

**Request for Action
By the Trustees of the
Affordable Housing Trust Fund**

Approval of HomeSafe Program Funding Awards

1. Summary of Request

This Request for Action (“RFA”) is for approval of a transfer of funds in the amount of \$600,000 from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to the Rhode Island Housing Mortgage and Finance Corporation (“RIHousing”) for purposes of funding the HomeSafe Program (“HSP”). The HomeSafe Program was established by RIHousing in 2020 to provide one-time financial support to assist low-income households facing a short-term housing crisis. HSP was launched with an initial investment from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, which has been fully committed and successfully deployed. Also included in this Request for Action is the approval of a new round of HSP grant awards. Updated HSP program guidelines describing eligible activities, households and programming are included as Attachment C.

On February 1, 2021, RIHousing issued a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) seeking qualified agencies to administer HSP cash assistance. The RFP was posted on the RIHousing website, social media, and sent to approximately 800 organizations, municipalities, property managers, developers and interested parties via an email announcement. RIHousing received 14 proposals from service organizations and community development corporations. Funding requested totaled \$1,650,900.

A committee consisting of the Deputy Executive Director and staff from the Leased Housing and Rental Services Division of RIHousing conducted a review of each proposal in accordance with the criteria set forth in the RFP. Based on these rankings, the committee recommends funding be awarded to the programs described at Attachment A.

2. Recommendation

Staff recommends the approval of the resolution set forth at Attachment B, which authorizes a transfer of funding in the amount of \$600,000 to support the HSP programs set forth at Attachment A.

3. Attachments

- A. Proposed FY2021 HomeSafe Program Funding Awards
- B. Resolution
- C. Program Guidelines

Attachment A

Proposed FY 2021 HomeSafe Program Funding Awards

Organization	Location	Award
Neighborworks Blackstone River Valley	Statewide	\$250,000
Housing Network of Rhode Island	Statewide	\$100,000
Sojourner House	Statewide	\$75,000
Family Service of Rhode Island	Statewide	\$75,000
Central Falls Housing Authority	Central Falls	\$50,000
Crossroads Rhode Island	Statewide	\$50,000
	TOTAL	\$600,000

Attachment B

Resolution of the Trustees of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund

WHEREAS: the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (“AHT”) was created by Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation (“RIHousing”) for the sole purpose of making homeownership to low- and moderate-income residents of the State of Rhode Island more affordable; and

WHEREAS: RIHousing staff has established the HomeSafe Program (the “Program”) to provide emergency housing assistance in accordance with the program guidelines set forth at Attachment C; and

WHEREAS: funding of the Program in an amount not to exceed \$600,000 will assist in the preservation of stable housing in Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS: RIHousing has issued a Request for Proposals under a competitive process to seek participating agencies to administer HomeSafe Program funding; and

WHEREAS: staff reviewed the proposals according to the ranking criteria outlined in the Request for Proposals and have determined that six (6) of the proposed programs best meet the objectives of the HomeSafe Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY:

RESOLVED: that the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, acting by and through its Trustees, be, and is hereby authorized, to (i) commit up to \$600,000 to the HomeSafe Program described at Attachment C and (ii) transfer such funds to RIHousing for purposes of funding the HomeSafe Program;

RESOLVED: that the organizations set forth at Attachment A be and hereby are approved to receive awards of grant funding under the HomeSafe Program in the amounts specified at Attachment A, subject to any administrative adjustments as the Executive Director determines to be necessary and reasonable, provided that the total amount awarded to all recipients under this funding round shall not exceed \$600,000; and

RESOLVED: that the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director of RIHousing, each acting singly, be and hereby are authorized and empowered to take any and all actions necessary or desirable to carry out the foregoing resolutions.