

RENO HOUSING AUTHORITY**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 5****February 27, 2024**

SUBJECT: Executive Director/Secretary's Report. (Discussion)

FROM: Executive Director

RECOMMENDATION: Discussion

A. Update on Agency activities

- On January 26th staff, along with Chairman Aiazzi and Commissioner Taylor, provided US Senator Catherine Cortez Masto a tour of several current construction and proposed repositioning projects. The Senator also stopped at RHA's Golden Grocery. The tour provided an opportunity for the Senator to learn about RHA's vast programming and the many ways we strive to serve the community.
- RHA hosted a Property Tour for elected officials on January 26th. Officials from the Washoe County School District, Reno City Council, and County Commission participated. Staff provided information on RHA's programs, housing, and upcoming projects.
- RHA hosted a roundtable discussion on affordable housing with Senator Jacky Rosen on February 21st. The Executive Director and Commissioner Taylor participated in the roundtable. This event allowed RHA to identify some of the challenges facing lower income households within the current housing market and the multi-faceted approach the agency is pursuing to help address these challenges.
- The Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director participated in an affordable housing roundtable hosted by the Nevada Housing Coalition with the Governor's Office. Approximately 20-25 people representing state, local, and federal government agencies as well as local non-profit and stakeholder representatives participated. The topics covered included strategies to create more affordable housing such as accessory dwelling units, the need for sustainable sources of gap financing since Home Means Nevada Initiative funds were one-time money and the Regional Housing Trust Fund does not have a renewable source and/or financial offsets for fee waivers to enable local jurisdictions to continue to waive fees for eligible projects, and potential ways to reduce regulatory barriers through zoning and permitting changes.
- Based on the Board's prior action at its January meeting, staff scheduled a meeting at Sarrazin Arms Apartments in late February to notify residents and provide information on the future land swap with Jacobs Entertainment (dba Reno Real Estate Development). The Executive Director is coordinating with Gaston & Wilkerson on this item.

- RHA's leadership team completed a joint media training with Nevada Rural Housing's leadership team. The training was provided by public relations staff from both agencies.
- Staff attended EDAWNs State of the Economy Luncheon on February 8th. The event provided an overview of the local economy and housing market. The economic outlook was positive for the region. There is still pressure on the local housing market which is causing sustained high rental and for-sale housing prices.

B. Update on Rental Assistance Voucher Programs / Asset Management

Rental Assistance Voucher Programs

Voucher Type	Total Voucher Baseline	Vouchers Leased as of 8/1/22	Percent Leased	Vouchers Issued Not Yet Leased
Housing Choice Voucher	2,484	2,179	88%	155
VASH	541	285	53%	58
EHV	137	108	79%	17
FYI	15	6	40%	5

Number HQS Inspections Conducted by Month	
January 2024	218

City of Sparks Eviction Prevention Program

Total Funding Awarded	Total Assistance Approved as of 2/15/24	Number of Households Approved as of 2/15/24	Percent Funding Spent
\$1,309,500	\$1,022,323	222	78%

Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV)

Description: Vouchers used by clients to lease a unit in Washoe County of their choosing. Applicants are pulled from the RHA HCV Waitlist. These vouchers also include Project Based Vouchers. The RHA has chosen to Project Base 107 of our HCV's to assist special populations obtain housing. Of the total 107 PBV units, 95 are assigned to RHA owned properties.

Lease-Up Expectations: Although total voucher allocation is 2524, HUD has set the agency's leasing expectation at 2382 (AKA RHA's MTW Baseline), which is the maximum leasing expectation set by HUD when RHA signed its MTW Contract. Funds provided by HUD to support the HCV program are also used to support the agency's MTW activities and therefore full lease up of all 2524 vouchers is not expected or suggested by HUD.

Veteran's Affairs Supporting Housing Vouchers (VASH)

Description: Vouchers allocated by HUD with an ongoing partnership with the VA to serve homeless veterans. The VA provides case management services to participants. The VA makes direct referrals to RHA of eligible clients and the RHA provides a VASH voucher. Currently, RHA has project-based 9 of these vouchers.

Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV)

Description: Vouchers allocated by HUD for the specific purpose of assisting homeless individuals or families or those at risk of homelessness in obtaining housing. RHA is partnering with four local agencies (Catholic Charities, Health Plan of Nevada, Washoe County Human Services-Our Place and Volunteers of America) that have experience providing

services to this population. Referrals for the program must come from the regional Continuum of Care (CoC) coordinated entry system. Direct referrals are received by the RHA from the partnering agency and the RHA provides the EHV voucher.

Foster Youth to Independence Vouchers (FYI)

Description: Voucher allocated by HUD for the specific purpose of assisting foster youth aging out of the foster care system. RHA is partnering with Washoe County Human Services and Eddy House to provide referrals and case management to clients. Direct referrals are received by the RHA from the partnering agency and the RHA provides the FYI voucher.

