

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: June 17, 2020

TO: Supervisor Marcella Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Shakita LaGrant, Interim Director, Department of Health and Human Services & Department on Aging
Prepared by James Mathy, Housing Administrator, Housing Division

SUBJECT: **Report from the Interim Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to sign Cooperation Agreements for years 2021, 2022 and 2023 designating Milwaukee County as an Urban County in order to receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds**

Background

Milwaukee County was designated as an urban county in December of 1977. In order to be designated as an urban county, Milwaukee County was required to enter into cooperation agreements with enough jurisdictions to achieve a combined population of 200,000. Fourteen suburban municipalities signed cooperation agreements and participated in the program in 1978. In 1979, a 15th municipality was added, and in 1982, a 16th was added. The cooperation agreements must be signed every three years. The current participating municipalities are: Bayside, Hales Corners, Brown Deer, Oak Creek, Cudahy, St. Francis, Fox Point, Shorewood, Franklin, South Milwaukee, Glendale, West Milwaukee, Greendale, Whitefish Bay, and Greenfield. The cities of Milwaukee, Wauwatosa and West Allis each contain populations greater than 50,000 and are entitled to receive their own Block Grants.

Milwaukee County receives over \$1.3 million each year to conduct community development and housing activities. It is the County's responsibility to administer, coordinate, and oversee the community development program to ensure that the program is carried out in accordance with national policies and objectives. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is the federal agency responsible for allocating funds and monitoring compliance with national policies and objectives. Administrative costs, as required by HUD, can only reflect less than 20 percent of the grant. The remainder of the grant is divided equally between the County and the participating municipalities. The County's half of the grant is used to fund activities designed to meet needs which are generally Countywide in nature serving the participating jurisdictions. The other half of the grant is reserved for the participating municipalities to conduct activities designed to meet specific local needs. All projects must meet the National Objectives of the Act.

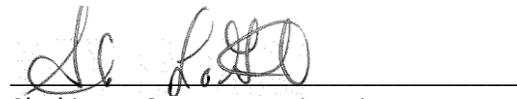
Issue

Milwaukee County receives over \$1.6 million each year to conduct community development and housing activities. It is the County's responsibility to administer, coordinate, and oversee the community development program to ensure that the program is carried out in accordance with national policies and objectives. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is the federal agency responsible for allocating funds and monitoring compliance with national policies and objectives. Administrative costs, as required by HUD, can only reflect less than 20 percent of the grant. The remainder of the grant is divided equally between the County and the participating municipalities. The County's half of the grant is used to fund activities designed to meet needs which are generally Countywide in nature serving the participating jurisdictions. The other half of the grant is reserved for the participating municipalities to conduct activities designed to meet specific local needs. All projects must meet the National Objectives of the Act.

Federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations require the local governing body (Milwaukee County) to enter into cooperation agreements with enough jurisdictions for years 2021, 2022, and 2023, to achieve a combined population of 200,000. Section V.B. of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Notice CPD-17-03, governing cooperation agreements for urban counties under above referenced programs, requires a statement from a participating county's legal counsel that the terms of the agreement are fully authorized under state and local law. Similar to past years, Corporation Counsel prepared the agreement and will be providing the required legal opinion. The last cooperation agreement for years 2018, 2019 and 2020 was signed in 2017. The current cooperation agreement for years 2021, 2022, and 2023 is similar to the previous cooperation agreements the municipalities signed (see attachment A).

Recommendation

The Interim Director, Department of Health and Human Services, recommends the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors grant authorization to sign Cooperation Agreements for years 2021, 2022 and 2023 designating Milwaukee County as an Urban County in order to receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shakita LaGrant', is written over a horizontal line.

Shakita LaGrant, Interim Director

Department of Health and Human Services & Department on Aging

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Mary Jo Meyers, County Executive's Office
Sup. Felesia Martin, Economic & Community Development Chair
Julie Landry, Director, DAS
Kelly Bablitch, County Board
Steve Cady, Research Director, Comptroller's Office
Pam Matthews, Budget Analyst - DAS