

**Request for Action
By
Board of Commissioners**

**Approval of Engagement of Rhode Island Coalition to End Homelessness for
Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Planning**

A. Summary of Request

This Request for Action (“RFA”) is for approval to engage the Rhode Island Coalition to End Homelessness to conduct planning activities associated with the Rhode Island Continuum of Care (“RiCoC”) Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (“YHDP”). Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation (“RIHousing”) in its role as the Collaborative Applicant for the Rhode Island Continuum of Care (“RiCoC”) is the recipient of the RiCoC’s Planning grant(s) and may subcontract funds to support eligible CoC planning activities, which include YHDP planning activities. These planning activities will support the RiCoC’s administration of YHDP, an initiative of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) that is charged with addressing and ending youth homelessness.

B. Discussion

In September 2021, Rhode Island received a \$3.5 million YHDP award from HUD to plan and then implement a system to address youth homelessness. The plan to End Youth Homelessness was approved by HUD in early 2022. During mid-2022, the YHDP projects serving youth experiencing homelessness were selected; all projects were implemented during the Fall of 2022. The YHDP projects are renewable in perpetuity through the RiCoC’s annual Continuum of Care competition and the associated YHDP planning responsibilities, funded through the initial YHDP award, are eligible to continue within the RiCoC’s Continuum of Care planning project, which is awarded to RIHousing in its role as the Collaborative Applicant for the RiCoC.

The primary objectives of YHDP planning activities are to:

- oversee the ongoing implementation and continuous quality improvement of the Coordinated Community Plan to End Youth Homelessness in Rhode Island.
- support the Youth Action Board, which is the RiCoC committee comprised of youth and young adults with lived experience of homelessness guiding YHDP implementation in RI.
- support ongoing YHDP operations and evaluation, including but not limited to regulatory compliance, funding application support, performance evaluation, training, and monitoring.

A Request for Proposals (“RFP”) was issued in September 2023 seeking proposals from qualified firms to conduct YHDP planning activities.

RIHousing received three (3) proposals in response to the RFP from the Rhode Island Coalition to End Homelessness (“RICEH”), HCH Enterprises, and Sin-cere Multi-Service LLC.

A committee consisting of the Director of Strategic Initiatives & Partnerships and Executive Division staff conducted a review of each proposal in accordance with the criteria set forth in the RFP and recommends engaging RICEH to conduct YHDP planning activities. RICEH demonstrated more previous experience with youth experiencing homelessness, a stronger work plan, and more professional capacity to undertake the scope of work than the other applicants. The engagement is expected to continue through December 2024 and cost approximately \$94,282.

C. Recommendation

The attached resolution authorizing RIHousing to engage RICEH is recommended for approval.

D. Attachments

- A. Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of RIHousing
- B. Scoring Matrix

Attachment A

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

WHEREAS: Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation's ("RIHousing's") enabling act provides it with all the power and authority to make and execute contracts necessary to exercise the powers and functions provided to it under the act (R.I. Gen. Laws §42-55-5(6)); and

WHEREAS: RIHousing serves as the Collaborative Applicant for the Rhode Island Continuum of Care, in which capacity it receives Planning grant proceeds to support eligible planning activities, including with respect to the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program ("YHDP"); and

WHEREAS: RIHousing has solicited proposals pursuant to an open competitive process for vendors to provide YHDP planning services and who are able to substantially meet the requirements associated with this set of functions; and

WHEREAS: A selection committee comprised of RIHousing staff reviewed the proposals for these services, evaluated them pursuant to the criteria set forth in the Request for Proposals and determined that Rhode Island Coalition to End Homelessness had submitted the highest scoring proposal to RIHousing.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY:

RESOLVED: that RIHousing be, and hereby is, authorized, to enter into a contract with Rhode Island Coalition to End Homelessness to provide services to conduct YHDP Planning activities as set forth in the Request for Proposals and the proposal submitted in response thereto;

RESOLVED: that such engagement shall be for a one (1) year term for a cost in the approximate amount of \$94,282;

RESOLVED: that the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer, and Director of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships 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, including without limitation the authority to negotiate the terms and fees of the engagement as he or she may determine are in the best interests of RIHousing, and to execute any and all agreements or documents as he or she deems necessary to carry out the foregoing and to take such further actions as he or she deems necessary to carry out the foregoing resolutions.

Attachment B
Scoring Matrix

Applicant	Professional capacity to undertake the Scope of Work (max 5pts)	Proposed Fee Structure (max 5 pts)	Ability to perform within time/budget. (max 5 pts)	Previous Work Experience with RIH/similar orgs (Max 5 pts)	Firm Minority status/affirmative action (max 5 pts)	Previous work experience with Youth (max 5 pts)	Evaluation of work plan submitted in response to Scope of work. (max 15 pts)	TOTAL SCORE (max 45 pts)
Rhode Island Coalition to End Homelessness	3.6	4.0	4.0	3.6	4.6	4.3	10.3	34.4
HCH Enterprises	3	3.3	2.3	3.3	4.3	0.3	8	24.5
Sin-Cere	1.3	3	1.6	1.3	4	1.3	5	17.5