Agenda Item #: ADD ON

PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	September 1, 2015	[] Consent [] Ordinance	[X] Regular [] Public Hearing
Department:	Department of Econom		

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to approve: a Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan for the Fair Housing Center of the Greater Palm Beaches, Inc. (FHC).

Summary: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires grant applications by fair housing enforcement organizations to be submitted with a Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan of the local jurisdiction. FHC is applying to HUD for a Fair Housing Initiatives Program/Private Enforcement Initiative grant and requires this Certification from Palm Beach County to do so. The Department of Economic Sustainability (DES) examined the proposed program's goals and objectives outlined in the grant application and determined that they are consistent with the overall goals and objectives outlined in the County's Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, an Appendix of the County's Consolidated Plan. The goals and objectives include identifying and eradicating discrimination under the Federal Fair Housing Act, promoting fair housing choice for all persons and promoting housing that is structurally accessible to, and usable by, all persons. Since FHC's grant application is consistent with the County's Consolidated Plan, staff recommends approval of this Certification. (Strategic Planning) Countywide (JB)

Background and Justification: Palm Beach County's Consolidated Plan contains the County's strategy for addressing housing, economic, and community development issues over a five-year period. DES is responsible for completing the Consolidated Plan in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 91. The current Consolidated Plan, covering the period Fiscal Years 2015-2020, was approved (R2015-0949) by the Board of County Commissioners on July 21, 2015.

Attachments:

1. Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan

2. FHC FHIP/PEI-MY Project Abstract

Approved By:

Assistant County Administrator

Solution 10. Section 10. Solution 10.

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Capital Expenditures						
Operating Costs						
External Revenues						
Program Income						
In-Kind Match (County)						
NET FISCAL IMPACT						
# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)						
ls Item Included In Currer Budget Account No.:	nt Budget?	Yes	No			
Fund Dept Ur	nit Obj	ect	Program Cod	de/Period		
B. Recommended Sou	urces of Fund	ds/Summa	ry of Fiscal I	mpact:		
No Fiscal Impact.						
C. Departmental Fisca	Il Review:	Shairette M	lajor, Fiscal N	Manager II		
A. OFMB Fiscal and/o		IEW COM		ol Comment	s:	
		- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
Shung OFMB & HOUN	m	Con s-	tract Develop	ment and Co	ontrol 97	IL
B. Legal Sufficiency:						
Assistant County Att	lu 8/3/// orney	<u>"</u>				
C. Other Department I	Review:					
Donorto ant Direct		-				
Department Director						

Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

I certify that the proposed activities/projects in the application are consistent with the jurisdiction's current, approved Consolidated Plan. (Type or clearly print the following information:)

Applicant Name:	Fair Housing Center of the Greater Palm Beaches, Inc.			
Project Name:	HUD Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP) PEI-MY			
Location of the Project:	1300 W. Lantana Road, Suite 200			
	Lantana, FL 33462			
	Palm Beach County, FL			
Name of the Federal Program to which the applicant is applying:	Private Enforcement Initiative (PEI-MY)			
Name of Certifying Jurisdiction:	Palm Beach County			
Certifying Official of the Jurisdiction Name:	Shelley Vana			
Title:	Mayor			
Signature:				
Date:	·			
ATTEST: Sharon R. Clerk & Comptroller				
By: Deputy Clerk				
Approved as to Form Legal Sufficiency	a and Document No.:			
By: James Brako Assistant County	Attorney			

PROJECT ABSTRACT

The Fair Housing Center of Greater Palm Beaches (FHC), a 501(c) (3) QFHO broad-based full service fair housing enforcement organization, requests funding of it's 2015 Fair Housing Initiative Program/Private Enforcement Initiative (FHIP/PEI-MY) application for a thirty-six month project, commencing on 11/1/15 and ending 10/31/18. Through this grant, FHC will address all forms of housing discrimination covered by the Fair Housing Act and provide comprehensive services to persons with limited English proficiency and persons with disabilities.

The total budget for this initiative is \$1,115,436. The federal portion of the budget is \$1,042,113 with more than \$73,323 contributed as in-kind and donated services.

Project Activities

- Intake 450 intake interviews.
- Complete 150 systemic or complaint based investigations.
- Recruit and Train at least 30 testers.
- Conduct refresher/advanced tester training for at least 60 testers.
- Conduct a total of 240 complaint-based and/or survey test parts.
- Make at least 75 referrals on non-fair housing issues.
- Provide at least 9 workshops geared towards LEP new immigrants.
- Conduct 15 fair housing trainings for members of the protected classes.
- Provide continuing education in fair housing opportunities to staff.
- Distribute educational materials quarterly to partner organizations, social service agencies and public to provide information on fair housing rights.
- Publish and distribute 12 quarterly Newsletters to 1500 addresses each.
- File at least 45 and jurisdictional complaints with HUD, FHAP and/or Cooperating Attorneys.
- Assist at least 45 persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations.
- Provide 3 trainings for landlords, realtors, lender or insures of fair housing obligations.
- AFFH-Provide lending discrimination training, including mortgage rescue scams to at least 300 people.
- AFFH-Provide 3 trainings to local/staff officials on their obligations to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing.
- AFFH-Provide information on affordable housing opportunities to 60 households.
- Conduct 15 Mediations/Conciliations.
- Maintain website, instagram, twitter and facebook accounts committed to fair housing awareness.

Areas of Concentration for the proposed activities are Cities of West Palm Beach, Riviera Beach, Boynton Beach, Delray Beach and the Glades areas which reside the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) of West Palm Beach/Miami-Ft Lauderdale.