Asset Management

- During the month of January, Asset Management conducted interviews for the Assistant Manager, Maintenance Groundskeeper and two open Maintenance II positions. Candidates were selected and they are currently going through the pre-employment process with an expected start date in February.
- Maintenance staff have continued teaming up on Thursdays to complete leaf removal and other miscellaneous tasks. They have also been working on obtaining quotes and determining proper site locations for the special projects the resident council has selected with the \$5000.00 in money the board provided to them.
- The entire Asset Management team is currently learning how to enter inspections using the Yardi Mobile Inspection application. This new application will significantly reduce staffs time and completely automate the process. The inspection will be visible to the residents via email, the work orders will automatically be created and a record of the inspection along with pictures and notes will be linked to the tenants account in Yardi.
- The Director, Administrator and Compliance Specialist went through the RAD PBV Specialist training delivered through Nan McKay in preparation for Silverada's RAD repositioning.
- Public Housing ended the month of September with 74 vacancies for an overall occupancy rate of 90.00% across all sites. In January, six residents vacated their unit, and no units were leased.

C. Update on Workforce Development, Elderly Services, and youth activities

Department Updates

- All Resident Services staff attended a two-day training with Tracking-at-a-Glance, our virtual case management software, to better understand the outcome tracking capabilities. Staff will use this new knowledge to ensure that we are tracking program outcomes appropriately moving forward.

Elderly Services

- Elderly Services staff members completed a four-part training by the **Sanford Center for Aging** to learn how to better work with those with Dementia and their family members.

- Due to popular demand among residents, staff held an additional event with **St. Mary's Home Care Services** and a notary to assist seniors in ensuring their end-of-life wishes are known.

Workforce Development (WFD)

- Staff is working with partners to put the final pieces together for the first Homeownership Seminar open to all clients on Saturday, February 24, 2024. Workshops will be offered throughout the day on topics including how the loan process works, how to overcome credit challenges, different financing options, downpayment assistance programs, and more.

Youth/Family Activities

- Staff is preparing for 2024 summer camp in partnership with **Sierra Nevada Journeys**. Thanks to the generous **Helen Close Charitable Foundation** scholarships, 43 youth will get to attend summer camp at no cost.
- The 2024 Start Smart scholarship application has been released to eligible Start Smart students. Applications are due March 29, 2024, for the scholarship committee's review.

Resident Councils

- Resident Services staff continues to work with Development and Asset Management staff to actuate 2023 resident council community beautification fund projects. RHA looks forward to seeing these projects come to fruition soon!
- Tom Sawyer Resident Council hosted a Valentine's pancake Breakfast for all RHA seniors and persons with disabilities.

** The Authority's community partners are designated in bold within the Update on Elderly Services, Workforce Development, and youth activities headers.*

D. Update on Public Affairs Activities

Media: traditional and social

- With board concurrence on project with Jacobs Entertainment, planning with Abbi Agency for 465 W. 2nd Street ceremonial signing media event 2/29. Secured pre-event coverage from Reno Gazette-Journal.
- Preparing for housing roundtable hosted by RHA for Senator Rosen on 2/21.
- Set to cover home ownership seminar at Silverada Manor on 2/24.
- Conducted elected officials tour/open house.
- Conducted tour for Senator Cortez Masto
- Conducted Railyard Flats groundbreaking.
- Conducted day-long media training with all RHA directors and senior staff from Nevada Rural Housing on 2/1.

Other

- Planning for Sarrazin Arms resident meeting to discuss future of the property (with board concurrence) on 2/28.
- Looking for sponsorship for Dick Scott Manor furniture/outfitting needs.
- Working with resident services on graphic collateral material for Start Smart Scholars Night.

E. Update on Development ActivitiesSilverada Manor

- HUD's Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity's review of Silverada Manor's RAD application has been very challenging. FHEO has disapproved the project's accessibility review, request for elderly preference, and unit configuration change request. RHA staff met with FHEO to discuss the review and received helpful direction. Updated accessibility review data was submitted in late February and staff expects the second review will be approved. However, the direction given by FHEO made it clear that there is a high bar to make the case of for an elderly preference and unit configuration change at Silverada. RHA would have to prove that there is an overriding priority need for elderly housing in the community in comparison to that of families. Otherwise, FHEO believe the preference and unit configuration change may violate the Fair Housing Act. After analyzing the data source suggested by FHEO and consulting with Brinshore and Praxis, staff concluded it would be time consuming and difficult to make the case for either request and attempting to do so would likely delay the project even more. Because a delay would jeopardize the HMNI funding in the project, it was decided the best path forward is to withdraw both requests and plan to operate Silverada Manor as a general occupancy site with 22 studios, 64 1 bedrooms, and 63 2 bedrooms.
- With the adjustments to the RAD application, RHA is hoping to schedule a concept call for the Silverada Manor by early March.
- The Lender/Investor RFP for Silverada received robust attention. Brinshore and RHA are in the process of evaluating the RFPs and hope to select the lender/investor in early March to keep on track for the tax-exempt bond application to the state Board of Finance in mid-March.
- RHA staff is planning to hold another round of resident meetings at Silverada at the end of March.

