



Item Number: 12

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

DATE: August 13, 2024

TO: Mark Washington, City Manager

COMMITTEE: Fiscal Committee
LIAISON: Molly Clarin, Chief Financial Officer

FROM: Connie M. Bohatch, Senior Managing Director of Community Services
Community Development

SUBJECT: **Resolution approving a Professional Services Agreement with Community Solutions Collaborative, LLC for \$45,900 for preparation of the FFY 2026 - 2030 Fair Housing Equity Plan**

Attached is a resolution authorizing execution of a professional services agreement with Community Solutions Collaborative, LLC for preparation of a Fair Housing Equity Plan (FHEP). The total agreement amount will not exceed \$45,900 for the period of August 19, 2024, through May 31, 2025. The cost is included in the Community Development (CD) Department's administrative budget.

Background. Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, known as the Fair Housing Act, requires recipients of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding to affirmatively further the policies and purposes of the Fair Housing Act, or "affirmatively further fair housing." HUD requires the City to submit certifications that it will affirmatively further fair housing in connection with required planning processes.

Traditionally, an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing was completed to identify barriers and actions to address fair housing issues. Currently, such a planning process is voluntary and HUD has proposed a rule that outlines a new framework. While not required, the CD Department plans to follow this new approach to create a Fair Housing Equity Plan. The proposed framework provides for more meaningful community engagement efforts, increased transparency and accountability, and more robust analysis of issues impacting fair housing and economic opportunity. This work aligns with the City's equity values and will inform the next Consolidated Housing and Community Development (HCD) Plan that will be undertaken next year.

Contractor Selection/Award. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was issued on June 24, 2024, and was sent to 23 firms specializing in fair housing and community development planning. Three (3) responses were received. Following thorough review of all responses, it was determined Community Solutions Collaborative's proposal most closely aligned with selection criteria.

Your FISCAL COMMITTEE recommends adoption of the following resolution authorizing execution of a Professional Services Agreement with Community Solutions Collaborative, LLC to prepare the FFY 2026 - 2030 Fair Housing Equity Plan.

RESOLVED:

1. That a professional services agreement between the City of Grand Rapids and Community Solutions Collaborative, LLC for preparation of the FFY 2026 - 2030 Fair Housing Equity Plan, is authorized; and
2. That said agreement in an amount not to exceed Forty-Five Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$45,900) is hereby approved; and
3. That the period of performance is August 19, 2024, through May 31, 2025; and
4. That the Mayor is authorized to execute said agreement and amendments and other related documents as necessary, in a form approved by the City Attorney.

CORRECT IN FORM

DEPARTMENT OF LAW