



**Snohomish County  
Human Services**

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**MEMORANDUM**

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Date: April 27, 2023  
To: Jared Mead, Chair, Snohomish County Council  
From: <sup>JA</sup> Jackie Anderson, Division Manager, Housing & Community Services  
Re: Final 2023 Action Plan and Public Comments, ECAF #2023-0439

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This memo is to transmit public comments received on the draft 2023 Action Plan during the 30-day public review and comment period, to provide staff responses and recommendation regarding the comments, to explain changes from the draft plan, and to transmit the final plan.

Human Services Department staff have reviewed the comments and provided a response and recommendation for the comments for consideration, which is attached.

- The comments expressed appreciation for the many years of partnership with Snohomish County and the funding provided for their programs. The second comment voiced a concern about the amount of funds allocated in the 2023 Action Plan for planning and administration.

The final 2023 Action Plan includes the following changes from the draft plan:

Edits were made to the narratives to summarize the comments received on the draft plan and responses, to add additional HOME program income, to add one project, to revise the amount of one affordable housing project, to correct any grammatical, or typographical errors, and to make minor language edits.

Attachments: Final Public Comments  
Final 2023 Annual Action Plan (one final copy and one redlined copy)

cc: Lacey Harper, Executive Director, with attachment (one redlined copy)  
Mary Jane Brell Vujovic, Director, HSD, with attachment (one redlined copy)

## FINAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Final Public Comments and Responses  
 2023 Annual Action Plan  
 30-Day Public Comment Period March 24, 2023, through April 24, 2023

#	Comment	HSD Response
1	<p>Keith Bell, CEO, Homage Senior Services:</p> <p>The last few years have highlighted the critical need for programming for vulnerable households, as well as the fragility of many of our community safety nets. Homage has collaborated with Snohomish County for many years to assist our senior population and adults living with disabilities to live independently and with dignity in their homes. This partnership not only provides necessary resources to some of our most vulnerable community members; our services and programs help keep these families feeling valued and connected to their communities.</p> <p>Homage programs provide an affordable option for meeting many community needs – a safe and affordable living environment, reliable transportation for access to medical care, increased food security with access to nutritious meals and an expanded focus on mental health support services. These components are what help make our community feel safe and inclusive for our older adults and adults with disabilities.</p> <p>Funding provided by Snohomish County helps sustain two of our core programs, home repair and home-delivered meals. These programs address critical community needs, such as affordable housing, health and safety, food insecurity, and social isolation. Homage Home Repair provides low-income elderly and disabled homeowners with health, safety, and accessibility related repairs they cannot afford or</p>	<p>The County appreciates the many years of partnership and collaboration with Homage Senior Services and values their continued commitment and service to the senior population and adults living with disabilities.</p> <p>The 2023 Annual Action Plan includes proposed funding for two Homage Senior Services programs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Homeowner Minor Home Repair: An affordable housing program which provides health and safety repairs to homes owned and-occupied by low-income elderly persons and persons with disabilities; and</li> <li>2. Food and Nutrition Services: A public service project which provides home delivered meals for home-bound seniors and people with disabilities, and freshly prepared hot meals at nine sites.</li> </ol>

#	Comment	HSD Response
	<p>perform on their own. This allows these residents the ability to stay in their own homes for longer while improving the existing housing stock, which keeps their cost of living more affordable. Homage's home delivered meals program provides more than nutritionally balanced meals for homebound individuals; the visits from the Meals on Wheels (MOW) delivery drivers offer a chance for socialization, community connection, and a well-being check. Our drivers are trained to spot health and safety issues and make referrals to other programs or agencies, if needed. Many of our drivers and repair staff have worked for Homage for years and have built trusted relationships with our clients.</p> <p>As we work to continually align our services to meet community needs, we appreciate the support from Snohomish County for these necessary programs and services. Homage is committed to our mission of promoting independence, preserving dignity, and enhancing the quality of life for older adults and people with disabilities and funding for these services is crucial for our sustainability, especially as the demand for services remain high. Our partnership with Snohomish County allows us all to work towards eliminating barriers and provide a wide range of essential services that our community needs.</p>	
	<p>Phil Lovell:</p> <p>I am with SCT, CAB and offer the following question/comment with regard to the plan available online: How can a 'funding measure/grant' of 6.5 mm\$ necessitate/justify nearly 17% [896k\$] in 'grant planning and administration'-- no wonder dealing with the Feds. gets us nowhere but another 'skim-off' from</p>	<p>The federal funding under this notice is received by Snohomish County Consortium (Consortium), an entitlement community. The Consortium is a partnership between Snohomish County and most of the cities and towns within the County. The partnership is established through an Interlocal Agreement and allows the Consortium, as an Urban County, to received approximately \$6 million dollars in federal funding each year as formula grants under Community Development</p>

#	Comment	HSD Response
	<p>'administration services' supposedly making the end result happen?!!</p>	<p>Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs.</p> <p>The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awards annual grants to entitlement communities and states throughout the United States, to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons. To receive entitlement funds, the Consortium is required to develop a Five-year Consolidated Plan to guide investment of the funds on an annual basis, which is implemented through five one-year annual action plans.</p> <p>The percentage of the grant allowable for planning and administration is set by regulation and varies by grant:</p> <p>CDBG funding up to 20%  HOME funding up to 10%  ESG funding up to 7.5%</p> <p>The amount allocated in the 2023 Action Plan is the maximum amount that can be used for planning and administration. Funds allocated in each action plan planning and administration that are not needed are reallocated to programs.</p>