

**Request for Action
By
Board of Commissioners**

Approval of FY2022 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 2022.

The RIHousing CDP provides funding for the following priority activities:

- Programs/projects that promote housing stability and increased economic self-sufficiency, such as financial literacy, homeownership education, work force development, tenant education, and health and wellness.
- Support for Resident Service Coordinators to address an increased need for tenant stability due to Covid-19 related stresses and challenges.
- Funds to sustain or expand innovative programming created or identified as needed in response to the pandemic, such as programs to address social isolation and access to healthy foods.

In a change from previous community development funding rounds, funds will be awarded as a three-year grant term to allow for increased sustainability and for the ability to do a longer-term assessment of program outcomes.

RIHousing issued a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) for an award of CDP funding in March 2022. The RFP was posted on the RIHousing website, the Rhode Island Division of Purchases website, social media, and sent to approximately 950 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 housing developers, property managers, and community organizations. Funding requested from the 27 applications totaled \$3,737,235.

A committee consisting of the Deputy Executive Director, Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer, and staff from the Executive Division, Homeownership 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 \$500,000 for the projects and programs set forth at Attachment A be approved.

3. **Attachments**

- A. Recommended FY2022 Community Development Program Funding Awards
- B. Resolution

Attachment A

Proposed FY 2022 Community Development Program Funding Awards

Organization	Program or Project	Location	Award
NeighborWorks Blackstone River Valley	"Comprehensive Asset Building & Resident Services Initiative" - create new "resident services" line of business to provide residents access to resources and tools	Burrillville, North Smithfield, Woonsocket	\$125,000
OpenDoors	On-site peer recovery coaching as well as clinical therapy for tenants of OpenDoors supportive housing	Providence	\$75,000
Phoenix Property Management, Inc.	Resident Services Coordinator for Applecreek Apartments and Sandywoods Farms	Tiverton	\$150,000
Women's Development Corporation/Housing Opportunities Corporation	Resident Services Coordinator for nine family developments	Providence, Richmond, Warwick	\$150,000
		TOTAL	\$500,000

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 promote housing stability and increased economic self-sufficiency; support Resident Service Coordinators; and sustain or expand innovative programming identified in response to the pandemic; 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) 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 four (4) 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 \$500,000.

RESOLVED: that all funds awarded hereunder shall be funded out of the FY 2022 budget.

RESOLVED: that the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director, each acting singly, be and hereby is 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 resolutions.