Hawk View

- The Section 18 application review for Hawk View is still ongoing. Brinshore has communicated with the HUD office reviewing the application on multiple occasions

and has been told the review is nearly complete. If HUD does not provide an update by late February, Brinshore and RHA will be requesting a meeting with the office to discuss the review and speed up the approval process.

- RHA and Brinshore presented to the Washoe County HOME Consortium in mid-February as part of the application for \$1M for Hawk View. The presentation went well, and it appears that Hawk View will be very competitive for funding. There will be two more public meetings in March and April, at which point it will be clear if Hawk View will be awarded HOME funds.
- RHA and Brinshore are working diligently to submit a Federal Home Loan Bank Affordable Housing Program grant application for Hawk View for \$1.2M. The application is due March 5.
- RHA staff is planning to hold another round of resident meetings at Hawk View at the end of March.

Dick Scott Manor

- Construction is moving forward on schedule, within budget and current project scope. Projected project completion is June 2024.

Railyard Flats

- The project is off to a strong start with the foundation poured just a few weeks after groundbreaking.
- Staff has finalized the HOME-ARP agreement and is brought a recommendation for the board to approve the agreement and associated documents authorize RHA's executive director to execute them.

Stead Manor

- Stead Manor predevelopment continues to move forward on schedule. RHA is set to receive completed design development documents in March and construction documents in April.
- The design and scope of work are nearing the 50% completion threshold and staff have prepared a report for the February meeting to update the board on the scope of work and receive any feedback.
- RHA staff is planning to hold the initial resident meeting for the project at the end of March.

McGraw Court/Silver Sage Court

- McGraw Court/Silver Sage Court predevelopment continues to move forward on schedule. RHA is set to receive 50% construction development documents in March.

- The design and scope of work are nearing the 50% completion threshold and staff have prepared a report for the February meeting to update the board on the scope of work and receive any feedback.
- RHA staff is planning to hold the initial resident meeting for the project at the end of March.

Carville Court

- RHA responded an additional request for information from the Nevada Housing Division regarding the project's HOME-ARP application in mid-February.

Paradise Plaza

- RHA officially closed on the Paradise Plaza property on February 9th.
- The HUD ER and several other assessments have been ordered so that work can begin on the project as soon as possible.
- RHA staff toured the site with H&K Architects in mid-February. The architects will complete further due diligence on the site and develop a scope of work over the coming month.

Essex Manor

- No project updates as of January 2024.

Capital Fund

- RHA has budgeted a large portion of 2022 Capital funds for relocation and predevelopment expenses related to the Hawk View and Silverada Manor projects. These funds must be obligated by May 11, 2024. Because of the delay in financial closing for Hawk View and Silverada projects, RHA will be submitting an obligation deadline extension request to HUD's Office of Capital Improvements to allow for the funds to be obligated when the projects close later in 2024. Staff expects this will be a straightforward approval.

Reno Avenue

- At this point in time, staff has gathered sufficient information for the Board to consider issuing a Letter of Intent to purchase the property. A report and other supporting documents have been provided to the Board to be further discussed in close session at the February meeting.

Other Updates

- The Department interviewed candidates for the open Project Manager position and selected Blaine McGuire to fill the role. Blaine is currently in the Asset Management Department and will start with Development on March 4. He has strong experience in construction and will be providing much needs support to the Senior Project Manager overseeing the construction management aspects of all the department's projects.

F. Update on Information Technology activities

Yardi Implementation

- We are working with the Client Success Support Team to ensure all outstanding and recent issues are completed to our satisfaction.
- We continue working with the Asset Management team to configure each property and corresponding menus for Affordable Rent Café. Staff from both IT and Asset Management attended online trainings discussing Affordable Rent Café in full.
- We are nearing the finish of the Legal Module implementation with the Asset Management team before training the Assistant Managers.
- The Development, Finance, and IT departments continue working on the Job Cost Module setup.

Laserfiche Implementation

- The scanning team has finished Mineral Manor's clients and have transitioned to residents of Tom Sawyer Village.

Other Projects

- IT finished assembling staff's equipment and performing cable management as the final furniture deliveries arrived during the first week of February.

G. Update on MTW Activities

FY 2025 Annual MTW Plan

RHA's FY 2025 Annual MTW Plan has been drafted and posted for public comment. The proposed activities were presented at a meeting of the Resident Advisory Board and at several Resident Council meetings to provide an overview of the proposed change with those in attendance. A public hearing to answer questions or receive comments on the proposed MTW Annual Plan will be held on March 7, 2024.

In FY 2025, RHA is proposing the following new activities within its MTW Plan:

- *Reduce Interim Recertifications*
RHA is proposing to eliminate interim recertifications due to an increase in household income. This activity is anticipated to reduce the number of interim recertifications resulting in increased staff productivity while also encouraging self-sufficiency among RHA's Public Housing (PH) residents and Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) participants. The proposed activity aligns portions of RHA's recertification policy with upcoming regulation changes in the Housing Opportunities Through Modernization Act (HOTMA) while aiming to keep the process simpler for both staff and clients.

