

**Request for Action**  
by  
**Board of Commissioners**

**Approval of Engagement of Lead Agency for Youth Homeless Demonstration Program**

**1. Summary of Request**

This Request for Action is for approval to engage the Rhode Island Coalition to End Homelessness (“RICEH”) to assist the Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation (“RIHousing”) to lead the implementation of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (“YHDP”). YHDP is an initiative of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) that focuses on addressing and ending youth homelessness. In its role as the Collaborative Applicant for the Rhode Island Continuum of Care (“RiCoC”), RIHousing has responsibility for coordinating functions relative to the federal grant.

**2. Discussion**

In September 2021, Rhode Island was selected as a Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program community after submitting an application through the RiCoC. YHDP is a HUD program that aligns with the RiCoC’s goal to end Youth Homelessness. YHDP supports selected communities in the development and implementation of a coordinated community approach to prevent and end youth homelessness for young people up to age twenty-five. Rhode Island’s initial award includes \$3.5M over two years to create a Coordinated Community Plan and fund the implementation of the plan to end youth homelessness.

In December 2021 the board of the RiCoC engaged in a Memorandum of Understanding with the RICEH, identifying them as the YHDP Lead Agency with the responsibility to oversee the preparation and submission of the Coordinated Community Plan. As such, RICEH is the sole agency qualified to perform the unique services associated with the preparation and submission of the Coordinated Community Plan.

Up to 10% of the initial YHDP award is available to Continuums of Care to support YHDP planning expenses. With that understanding, RIHousing on behalf of the RiCoC applied for and received \$137,731 to complete the scope of work associated with the preparation of the Coordinated Community Plan. The RICEH engagement will not exceed the award amount of \$137,731. RIHousing staff has discussed the proposed scope of work with RICEH and RICEH has submitted a comprehensive proposal that includes a commitment to perform the approved scope of work for \$137,731 on a mutually agreeable timeline. The Coordinated Community Plan is required by HUD and due in March 2022.

**3. Recommendation**

The attached resolution approving the engagement of the Rhode Island Coalition to End Homelessness is recommended for approval.

**4. Attachments**

A. Resolution

## Attachment A

### Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation

**Whereas:** the enabling act of the Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation (“RIHousing”) provides the agency with all the powers to make and execute contracts necessary for the exercise of its functions under the Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation Act, R.I. Gen. Laws §42-55-5(6); and

**Whereas:** in its capacity as the collaborative applicant for federal Continuum of Care Program funding on behalf of the Rhode Island Continuum of Care (“RiCoC”) RIHousing wishes to engage the lead agency identified by the RiCoC board to assist in the implementation of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (the “Program”) by carrying out implementation activities and submitting a Coordinated Community Plan; and

**Whereas:** a portion of the initial YHDP award to the RiCoC has been set aside to support YHDP planning expenses including preparation of the Coordinated Community Plan; and

**Whereas:** the Board of the RiCoC has named the Rhode Island Coalition to End Homelessness the lead agency to implement the Program; and

**Whereas:** RICEH has submitted a proposal for the performance of professional services that is acceptable to staff;

#### **NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY:**

**Resolved:** that RIHousing be, and hereby is authorized, to engage the Rhode Island Coalition to End Homelessness for a fee not to exceed \$137,731.00 to provide implementation in support of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program; and

**Resolved:** that the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer, each acting singly, be, and hereby are, authorized and empowered to take any and all actions necessary or desirable to carry out the foregoing resolution, including without limitation the authority to negotiate such terms of the engagement as he or she may determine are in the best interests of RIHousing, to execute any and all

agreements or documents as he or she deems necessary to carry out the foregoing.