

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

**DATE:** July 3, 2014

**TO:** Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Héctor Colón, Director, Department of Health and Human Services  
*Prepared by James Mathy, Housing Administrator*

**SUBJECT: Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), requesting authorization to enter into a three-year cooperation agreement with non-entitlement Milwaukee County jurisdictions for the purpose of receiving HUD funding as an urban county**

**Issue**

Federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations require the local governing body (Milwaukee County) to enter into cooperation agreements with enough jurisdictions for years 2015, 2016, and 2017 to achieve a combined population of 200,000.

Section V.B. of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Notice CPD-13-04 which governs cooperation agreements for urban counties under the 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. Corporation Counsel prepared the agreement and will be providing the required legal opinion as in previous years.

**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	River Hills
Fox Point	St. Francis
Franklin	Shorewood
Glendale	South Milwaukee
Greendale	West Milwaukee
Greenfield	Whitefish Bay

The cities of Milwaukee, Wauwatosa and West Allis each contain populations greater than 50,000 and are entitled to receive their own Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

Milwaukee County receives approximately \$1.2 million each year to conduct community development and housing activities. Administrative costs, as required by HUD, can only amount to less than 20% of the grant. The remainder of the grant is divided equally between the County and the participating municipalities.

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.

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.

The last cooperation agreement for years 2012, 2013 and 2014 was signed in 2011. The current cooperation agreement for years 2015, 2016, and 2017 is similar to the previous cooperation agreements the municipalities signed with two changes. Changes were made in collaboration with our municipal partners. The first modification was in Section 3 regarding the requirement to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing.

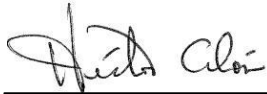
Nationally, there has been increased enforcement action in this area. The agreement requires specific actions from municipalities and documentation of the activities for better compliance with the requirement to affirmatively further fair housing as certified annually by the County. The agreement also eliminates the "fair" or "equal" share from consideration for the distribution of funds to the municipalities. The intent of the Act is to serve citizens with low-to-moderate income and allocations will be based on the percentage of poverty in each participating municipality.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director to enter into a cooperation agreement with non-entitlement Milwaukee County jurisdictions for the purpose of receiving HUD funding as an urban county.

### **Fiscal Impact**

This is no fiscal impact for this agreement. A fiscal note form is attached.



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Héctor Colón, Director  
Department of Health and Human Services

cc: County Executive Chris Abele  
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Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board  
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