Currently, RHA processes an interim recertification whenever a PH resident or HCV participant reports an increase or decrease in income or assets, when a change in family composition occurs or when a landlord in the HCV program requests a contract rent increase and/or decrease. Under this proposed activity, RHA will no longer process or require PH residents or HCV participants to report increases in household income until the household's next annual recertification. However, RHA will process interim recertifications and redetermine rent in both programs under the following circumstances:

- Any decrease in household income,
 - Workforce Development Program participants with a signed contract of participation can request an interim to update the amount being contributed to their escrow accounts,
 - When increased income would allow a new unit to meet affordability standards when a transfer and/or move is requested,
 - Any change in family composition,
 - When a contract rent increase or decrease is submitted by the landlord.
- *Landlord Incentive Program*
RHA is reproposing this activity to allow for a vacancy loss payment if the unit passes Housing Quality Standards (HQS) on the first inspection and to extend the length of time that the initial inspection results are valid from 45 days to 90 days. Vacancy loss payments will be limited to units that pass HQS on the first inspection and designed to cover the time between RHA's receipt of a Request for Tenancy Approval (RFTA) and the actual lease date by the tenant.

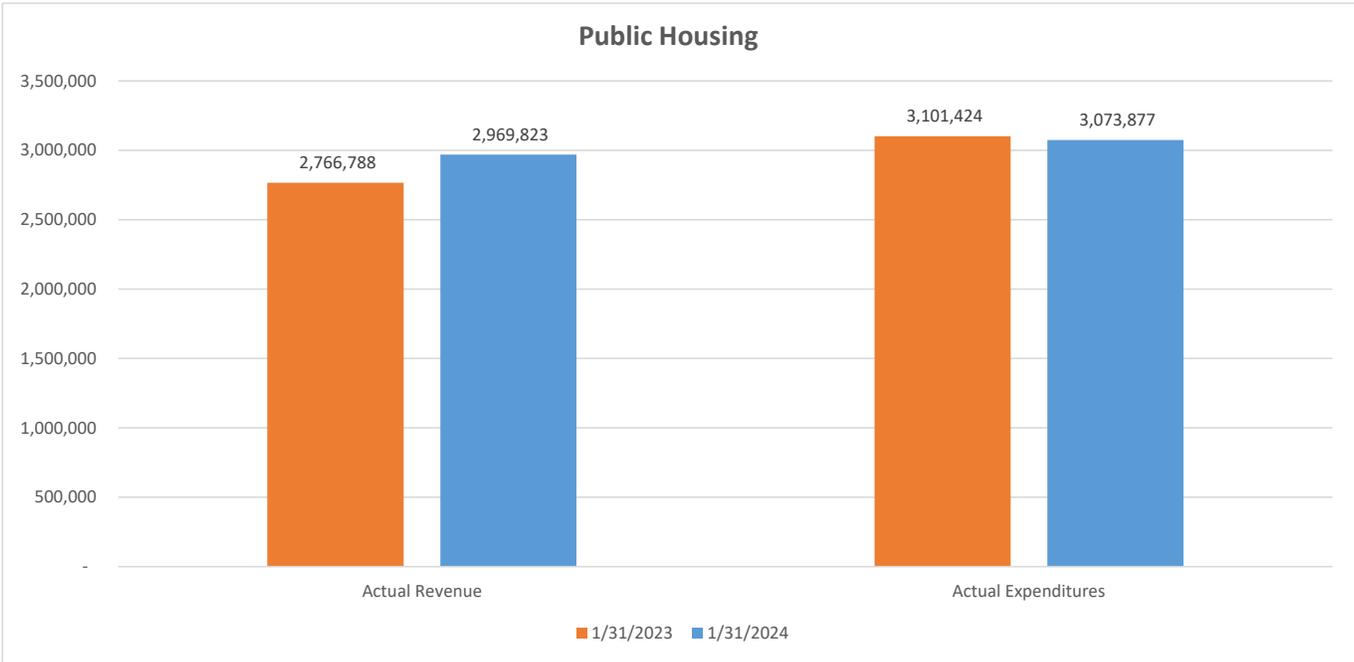
Furthermore, in FY 2025, RHA is proposing to amend the following MTW activity previously approved by HUD and implemented by the agency:

- *Simplify rent calculations and increase the minimum rent*
Similar to upcoming changes in income calculations based on new HOTMA regulations, RHA is amending this activity to allow HCV participants and PH residents with less than \$50,000 in assets to submit a self-certification as to the value and the amount of expected income. Applicants will continue to be asked to provide a well-documented baseline asset value at the time of application or recertification, but RHA staff will only verify and calculate income on assets if the value totals more than \$50,000.

