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## GAP FINANCING FOR WORKFORCE HOUSING

#### What?

- A gap financing program using ARPA dollars that can be combined with private and other resources to produce workforce housing.
- Funding can be used to build workforce housing developments or renovate and repurpose existing buildings for housing.
- Financing may include loans, grants, and/or equity investments. Such financing may be subordinated to private funding, as needed.
- Workforce housing funded with ARPA dollars must be completed by December 31, 2026.

#### How?

- Through the appointment of a Workforce Housing Advisory Commission comprised of three (3) House members, (3) Senate members, and (3) gubernatorial appointments.
- The Commission will create a statewide plan, determine regions of Idaho most in need, set forth the rules for prioritizing and disbursing the funds and determine which workforce housing projects are undertaken.

#### Who?

- Applicants: Private and nonprofit developers who demonstrate the capacity to design and build compliant workforce housing projects.
  - o Preference will be given to applicants who have also secured a source of local funding including any ARPA dollars directly provided to the city or county.
- Program Administrator: Idaho Housing & Finance Association

#### Where?

• Access to workforce housing has become a statewide challenge impacting urban, rural, and resort communities alike. The Program Administrator may establish funding set-asides to ensure that all areas of the state are assisted with funding from this gap financing program.

## Why?

- Economic feasibility is one of the biggest challenges facing developers interested in building workforce housing. The State of Idaho currently does not offer a state-sponsored program to assist with this.
- Today, workforce housing projects are financed with a combination of private financing and federal tax credits. Through these two avenues alone, there exists a significant funding gap that makes moving forward with these projects incredibly difficult.
- IHFA has more resources to offer in this area, but with the gap in financing that exists, it cannot fully leverage those resources to build more housing.

# How much?

• The governor has recommended \$50 million of ARPA funds. It is estimated that this program could create 1,000 workforce housing units across the state.