

**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 \$500,000 in CDP funding as part of the program budget for fiscal year 2021.

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;
- broadening inclusivity and creating opportunity within low-income and/or racially and ethnically diverse communities.

RIHousing issued a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) for an award of CDP funding in January 2021. 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 18 proposals in response to the RFP from 18 applicants consisting of service and community organizations and housing developers. One application was determined to be ineligible for funding. Funding requested from the 17 eligible applications totaled \$742,594.

A committee consisting of the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer, and staff from the Communications Division, Homeownership 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 \$272,766 for the projects and programs set forth at Attachment A be approved.

3. **Attachments**

- A. Recommended FY2021 Community Development Program Funding Awards
- B. Resolution

Attachment A

Proposed FY 2021 Community Development Program Funding Awards

Organization	Program or Project	Location	Award
Amos House	Financial Opportunity Center/Housing Program Advocate	Providence	\$50,000
Comprehensive Community Action Program	Financial literacy and tenant education	Based in Cranston; working with partners statewide	\$47,766
Impact RI	Education and training for homebuyers; real estate professionals; first time developers; homeless prevention	Providence	\$25,000
NeighborWorks Blackstone River Valley	Data Rich Comprehensive Community Development Initiative - Centralized customer relationship manager (Salesforce)	Woonsocket	\$50,000
Rhode Island Office of Postsecondary Commissioner	Medical assistance training program	Central Falls	\$50,000
Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council	New Voices: Eight-month bilingual leadership development initiative for frontline watershed residents and students	Providence	\$50,000
		TOTAL	\$272,766

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; to stabilize housing for Rhode Islanders; and to broaden inclusivity and creating opportunity within low-income and/or racially and ethnically diverse communities; 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 seventeen (17) proposals eligible 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 six (6) 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 \$272,766.

RESOLVED: that all funds awarded hereunder shall be funded out of the FY 2021 budget.

RESOLVED: that the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director, 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.