



City of Racine, Wisconsin
AGENDA BRIEFING MEMORADUM

AGENDA DATE: June 10, 2019 Finance and Personnel Committee

SUBJECT:

Communication from the Director of City Development requesting permission for the City to apply for and accept up to \$4,000,000 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development related to the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Program and/or Healthy Homes Supplemental Funds.

PREPARED BY:

Matthew Rejc, Manager of Neighborhood Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The City of Racine intends to explore the possibility of applying for funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes' Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control grant.

Funds related to the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant are typically offered to communities and states through a competitive annual allocation process. As a qualifying community, the City of Racine is able to apply for these funds when HUD's Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the program is opened later this year. Upon release, the City of Racine will examine the NOFA and the specific requirements associated with the 2019 round of funding, and determine whether or not to submit an application for funds.

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS:

The HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH) provides funds to state and local governments to develop cost-effective ways to reduce lead-based paint hazards. The program has similar regulations to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, which the City has received and used continuously for over 30 years. Funds under the program must be used primarily to abate lead-based paint hazards in homeowner or rental housing occupied by households with annual income levels below 80% of the Area Median Income as defined by HUD.

The Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control funds are also available to undertake other activities related to lead-based paint remediation, including targeted outreach, affirmative marketing, and education programs on lead hazard control designed to increase the ability of the program to deliver lead hazard control services. A portion of the funds will be available to reimburse administrative costs incurred by staff in the process of overseeing lead remediation or Healthy Homes activities.

In addition to the remediation of lead-based paint hazards in housing units occupied by low-/moderate-income households, the Healthy Homes Supplementary Funding is also expected to become available under the upcoming NOFA. Healthy Homes funds can also be used to assist in the abatement of non-lead health hazards identified within housing units, such as sampling and analysis for lead, allergens, carbon monoxide and/or other housing-related health and safety hazards.

Staff will review the 2019 Lead Hazard Control Grant NOFA upon its release, and determine the exact application amount based on the number of expected activities, provided that the NOFA requirements are substantially in line with those publicized in previous years. City Development staff

intends to work alongside staff from the Health Department and the Kenosha/Racine Lead Free Communities Partnership to craft and submit the application.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

The Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant program and Healthy Homes Supplemental Funds would add additional funding to augment the City of Racine's capacity to remediate lead-based paint hazards. The minimum application amount has historically been \$1,000,000, but the maximum application amount has varied and often depends on the grantee's size and experience in the program. A City match of 10% is required, which can be satisfied using the City's allocations of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Program permits up to 10% of awarded funds to be used for administration purposes.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the Finance and Personnel Committee recommend authorization of the City to apply for and accept up to \$4,000,000 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development related to the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Program and/or Healthy Homes Supplemental Funds.