

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Jason E. Brown, County Administrator

THROUGH: Stan Boling, AICP, Community Development Director

FROM: Sasan Rohani, AICP, Chief, Long-Range Planning

DATE: June 8, 2018

SUBJECT: First Amendment to the Treasure Coast HOME Program Consortium Inter-local Agreement to Include Additional Jurisdictions

It is requested that the data herein presented be given formal consideration by the Board of County Commissioners at its regular meeting of June 12, 2018.

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

Although the HOME Investment Partnership program is competitive for individual small jurisdictions, large jurisdictions get entitlement funding from the HOME program. Smaller jurisdictions can also become entitlement communities if several join together and establish a HOME consortium. By being part of a HOME consortium, a smaller county such as Indian River County does not need to compete with other applicants for HOME funds. Currently, Indian River County is part of a HOME consortium with Martin and St. Lucie Counties. Consequently, as long as Indian River County is part of the Treasure Coast HOME program consortium with St. Lucie County and Martin County, the county will receive HOME funds each year.

In order to receive the HOME funds from HUD the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) passed Resolution No. 2006-057 and authorized execution of the Treasure Coast HOME Consortium agreement. Later, on August 8, 2007, Indian River County entered into an agreement with Martin and St. Lucie Counties to form the Treasure Coast HOME Consortium. St. Lucie County is the lead agency for the Treasure Coast HOME Consortium; it receives all HOME funds, processes all applications, and disburses all HOME funds. The HOME program planning and funding cycle operates in multi-year increments.

As structured, St. Lucie County retains all program administration funds to fund its cost of running the program. Since forming the Treasure Coast HOME Consortium, 50 households within Indian River County have been assisted with about \$900,000 in HOME funds. Currently, Indian River County receives about \$82,500 of HOME funds per year. Within Indian River County, HOME funds are used by Habitat for Humanity's clients to assist with down payment/closing costs and/or construction of new homes.

On April 4, 2017 and then on April 3, 2018, the Board voted 5-0 to continue Indian River County's participation in the HOME Consortium. Based on the Board's decision, county staff confirmed that IRC intends to participate in the next HOME Program consortium cycle.

Recently, County staff was notified by St. Lucie County staff that the City of Port St. Lucie and the Villages of Indiantown want to join the Treasure Coast HOME Consortium. At that time, Indian River County staff asked if there was an option of adding any willing Indian River County municipalities to the consortium. St. Lucie County staff indicated that was an option. Subsequently, Indian River County staff coordinated with the City of Fellsmere (which has expressed an interest in joining the consortium) and St. Lucie County staff regarding adding the City of Fellsmere to the consortium.

Attached is the first amendment to the Consortium Inter-local Agreement which includes the City of Fellsmere, the City of Port Saint Lucie, and the Villages of Indiantown. According to St. Lucie County, if those three jurisdictions join the consortium, there would be no impact on the amount of HOME funding for Indian River County, Martin County, or St. Lucie County, as each city will get their own share of HOME funding above and beyond what the 3 county consortium would get without the municipalities. Per current funding level, as a member of the consortium, the City of Fellsmere will get about \$15,000 per year.

To expand the consortium membership, each member must sign the attached amendment to the consortium inter-local agreement.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners approve the attached first amendment to the Treasure Coast HOME Program Consortium Inter-local Agreement and direct the Chairman and County Attorney to sign the agreement.

ATTACHMENT

First amendment to the inter-local agreement concerning HUD HOME Investment Partnership Act program consortium.