

**Request for Action
By
Board of Commissioners**

**Approval of LeadSafe Homes Program Partner
(City of Central Falls)**

1. Summary of Request

This Request for Action (“RFA”) is for approval to engage the City of Central Falls as a vendor to provide community-based approaches to serve low-income families through a partnership with the LeadSafe Homes Program (“LSHP”) administered by Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation (“RIHousing”).

The LSHP provides financial assistance to eligible homeowners across the state to remediate their properties of lead-based paint hazards. RIHousing oversees and coordinates all activities around this remediation, including engaging contractors to provide outreach and recruitment services. The LSHP is funded through a 2019 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) High Impact Neighborhood Grant that targets properties in Central Falls, East Providence, Pawtucket and Newport, as well as state funding that serves households in other parts of the state.

A Request for Proposals (“RFP”) was issued in December 2024 seeking proposals from qualified organizations to provide various services to the LSHP, including recruitment, referrals, outreach, application assistance, and packing and relocation services, among others. Three proposals were received, and a committee consisting of the Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer and staff from the LeadSafe Homes Department reviewed and scored the proposals according to the criteria outlined in the RFP. This RFA requests approval for engagement of the City of Central Falls to provide the following services: recruitment, referrals, outreach, and application assistance. While the scope of the RFP was broad, this narrowed scope of work provides the most benefit to the LSHP and fulfills a unique function for the program.

A key element of the lead remediation process is proactive outreach and recruitment of prospective program participants. Partnership with the City of Central Falls and, more specifically, the presence and involvement of the City’s Housing Equity and Lead Prevention Program at housing court, provides a steady stream of targeted referrals. The Housing Equity and Lead Prevention Program in Central Falls is dedicated to eliminating lead hazards in housing while promoting equitable, healthy living environments for underserved families. This program focuses on providing lead-safe housing, proactive lead testing, and comprehensive community education. In the past, this beneficial partnership has provided a continually refreshing pipeline of applicants and has helped to streamline application intake and assistance on site at housing court.

The City of Central Falls will be engaged for a term of nine (9) months to align with contract expirations for other LSHP partners. The engagement with the City of Central Falls will include a budget cap of \$74,400.

2. Recommendation

The attached resolution approving the engagement of the City of Central Falls is recommended for approval.

3. Attachments

- A. Resolution
- B. Scoring Matrix

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);

WHEREAS: RIHousing has determined that it is in the best interests of the corporation to engage a vendor to provide recruitment, referrals, outreach and application assistance services as a contractor for RIHousing’s LeadSafe Homes Program (“LSHP”);

WHEREAS: RIHousing issued a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) for qualified firms; and

WHEREAS: staff reviewed the proposals according to the criteria outlined in the RFP and have determined that the City of Central Falls is qualified to provide this service for the LSHP.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY:

RESOLVED: that RIHousing be, and hereby is, authorized to engage the City of Central Falls for an amount not to exceed \$74,400 to provide recruitment, referrals, outreach, and application assistance services to RIHousing’s LSHP, as such services are set forth in the RFP and the City of Central Falls’ proposal submitted in response thereto; and

RESOLVED: that the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, and Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer, each acting singly, be and hereby are authorized and empowered to negotiate terms, execute contracts, instruments and/or documents, and take any other actions necessary or desirable to carry out the foregoing resolution.