H. Financials

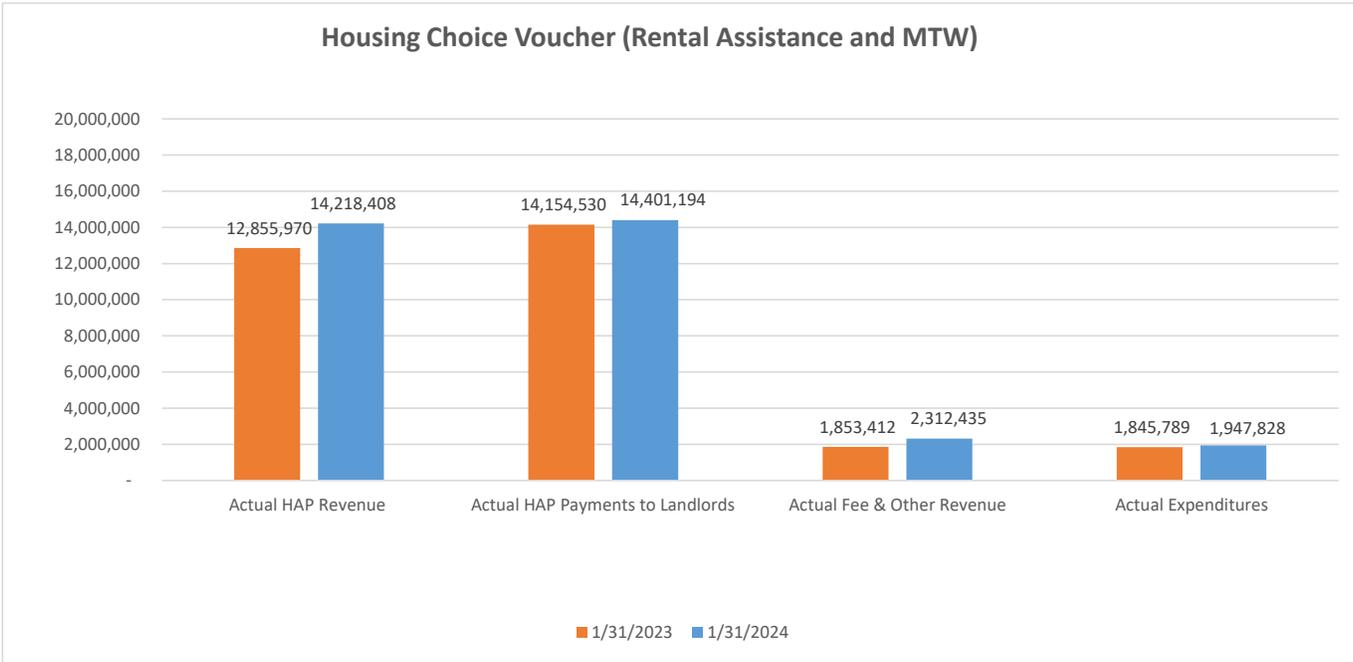
ENTITY-WIDE FINANCIAL REPORT
 FOR THE 7 MONTHS ENDED JANUARY 31, 2024

Public Housing	1/31/2024	1/31/2023	Variance	Variance Percentage
Actual Revenue	2,969,823	2,766,788	203,035	7.34%
Budgeted Revenue	3,082,554	2,723,489	359,065	13.18%
Actual Expenditures	3,073,877	3,101,424	(27,547)	-0.89%
Budgeted Expenditures	3,857,346	3,316,658	540,688	16.30%
Actual Surplus (deficit)	(104,054)	(334,636)	230,582	-68.91%



