

**Request for Action
By
Board of Commissioners**

Approval of Community Development Program Funding Awards

1. Summary of Request

This Request for Action (“RFA”) is for approval of grant funding under the Community Development Program (“CDP”). The Board of Commissioners of Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation (“RIHousing”) approved up to \$450,000 in CDP funding as part of the program budget for fiscal year 2020.

The RIHousing CDP provides funding for the following priority activities:

- support the viability of housing financed by RIHousing;
- promote homeownership opportunities, especially those with outreach strategies to increase racial and ethnic diversity or those that help homebuyers become “mortgage ready”;
- promote energy efficiency and environmental sustainability;
- stabilize housing for Rhode Islanders.

RIHousing issued a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) for an award of CDP funding in September 2019. The RFP was posted on the RIHousing website, the State of RI Division of Purchasing website, social media, and sent to approximately 800 organizations, municipalities, property managers, developers and interested parties via an email announcement. RIHousing received 27 proposals in response to the RFP from 25 applicants consisting of service organizations, housing developers and municipalities. Funding requested totaled \$1,122,850.

A committee consisting of the Executive Director, Assistant Deputy Director of External Affairs, Policy and Research, and staff from the Communications Division, Development Division, and Leased Housing and Rental Services Division conducted a review of each proposal in accordance with the ranking criteria set forth in the RFP. The committee is recommending funding be awarded to the projects and programs described at Attachment A.

2. Recommendation

Staff recommends that the resolution authorizing CDP funding in the amount of \$425,230 for the projects and programs set forth at Attachment A be approved.

3. Attachments

- A. Recommended FY2020 Community Development Program Funding Awards
- B. Resolution

Attachment A

Proposed FY 2020 Community Development Program Funding Awards

Organization	Program or Project	Location	Award
Amos House	Financial Opportunity Center	Providence	\$50,000
Community Action Partnership of Providence	Bridging gap in minority homeownership/expansion of financial literacy	Providence	\$25,680
NeighborWorks Blackstone River Valley	Culturally sensitive homebuyer education	Woonsocket	\$50,000
Pawtucket Central Falls Development	Asset management and sustainability of existing rental portfolio	Pawtucket	\$50,000
Providence Community Libraries and Providence Public Schools	“Math in the House” and financial and housing literacy	Providence	\$49,550
RI Office of Postsecondary Commissioner	Workforce development opportunity	Central Falls	\$50,000
Skills for Rhode Island’s Future	Connect housing insecure individuals to employment opportunities	Providence	\$50,000
SWAP, Inc.	Build-a-Buyer financial literacy and resident advocacy programs	Providence	\$50,000
West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation	Homebuyer and landlord education classes	Providence	\$50,000
		TOTAL	\$425,230

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

WHEREAS: Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation (“RIHousing”) created the Community Development Program to support the viability of RIHousing financed housing; to promote homeownership opportunities; to promote energy efficiency and environmental sustainability; and to stabilize housing for Rhode Islanders; and

WHEREAS: RIHousing issued a Request for Proposals under a competitive process to seek applications for Community Development Program grant funding; and

WHEREAS: RIHousing received twenty-seven (27) complete proposals for Community Development Program funding; and

WHEREAS: staff reviewed the proposals according to the ranking criteria outlined in the Request for Proposals and have determined that nine (9) of the proposed programs and/or projects best fit the priority activities and criteria of the program.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY:

RESOLVED: that the projects and programs set forth at Attachment A be, and hereby are approved for grant funding under the Community Development Program in the amounts specified at Attachment A, subject to any administrative adjustments as the Executive Director determines to be in the best interests of RIHousing, provided that the total amount awarded to all recipients shall not exceed \$450,000.

RESOLVED: that all funds awarded hereunder shall be funded out of the FY 2020 budget.

RESOLVED: that the Executive Director and the Assistant Deputy Director of External Affairs, Policy and Research, each acting singly, be and hereby is authorized and empowered to take any and all actions necessary or desirable to carry out the foregoing resolutions.