ATTACHMENT 2

Fair Housing Center of Greater Palm Beaches Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Statement FHIP PEI Multi-Year Funding Component

The Fair Housing Center of Greater Palm Beaches (FHC) is a full service, community-based fair housing agency, which provides comprehensive Fair Housing Services throughout the State of Florida. Affirmatively furthering fair housing by eliminating barriers to housing opportunity and promoting integrated communities is at the core of the FHC mission to ensure equal and affordable housing opportunities for all people, by promoting culturally diverse communities through open housing and the elimination of all barriers to that goal.

FHC will address its obligation to affirmatively further fair housing by providing equal access to apartments, houses, mortgage loans and insurance policies for all residents of the Greater Palm Beaches area. As a recipient of Fair Housing Initiative HUD funds, FHC implements programs that eradicate discrimination under the federal Fair Housing Act through both enforcement and education.

FHC programs serve all classes protected by the Federal, State and local fair housing laws, and reviews its policies quarterly to ensure that FHC is complying with the affirmatively furthering fair housing requirements of the Fair Housing Act.

FHC is addressing impediments to fair housing choice and Affirmatively Further Fair Housing through:

Private Enforcement

The Private Enforcement Initiative provides complaint intake for allegations of housing discrimination and professional housing discrimination testing to develop sound evidence needed to substantiate complaints of alleged housing discrimination.

This initiative provides legal support to victims of illegal housing practices by enlisting private law firms to contribute their services as FHC Cooperating Attorneys, on a contingency or pro bono basis, for litigation or settlement of discrimination cases. Provides referrals and continuum services. In addition, this initiative provides Testing Programs for lending institutions, real estate, and rental management professionals.

Education and Outreach

The Education and Outreach Initiative is designed to provide Private Housing Industry Providers, Public Housing Authorities, and Community Development Corporations with the most current information and technical assistance necessary to fully comply with fair housing laws, consent decrees, enforcement agreements, Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) regulations and affirmative marketing requirements for the elimination of institutional barriers to decent affordable housing.

Community and Civic Education Sessions are implemented to ensure that the general public, protected classes, new immigrants, traditionally underserved and disadvantaged groups become knowledgeable of fair housing laws and means available to seek legal redress. The FHC works in partnership to conduct First Time Home Buyer Seminars to assist low to moderate income persons in building a tool box to succeed in their quest to achieve the American Dream of homeownership.

The FHC monitors the electronic and print media for compliance to fair housing advertising guidelines and implements mass media campaigns to provide public service announcements (PSAs), newspaper advertisements, informative articles and participates in television and radio talk forums. FHC Legal Community Seminars offer practitioners training in fair housing litigation skills.

The Housing Counseling Initiative is designed to widen housing choices and support the promotion of culturally diverse and open communities, which is the heart of our democracy. The initiative provides information concerning Affordable Housing opportunities through First Time Home Buyer Seminars, Rental Referrals, Mobility Counseling and continuum services.

Anti-Predatory Lending

The Predatory Lending Education and Support Initiative provides seminars for community based organizations, civic and faith-based groups, Condo/Homeowner Associations to inform them about Predatory Lending, and Fair Lending under federal, State laws. The Project operates a toll free hotline, utilizes a public information campaign featuring PSA's via media outlets, and distributes Anti-Predatory Lending educational material in order to heighten public awareness.

Where the homeowner/borrower has been identified as a victim of predatory lending and has serious credit problems as a consequence of the loan, including delinquencies on their current mortgage, collection accounts, pending foreclosures and other late payments, the initiative permits the facilitation delivery of loans, through partner entities, for victimized borrowers in order to facilitate affordable, lower interest rate loans, which enables people to save their homes.

Borrowers currently in foreclosure or bankruptcy may be eligible, provided these proceedings are attributed to predatory lending. Property types include owner-occupied units (primary residents), single-family homes including condominiums, townhouses and duplexes.

FHC Partners to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing

Fair Housing Center is working in partnership with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of Justice, Florida Attorney General Office Civil Rights Unit, Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office, Florida Commission on Human Relations and the Palm Beach County Office of Equal Opportunity to enforce Federal, State and local Fair Housing and Anti- Predatory Lending Laws, to affirmatively further fair housing in the Greater Palm Beaches area.

Fair Housing Center of Greater Palm Beaches Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Plan FHIP PEI Multi-Year Funding Component

The Fair Housing Center of Great Palm Beaches will affirmatively further fair housing by identifying barriers to housing choice by conducting investigations and testing involving rental, sales, mortgage lending, homeowners insurance discrimination.

All FHC education and enforcement programs components affirmatively further fair housing, and specifically we will affirmatively further fair housing by:

Activity	<u>Timetable</u>		
Intake housing issues and process complaints of housing discrimination.	Quarterly		
Conduct systemic/complaint investigations.	After complaints initiated		
Conduct complaint-based and/or survey test parts.	Quarterly		
Provide workshops geared towards LEP population.	Quarterly		
Conduct fair housing trainings for protected classes.	Quarterly		
Distribute educational materials quarterly to partner organizations/public on fair housing rights.	Quarterly		
Publish and distribute quarterly Newsletters.	Quarterly		
Maintain website, intagram, facebook and twitter accounts devoted to fair housing.	Quarterly		
File jurisdictional complaints with HUD, FHAP and/or Cooperating Attorneys.	As appropriate		
Assist persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations.	After complaints initiated		
Provide training to local/staff on obligations to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing.	Quarterly		
Provide training landlords, realtors, lenders, insurers on the need to affirmatively further fair housing.	Quarterly		
Provide training on lending discrimination and mortgage rescue scams.	Quarterly		
Provide information on affordable housing opportunities to households.	Quarterly		
Provide mediation/conciliations.	Quarterly		