and wellness classes to support families; most of whom are at higher health risk in public spaces, and many of whom physically struggle to go to places for in person gatherings. For some, connection through technology is a lifesaving resource.

Based on our experiences with families, we believe that it is important to build the capacity of programs to provide hands on technology support for families to utilize and maintain the technology equipment that they receive. People need the knowledge and skills to fully use the capacity of this equipment to improve their circumstances (many of us are only proficient in using our technology to access the popular social media applications and do essential tasks). Tech support and operational support are vital to building a sustainable effort that lasts beyond the point of the first breakdown or technical problem that arises (think about what you do with any piece of equipment that stops working and you don't have the tools or resources to "fix" it). We also believe that expanding this program to additional community

based providers offers the best chance of reaching and supporting the most vulnerable of the underserved in our community. Larger and more established community organizations often have more potential clientele than they can serve. Newer, more grass roots groups often are the leaders in reaching the most isolated and disconnected members of our community; people with special needs or challenges who don't easily fit in or engage with the standard array of programs and services. Recognizing and attending to the diverse needs among the underserved sub-groups in our community is a key to reaching those that seem invisible or hard to reach.

SCAFO stands ready to serve the community and continue to reach families with sickle cell disease and those with other special health needs that often leaves them out of the mainstream of community supports.

With respect,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles Smith".

Charles Smith, Project Manager  
Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation of Oregon  
(503) 502-2965  
[Charles.smith@gowebway.com](mailto:Charles.smith@gowebway.com)

Pastor Marcia Taylor, Executive Director  
Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation of Oregon

**From:** [Gloria Lee](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony for ARPA investment package  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 4:43:20 PM

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Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners,

My name is Gloria Lee and I am the retiring Exec Director of The Giving Tree. The Giving Tree NW provides case coordination, socialization, removal of isolation for residents of subsidized housing in Multnomah County. We currently provide services to 7 properties from SRO's to senior housing with services available to 690+ residents.

In our last year's annual survey of resident needs, technology needs led the way. With SSI income at \$794 per month, technology hardware is definitely not affordable for our low income residents. More than the tools, there is inadequate staff and volunteer funding to assist residents with learning and using technology.

To really provide equity, we must also provide the education and support that motivates new users to technology. We have received grants in the past for education and classes. What we learned is that in adults the transfer of skills is best done one on one. (The majority of our low or fixed income residents have either physical, mental, cognitive or literacy challenges that need a bit of accommodation to be able to learn useful technical skills that allow them to communicate effectively. )

As a provider of wrap- around services for COVID19 , we experienced the results of service agencies having to eliminate or reduce on site face to face contact with residents. Escalating mental and social health deterioration continues in our underserved populations, especially our seniors who are often reluctant to speak out. Seniors that would normally walk or bus to a Social Security office were approaching us for help as without an email, most services could not be provided. Those who could not navigate using a cell phone to access digital grocery offers can at times pay 40% more for their groceries. Additionally social services were so thin that residents gave up after being on hold and calls dropped. **We hope that an investment in technology and technology education will help alleviate the gap in services available to those who cannot navigate using email or the internet.**

Additionally many of our affordable housing sites do not have internet access and a resident must pay for it themselves. With community rooms in properties closed, having access to information is mainly done by physical flyers posted in the buildings.

Rightly but sadly, there is so much media coverage of our street communities that we continue to underserve our housed community who live day to day without the skills to navigate life. This results in emergency service calls, behavioral health calls, mental health crises and escalating aggressive behavior within buildings. We would like to see technology be an avenue to services that build and support life for low and fixed income folks, seniors most of all.

Lastly, digital equity could be an efficient way to have information in multiple languages making it less costly and quicker to get information to folks whose first language is not English.

The Giving Tree will be consolidating with the Hollywood Senior Center and rebranding as Community for Positive Aging effective now. In a Mult County survey of seniors,

Thank you and it is exciting to see this ARPA investment.  
Please let me know this has been received.

**Gloria Lee**

**Executor Director The Giving Tree NW**

**(formerly The Giving Tree and Hollywood Senior Center)**

**[gloria@thegivingtreenw.org](mailto:gloria@thegivingtreenw.org)**

**971-506-0589 mobile**



**From:** [Ianda Allen](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Community Alliance of Tenants (CAT) Testimony  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 28, 2021 12:13:29 PM  
**Attachments:** [City of Portland testimony - Community Alliance of Tenants.docx.pdf](#)

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Good Afternoon,

Below I have attached a letter that is to be used as written testimony on behalf of the Community Alliance of Tenants. I, Ianda Allen, the Advocacy and Organizing Director is the individual submitting this for the public record and recording.

Thank you,  
Ianda Allen  
Advocacy and Organizing Director  
Community Alliance of Tenants





Dear Members of the City Council of Portland,

Community Alliance of Tenants (CAT) is Oregon's leading and only statewide, grassroots, tenant-controlled, tenant-rights organization. CAT educates, organizes and develops the leadership of low-income tenants. Community Alliance of Tenants is made up of two entities including Community Alliance of Tenants 501(c)3 and the CAT Action Fund 501(c)4. CAT's mission is to educate and empower tenants to demand safe, stable and affordable rental homes. We believe that housing is the basis of a strong community. So we bring tenants together to organize and collectively advocate for fair and equal protections in housing practices and policies.

This ordinance allocates \$63.6 million in federal funding for new or expanded programming at the City, to the Joint Office of Homeless Services, and through community organizations.

As an organization led by tenants, we are well aware that we are on the precipice of a mass eviction crisis. Given the housing crisis on top of the difficulty of COVID recovery, the necessity of rent assistance is made clearer than ever. Having spoken with thousands of renters through our hotline and organizing program, we strongly urge the City of Portland to use funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to provide access to free legal counsel to tenants experiencing evictions. Legal representation is necessary for tenants, especially those from Black and brown communities, as it can lessen the blow of unavoidable evictions and prevent homelessness by obtaining extra time and exploring other options.

CAT would like to express our strong support for using federal ARPA funds to fully fund a right-to-counsel program and other alternative houseless solutions.

Sincerely,

*Janda Allen*

Janda Allen  
Organizing and Advocacy Director  
Community Alliance of Tenants

**City Council Meeting - Wednesday, July 28, 2021 2:00 p.m.**

<b>Agenda No.</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Zip Code</b>
617	Angela	Jackson	97214