

From: [Josh Arnold](#)
To: [CDBGCommittee](#)
Subject: Community Development Block Grant Committee - 2022 Annual Action Plan - Public Comment
Date: Thursday, July 7, 2022 1:16:07 PM

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Members of the Community Development Block Grant Committee:

Under Action Item 2 of the July 7, 2022 meeting agenda, (72115) Approving submission of the City of Madison's required 2022 Annual Action Plan, I am writing to support the inclusion of The Backyard Homes Project (ADU Lending Program) as part of the 2022 Action Plan under the Rental Housing Category. Backyard Homes or Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) can contribute to supporting many of the goals of the 2022 Action Plan, including supporting affordable housing, environmental sustainability, social equity and additional co-benefits, such as providing spaces for friends and families to age in place.

The Community Development Division's Backyard Homes Project Loan Financing Program offered loan financing and the website reports that "2022 and 2023 funding for the Backyard Homes Project have been committed and we no longer have funds at this time."

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/dpced/economicdevelopment/adu-loan-financing/3809/>

We have looked into a Backyard Home at our property and have found that many credit unions and banks are uncomfortable lending for such a project in part because there are few comparable properties available in the area. Getting more ADUs built will be a critical factor to unlock mortgage financing, which is a necessary source of financing for many residents who may be interested in building an ADU.

Based on the interest in the Backyard Homes Project, I would encourage the Division to consider opportunities to increase resources for the Backyard Homes Project as part of the 2022 Annual Action Plan and beyond.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my comment.

Sincerely,
Josh Arnold

Josh Arnold
317 N. Hillside Ter
Madison, WI 53705