



Agenda Item:

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COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 06/07/04 Communication
No.: 04-283
Agenda Item Type: Resolution Roll Call
No.:
Submitted by: Larry D. Hulse, Director, Community Development

SUBJECT—

Approval of HOME, Inc. Certificate of Consistency with the City's 2000-2004 Consolidated Plan and with the City's EZ/EC Strategic Plan.

SYNOPSIS—

Approval of HOME, Inc Certificates of Consistency with the City's 2000-2004 Consolidated Plan and the EZ/EC Strategic Plan. The certifications are part of an application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for federal grant funds.

FISCAL IMPACT—

None

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval

BACKGROUND—

HOME, Inc. is a non-profit housing corporation that has served the greater Des Moines community since 1967. HOME, Inc. provides rental housing counseling and educational services

to 4,000 central Iowa households each year. In addition, HOME, Inc. provides homeownership counseling and supportive services to 30 families each year. On October 24, 2003 HOME, Inc. received HUD approval as a Housing Counseling Agency providing pre-purchase counseling, default/foreclosure counseling and rental counseling.

HOME, Inc. is seeking HUD funding to expand services in the area of pre-purchase counseling. The following is a description of the services provided through pre-purchase counselor for which we seek certifications:

Homeownership Counseling and Supportive Services: Assists low-income clients in eliminating obstacles to purchasing their own homes. All clients are assisted in assessing their housing needs and financial abilities. Some clients may be selected to advance to the pre-purchase counseling phase. Through pre-purchase counseling clients develop a homeownership plan that includes establishing financial goals to improve credit, a monthly budget for savings, and personal goals to help stabilize or improve their situations. Upon completion, clients are directed to housing programs that meet their needs. Some clients are assisted in securing conventional financing to purchase a home. Clients may purchase housing developed and financed through HOME, Inc. or locate housing on the open market and receive technical assistance and grant funds to make necessary improvements. Clients that are not able to secure conventional financing may enter HOME, Inc.'s lease/purchase model. Counselors are available to assist clients in transitioning to their new homes including: giving proper rental termination, recovering the deposit, organizing the move, obtaining utility services and insurance, and locating furniture and appliances. HOME, Inc. purchases housing for clients in the lease/purchase program and provides monthly counseling to help clients accomplish goals set in their homeownership plan. Formal evaluation is conducted every six months to track progress. Follow-up counseling is provided to all clients for one year following purchase. This service has a long-term impact, enabling clients to stabilize and become more self-sufficient.

This service is provided to households with annual incomes below 80% of median as determined by HUD. Assistance is provided to residents of Polk County, primarily the City of Des Moines.