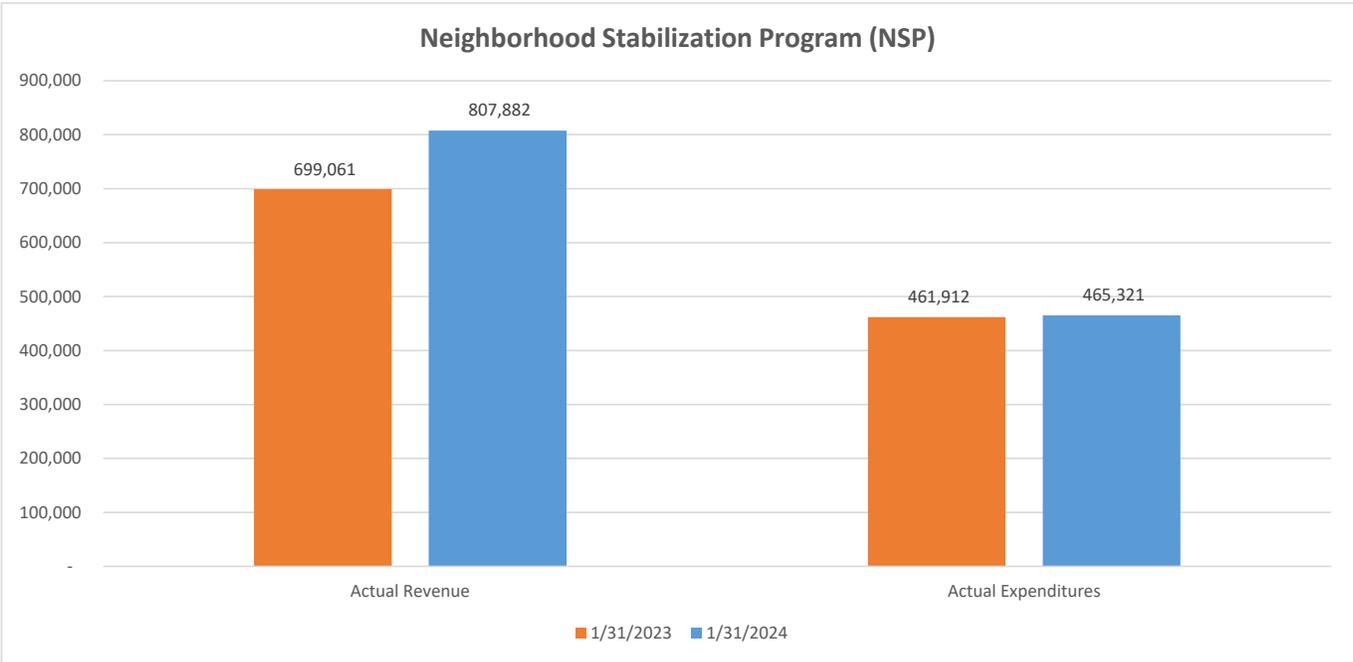
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Housing Choice Voucher (Rental Assistance and MTW)	1/31/2024	1/31/2023	Variance	Variance Percentage
Actual HAP Revenue	14,218,408	12,855,970	1,362,438	10.60%
Budgeted HAP Revenue	16,304,264	14,929,019	1,375,245	9.21%
Actual HAP Payments to Landlords	14,401,194	14,154,530	246,664	1.74%
Budgeted HAP Payments to Landlords	14,405,971	14,714,534	(308,564)	-2.10%
Actual Fee & Other Revenue	2,312,435	1,853,412	459,023	24.77%
Budgeted Fee & Other Revenue	1,751,040	1,559,013	192,027	12.32%
Actual Expenditures	1,947,828	1,845,789	102,039	5.53%
Budgeted Expenditures	3,050,054	1,979,876	1,070,179	54.05%
Actual Surplus (deficit)	181,821	(1,290,938)	1,472,759	-114.08%



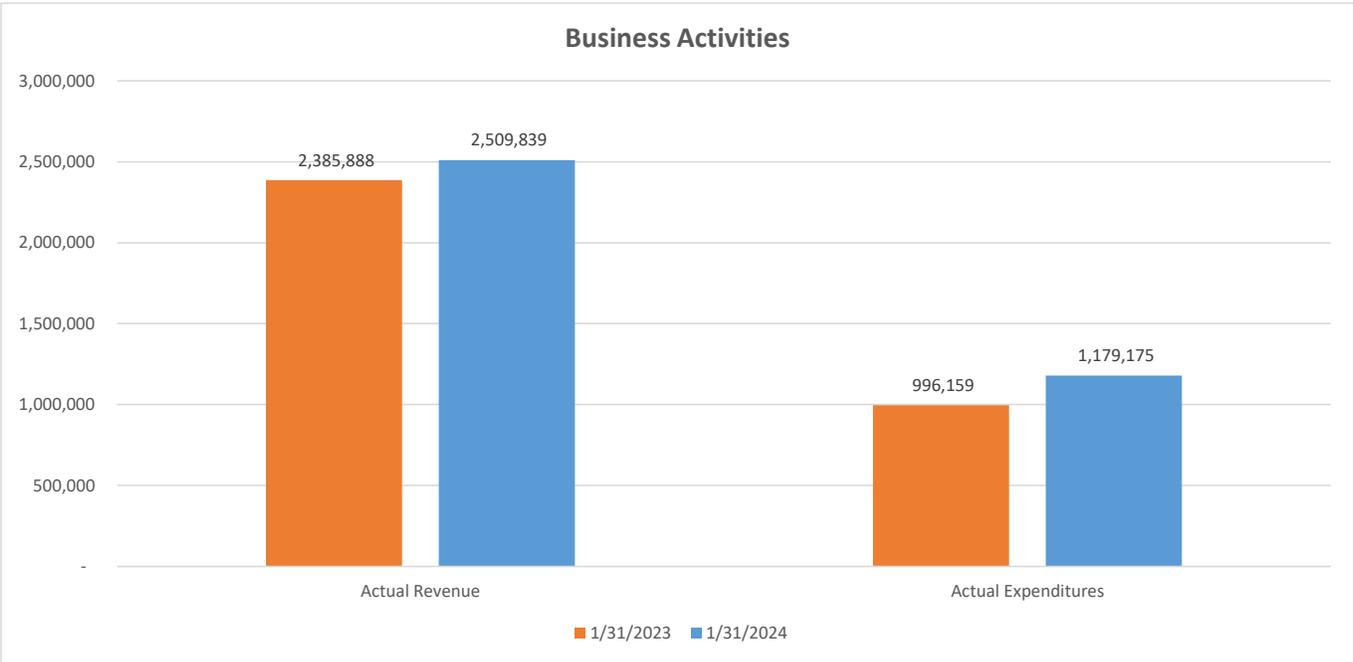
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Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP)	1/31/2024	1/31/2023	Variance	Variance Percentage
Actual Revenue	807,882	699,061	108,821	15.57%
Budgeted Revenue	823,718	696,620	127,098	18.25%
Actual Expenditures	465,321	461,912	3,409	0.74%
Budgeted Expenditures	489,992	401,188	88,804	22.14%
Actual Restricted Surplus (deficit)	342,561	237,149	105,412	44.45%



