



CITY OF DURHAM | NORTH CAROLINA

Date: March 4, 2014

To: Thomas Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager
From: Constance Stancil, Director of Neighborhood Improvement Services
Subject: Amendment to Grant Project Ordinance No. 14548
2013-14 HUD Cooperative Agreement Award

Executive Summary

The Human Relations Division of the Neighborhood Improvement Services Department has been authorized by the City Council to administer local, state and federal laws, ordinances and regulations dealing with discrimination in fair housing. The department has been awarded Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) Partnership Funds in the amount of \$96,720 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The purpose of this proposed Council action is to amend grant project ordinance #14548 which is the 2013-14 HUD Cooperative Agreement Award.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager to accept the City of Durham North Carolina and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Funds by executing the grant documents and adopting the amended City of Durham Grant Project Ordinance in the amount of \$172,880.

Background

In 1995, a renewable contract was developed and agreed to by the Durham Human Relations Department/Commission and HUD. This contract resulted from City Council action requesting legislative approval of an enhanced local anti-discrimination fair housing ordinance, making Durham's ordinance substantially equivalent to federal fair housing law.

The Durham Human Relations Division has been certified every five years since receiving the first contract from HUD in 1995. The most recent agency certification was received on March 19, 2010. Consequently, the department is eligible to receive Partnership Funds through the Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) grant. The funding will be used for fair housing partnership activities with the Durham Urban Innovation Center and the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR).

Issues/Analysis

Once approved, the Partnership funds will allow the Human Relations Division to continue research on innovative ways to affirmatively further fair housing in the City of Durham. HUD funding had been previously granted to the Durham Urban Innovation Center to conduct research relative to affordable housing/transit issues and also other housing policy related issues. The Partnership funds will allow the work to continue and will also include working with an interdepartmental team to draft a new fair housing plan. In addition, the Division will use funding to conduct more comprehensive and targeted fair housing education and outreach to the Hispanic/Latino community. Additional funding was also granted to Human Relations to be used for a day-long training co-hosted with the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) to provide education and outreach on HUD's new equal access rule for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. The event will target LGBT community members, fair housing advocates, and housing providers.

- Fair Housing Case Processing/Training Funds \$ 76,160
- Partnership Funds- Durham Urban Innovation Center \$ 95,020
- Partnership Funds- National Center for Lesbian Rights \$ 1,700

Total Contract Amount \$ 172,880

Alternatives

The City Council may choose to not accept this ordinance resulting in inadequate funds for the Department to spend in carrying out fair housing partnership activities throughout the City.

Financial Impact

This grant provides the City with additional funds to provide fair housing outreach and activities. There is no impact on the General Fund.

SDBE Summary

This is a grant project ordinance from HUD promoting fair housing and equality of services and therefore not required to be reviewed for compliance with the Ordinance to Promote Equal Business Opportunities in City Contracting.

Attachments

HUD Grant Project Ordinance
HUD Assistance Award Contract