



TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Greg Chavarria, City Manager

DATE: May 7, 2024

TITLE: Motion Approving Agreement for Award of HOME-ARP Funds for a Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program and Supportive Services - Housing Opportunities, Mortgage Assistance, & Effective Neighborhood Solutions, Inc. d/b/a H.O.M.E.S., Inc. - \$250,000 - (**Commission Districts 3**)

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission approve an Agreement, in substantially the form attached, with Housing Opportunities, Mortgage Assistance, & Effective Neighborhood Solutions, Inc. d/b/a H.O.M.E.S., Inc. to award HOME Investment Partnerships Program - American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) funds, in the amount of \$250,000 for the development and operation of a Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program and Supportive Services.

Background

Congress appropriated \$5 billion in ARP funds to be administered through HOME to address the need for homelessness assistance and supportive services. On April 28, 2021, the City was awarded HOME-ARP funds in the amount of \$2,589,019. These funds must be used for qualifying individuals or families from the following Qualifying Populations: homeless; at-risk of homelessness; fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence; dating violence; sexual assault; stalking, or human trafficking; other populations whereby assistance would prevent the family's homelessness or would serve those with the greatest risk of housing instability; and veterans and families that include a veteran family member that meet one of the proceeding criteria.

HOME-ARP funds can be used for four eligible activities including:

- Development and support of affordable housing
- Tenant-based rental assistance
- Provision of supportive services
- Acquisition and development of non-congregate shelter units

The HOME-ARP funds awarded to H.O.M.E.S., Inc. will be used for supportive services (\$100,000) and tenant-based rental assistance (\$150,000) for qualifying populations.

On December 12, 2023, the Procurement Services Division issued Request for Proposals (RFP) No. 224 – HOME-ARP Tenant Based Rental & Supportive Services which closed on January 15, 2024. The RFP closed with one (1) firm responding:

1. Housing Opportunities, Mortgage Assistance, & Effective Neighborhood Solutions, Inc. d/b/a H.O.M.E.S., Inc.

Additional market outreach was conducted with the vendors that showed interest in the solicitation but did not submit a proposal. The reasons given for not submitting a proposal include: non-eligibility, inability to satisfy the scope of services, and concerns regarding the administrative costs.

On March 6, 2024, the Evaluation Committee met to evaluate the proposal from H.O.M.E.S., Inc. to ensure it met the evaluation criteria.

The proposal was evaluated based on the evaluation criteria shown in the table below:

Evaluation Criteria	Weight (%)
Firm's Experience and Qualifications	25
Understanding the HOME-ARP Program	35
Services Plan	30
References	10
TOTAL	100

H.O.M.E.S., Inc. is a certified Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) with a successful track record of developing and operating housing for low-income households for over 20 years.

The proposal from H.O.M.E.S., Inc. met all the requirements and was deemed responsive and responsible. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) is not a requirement for this solicitation.

Resource Impact

Funds for this agreement, in the total amount of \$250,000, will be funded from HOME-ARP funding in the accounts below.

<i>Funds available as April 9, 2024</i>					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	COST CENTER NAME (Program)	CHARACTER/ACCOUNT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
10-108-9300-554-80-8001-22HMARP	Housing & Community Development Grants	Grant & Aids Program Funds	\$2,589,019	\$1,573,929	\$250,000
TOTAL AMOUNT ►					\$250,000

Strategic Connections

This item is a *FY 2024 Commission Priority*, advancing Housing Accessibility initiative.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029 Strategic Plan*, specifically advancing:

- The Housing Focus Area, Goal 2: Enable housing options for all income levels.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Community and We Are United*.

This item supports the *Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan* specifically advancing:

- The Neighborhood Enhancement Focus Area
- The Housing Element
- Goal 1: The Comprehensive Plan shall support the provision of adequate sites for future housing, including affordable workforce housing, housing for low-income, very low-income, and moderate-income families, mobile homes, and group home facilities and foster care facilities, with supporting infrastructure and public facilities.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 - Solicitation

Exhibit 2 - H.O.M.E.S., Inc. Proposal

Exhibit 3 - Agreement

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