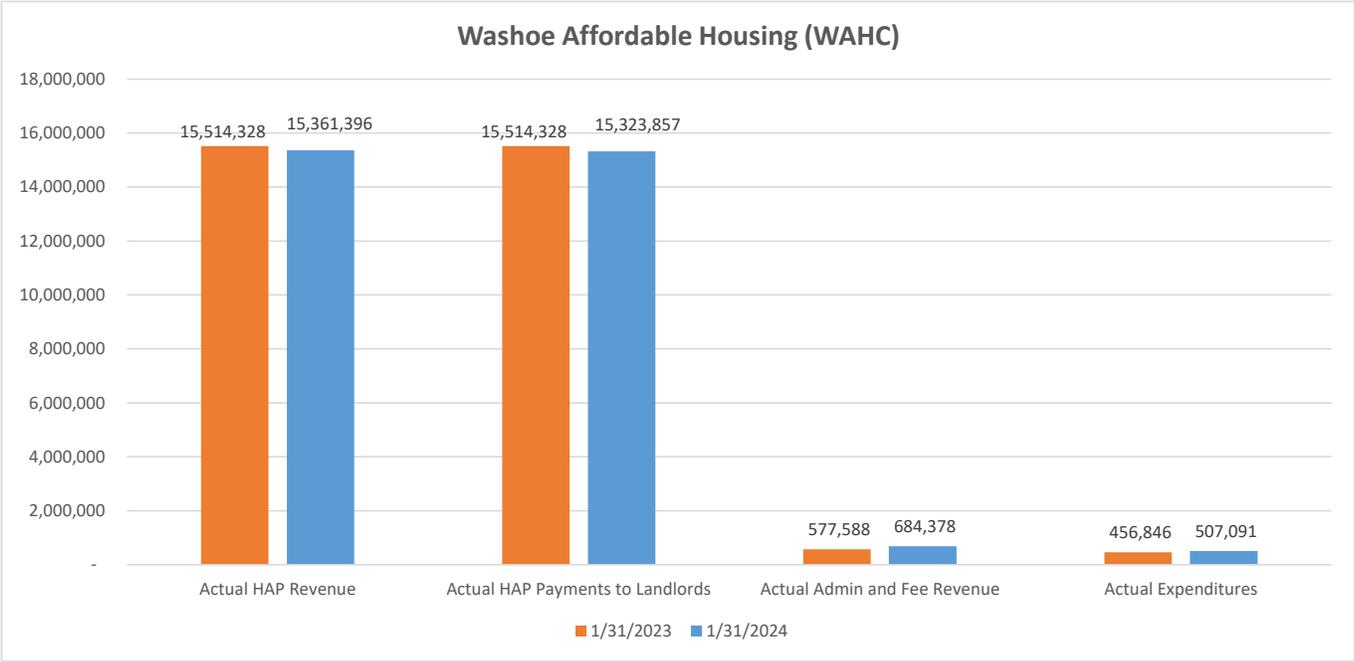
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Business Activities	1/31/2024	1/31/2023	Variance	Variance Percentage
Actual Revenue	2,509,839	2,385,888	123,951	5.20%
Budgeted Revenue	2,313,458	2,390,196	(76,738)	-3.21%
Actual Expenditures	1,179,175	996,159	183,016	18.37%
Budgeted Expenditures	987,630	1,003,971	(16,341)	-1.63%
Actual Unrestricted Surplus (deficit)	1,330,665	1,389,729	(59,064)	-4.25%



