

**Subject: DHS-Potentially Eligible Housing Grants Households and CAF Limitations**

**FY 2022 Proposed Budget  
Budget Work Session Follow-up**

**4/15/2021**

The following information is provided in response to a request made by Ms. Cristol at the work session on 3/9/2021, regarding the following question:

Housing Grants Program: Provide data or any insights on the number of potentially eligible households in the County and the unmet need created by the limited number of available CAFs.

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Potentially Eligible Households in the County

The Housing Grants Program provides rental assistance to low income households so that they can live in Arlington. Recipients are Arlington residents who meet income and asset requirements and are limited to working families with minor children, residents with disabilities, or residents age 65 or older. A snapshot of program recipients from October 2020 may be viewed [here](#).

During the budget work session with the County Board, a question was asked regarding the number of potentially eligible households. This is difficult to measure without knowing several key factors: asset limitations, work requirements, age and disability or diagnosis. Although the data is incomplete to fully answer the eligibility question, it is possible to target income levels to gain a hypothetical upper threshold:

- There are approximately 17,100 (including 1,358 households enrolled in FY 2021) households renting in Arlington with incomes equal to or less than 50% of the area median income (\$63,000 for a family of 4). Hypothetically, if all these households qualified, this would result in the addition of 15,742 households to the program (a 1,013% increase to the number of households served).
- For reference, the Housing Grants Program is budgeted for 1,414 households in FY 2022 and the total program budget is \$12,684,037. This assumes an average monthly cost per household of \$732 (or \$8,784 annually per household). See the prior year details that were previously submitted to the County Board [here](#).
- Increasing the number of households by 15,742 would cost an additional \$138 million, or \$13.8 million assuming only a tenth qualify. It is difficult to estimate the portion of those households that may not meet other eligibility requirements such as asset limitations, work requirements, age and disability or diagnosis due to constraints in data availability.

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CAF Limitations

In FY 2020, there are 8,650 committed affordable units for households earning up to 80% of the area median income (\$100,800 for a family of 4). With 17,100 households with incomes at 50% of the county's area median income and less, the unmet need exceeds 8,450 households.