



HOUSING AUTHORITY
of the City of Long Beach

Community Development
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Long Beach, CA 90802
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July 8, 2008

AGENDA ITEM 5

HONORABLE HOUSING AUTHORITY
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Addendum (AFFH) for the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program.

DISCUSSION

On June 12, 2008, staff was informed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that the grant opportunity for the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program, for which we had applied, had been extended to July 16, 2008, and modified to include an additional attachment. In order to complete the application process, an addendum to the existing Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan must be submitted with the application. This addendum is called, Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) in the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program, must be submitted with the application. The extension was required because there was insufficient time for public housing authorities to complete the steps required for approval and submission of AFFH plans to HUD. Approval of this addendum is hereby requested of the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.

The FSS Program is a separate component within the Housing Authority structure. The program is mandated by HUD, but to date, has been minimally funded. The program targets families currently receiving Housing Authority assistance who work and who are in a position to advance themselves through training and education. The families enrolled in the FSS program set goals for themselves, such as finishing high school, and obtaining a certificate allowing for advanced employment, to end their dependency on welfare. They graduate from the program once they have met their goals. In January 2008, we graduated 30 families from the FSS program with several families receiving escrow amounts in excess of \$21,000.

The addendum is required to complete the process for the 2008 FSS grant application. The addendum and the Housing Authority's plan therein include goals and steps that the Housing Authority will take in order to accomplish and satisfy the goals of HUD.

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This letter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Linda Trang on June 24, 2008 and Budget Management Officer Victoria Bell on June 20, 2008.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

The request of this addendum must be approved on July 8, 2008, in order to meet the final deadline for submission of the FSS grant application, which is July 16, 2008.

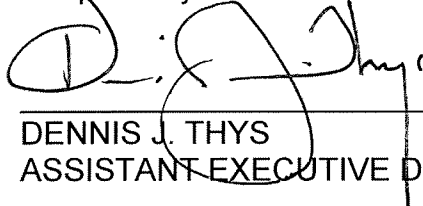
FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact with regards to this addendum alone. However, if the addendum is not submitted along with the FSS grant application for \$262,600, the application could be denied.

SUGGESTED ACTION:


Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



DENNIS J. THYS
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

APPROVED:



PATRICK H. WEST
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Attachments: Addendum for Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) for the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program

Addendum

Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) for the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program

- Expand Affordable Housing Opportunities
 1. Apply for additional HCV vouchers
 2. Provide or attract supportive services to increase independence for the elderly or families with disabilities
 3. Educate elected officials as to the value of the HCV and FSS Programs
 4. Make the programs more appealing to owners
 5. Partner with non-profit agencies for additional housing services
 6. Partner with organizations such as the Apartment Association, California Southern Cities, Inc., to bridge owners' issues and bring about expansion of housing opportunities

- Market the program to all eligible persons, including persons with disabilities and persons with limited English proficiency
 1. Improve and increase access to services and information for persons with disabilities and limited English proficiency:
 - Provide flyers and other printed information in Khmer and Spanish
 - Provide interpreters at orientations and outreach activities, to include sign language

- Provide fair housing counseling services or referrals to The Fair Housing Foundation

- Recruit landlords in areas that expand housing choices, for increased voucher mobility, which includes the opportunity to utilize the voucher for homeownership
 1. Provide voucher mobility counseling
 2. Conduct outreach efforts to potential landlords
 3. Implement outreach and financial literacy classes for FSS clients with regards to the Housing Authority, and other homeownership programs

- Ensure Equal Opportunity in Housing for all Americans
 1. Undertake affirmative measures to ensure access to assisted housing regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, and disability
 2. Undertake affirmative measures to ensure accessible housing to persons with all varieties of disabilities regardless of unit size required

- Provide Rehabilitation Assistance
 1. The City will continue to provide rehabilitation assistance for owner and rental housing

- Market and Provide Information to Recruit Lenders for the HCV Homeownership Option Program
 1. Work with local lenders and form collaborations to outreach to lower income residents regarding first time homebuyer programs
- Records will be maintained via computer database, and will be delineated by the race, ethnicity, sex, familial status, and disability status of program participants