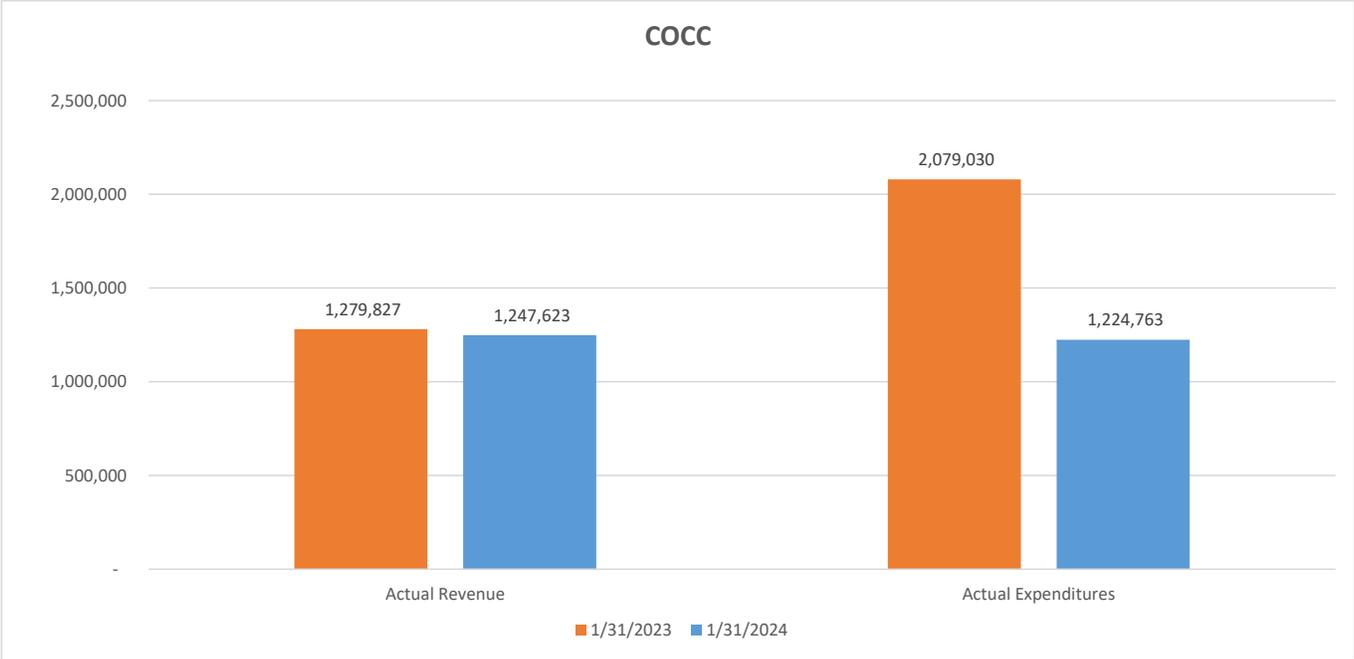
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Washoe Affordable Housing (WAHC)	1/31/2024	1/31/2023	Variance	Variance Percentage
Actual HAP Revenue	15,361,396	15,514,328	(152,932)	-0.99%
Budgeted HAP Revenue	15,642,601	15,013,419	629,182	4.19%
Actual HAP Payments to Landlords	15,323,857	15,514,328	(190,471)	-1.23%
Budgeted HAP Payments to Landlords	15,642,601	15,013,419	629,182	4.19%
<i>HAP Surplus (Deficit)</i>	<i>37,539</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>37,539</i>	<i>0.00%</i>
Actual Admin and Fee Revenue	684,378	577,588	106,790	18.49%
Budgeted Admin and Fee Revenue	601,540	602,592	(1,052)	-0.17%
Actual Expenditures	507,091	456,846	50,245	11.00%
Budgeted Expenditures	462,226	412,742	49,483	11.99%
<i>Unrestricted Profit (Loss)</i>	<i>177,287</i>	<i>120,742</i>	<i>56,545</i>	<i>46.83%</i>
Actual compared to budget	214,826	120,742	94,084	77.92%



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COCC	1/31/2024	1/31/2023	Variance	Variance Percentage
Actual Revenue	1,247,623	1,279,827	(32,204)	-2.52%
Budgeted Revenue	1,276,274	1,389,728	(113,453)	-8.16%
Actual Expenditures	1,224,763	2,079,030	(854,267)	-41.09%
Budgeted Expenditures	1,812,611	2,261,994	(449,383)	-19.87%
Actual Unrestricted Surplus (deficit)	22,859	(799,204)	822,063	-102.86%



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Entity-Wide Totals	1/31/2024	1/31/2023	Variance	Variance Percentage
Actual HAP Revenue	29,579,805	28,370,298	1,209,506	4.26%
Budgeted HAP Revenue	31,946,865	29,942,438	2,004,427	6.69%
Actual HAP Payments to Landlords	29,725,051	29,668,858	56,193	0.19%
Budgeted HAP Payments to Landlords	30,048,572	29,727,954	320,619	1.08%
<i>HAP Surplus (Deficit)</i>	<i>(145,246)</i>	<i>(1,298,560)</i>	<i>1,153,313</i>	<i>-88.81%</i>
Actual Fee & Other Revenue	10,531,980	9,562,563	969,417	10.14%
Budgeted Fee & Other Revenue	9,848,585	9,361,637	486,948	5.20%
Actual Expenditures	8,398,055	8,941,161	(543,106)	-6.07%
Budgeted Expenditures	10,659,858	9,376,429	1,283,430	13.69%
<i>Unrestricted Profit (Loss)</i>	<i>2,133,925</i>	<i>621,401</i>	<i>1,512,523</i>	<i>243.41%</i>
Actual Surplus (deficit)	1,988,678	(677,158)	2,665,837	-393.68%

