

**Request for Action
By the Board of Commissioners**

Approval of Healthy Housing, Healthy Communities Funding

1. Summary of Request

This Request for Action (“RFA”) is for approval of an allocation of funds in the amount of \$1,000,000 from Rhode Island Housing Mortgage and Finance Corporation (“RIHousing”) for the purpose of funding the Healthy Housing, Healthy Communities (“H3C”) Initiative. The requested funding will leverage an investment by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island (“BCBSRI”) in the amount of \$4,000,000 (“the BCBSRI award”) to Local Initiatives Support Corporation (“LISC”) in November 2021.

The purpose of the BCBSRI award is to fund projects that support innovative financing to produce and preserve housing, provide down payment assistance, and invest in community facilities to support our most vulnerable Rhode Islanders. As part of this initiative, the LISC Rhode Island Office has reached out to community partners, including RIHousing, to supplement the BCBSRI award with additional funding to increase its impact. Senior staff at RIHousing has been working to identify a potential avenue for support which best aligns with its mission and furthers its goals of providing high-quality affordable housing for all Rhode Islanders.

Through its membership in the National Council of State Housing Finance Agencies (“NCSHA”) RIHousing was invited to respond to a H3C Request for Proposals (“RFP”) issued by NCSHA in partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (“RWJF”). The H3C RFP sought proposals to apply for grant funding and technical assistance to promote the development of partnerships with health-related organizations and/or systems. On May 4, 2022, NCSHA notified RIHousing of a successful proposal, including a \$150,000 award and technical assistance to identify partnerships and other innovative approaches to align housing and healthcare investments (“the H3C grant funds”).

Using the H3C grant funds, and the award contemplated in this action (“the RIHousing funds”), RIHousing will partner with LISC-RI and with five Health Equity Zones (“HEZ”) throughout the state to build the HEZ’s capacity to address housing issues impacting the health of their communities. This H3C Initiative will include, but is not limited to: the identification and development of affordable housing for members of the HEZ communities (a population which encompasses extremely low-income individuals and families), those experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness, those experiencing mental health or substance use issues and those with developmental, intellectual or physical disabilities.

A committee consisting of the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director and staff from the Development Division and the Leased Housing and Rental Services Division of RIHousing will lead the work of this initiative and work with the LISC Rhode Island Office and each participating HEZ to ensure the RIHousing funds are being used to create greater

housing opportunities for those most in need and to develop projects that meet the expanding needs of Rhode Islanders.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the approval of the resolution set forth at Attachment B, which authorizes a transfer of funding in the amount of \$1,000,000 over four years in accordance with the schedule included as Attachment A.

2. Attachments

- A. Proposed Disbursement Schedule
- B. Resolution

Attachment A
Proposed Disbursement Schedule to the
Local Initiatives Support Corporation

Month	Amount
July, 2022	\$250,000
July, 2023	\$250,000
July, 2024	\$250,000
July, 2025	\$250,000
Total	\$1,000,000

Attachment B

Resolution of the Board of Commissioners

WHEREAS: RIHousing was awarded a Healthy Housing, Healthy Communities grant to identify partnerships and other innovative approaches to align housing and healthcare investments; and

WHEREAS: funding of the Healthy Housing, Healthy Communities Initiative in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 will leverage an initial \$4,000,000 investment by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island to Local Initiatives Support Corporation; and

WHEREAS: the funding will be used to create greater housing opportunities for those most in need and to develop projects that meet the expanding needs of Rhode Islanders.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY:

RESOLVED: that the RIHousing Board of Commissioners is hereby authorized to commit up to \$1,000,000 to the Healthy Housing, Healthy Communities Initiative;

RESOLVED: that the organization set forth at Attachment A be and hereby are approved to receive awards of grant funding under the Healthy Housing, Healthy Community Fund in the amounts specified at Attachment A, subject to available funding, and any administrative adjustments as the Executive Director determines to be necessary and reasonable, provided that the total amount awarded to the recipient under this funding shall not exceed \$1,000,000;

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.