

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: March 10, 2022

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Shakita LaGrant McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

Subject: Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), requesting endorsement of the Collective Affordable Housing Plan

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

The Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is requesting endorsement of the Collective Affordable Housing Plan.

BACKGROUND

Milwaukee County is a member of the Community Development Alliance (CDA). CDA is an affiliation of community development funders and practitioners that has collaborated for more than a decade on neighborhood improvement efforts in Milwaukee. In 2021, CDA worked with the County and other partners to create Milwaukee's first Collective Affordable Housing Plan (the "Plan"). In addition to Milwaukee County, other CDA members include the City of Milwaukee, the Wisconsin Housing & Economic Development Authority (WHEDA), the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, the Zilber Family Foundation, the Northwestern Mutual Foundation, Bader Philanthropy, LISC Milwaukee, Children's Hospital of Milwaukee, the Greater Milwaukee Committee, and the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee. The CDA Executive Committee also includes resident liaisons from Metcalfe Park Community Bridges and the Southside Organizing Center.

The goal of the plan is to advance racial equity by providing a quality affordable home for every Milwaukeean. The Plan utilized the Government Alliance on Race & Equity (GARE) framework for developing equitable policy which included an extensive engagement and data process. The Plan was developed with the input of nearly 100 organizations ranging from resident-based groups and community development corporations, to major financial and government institutions. Key data findings include the need for new systems to support 32,000 additional Black & Latino Homeowners, and systems to support 32,000 units of housing for working families making \$15/hour or less.

The Plan includes 16 strategies that will contribute to meeting the goal of advancing racial equity by providing a quality home for every Milwaukeean. Each strategy is detailed in the attached Plan. The CDA will continue to convene organizations for collective action in implementing these strategies. In 2022, the CDA is convening partners for (1) development of an Acquisition Fund to disrupt the predatory investment markets, (2) increase Homebuyer Counseling and Down Payment Assistance, and (3) developing new production models for affordable housing.

Milwaukee County's endorsement of the Plan will help raise additional resources for implementing the Plan and help influence affordable housing policy.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This action item aligns with strategic plan objectives 2A (Determine what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity) by participating in collective action with other housing funders, and 3A (Invest "upstream to address root causes of health disparities), by focusing on quality affordable housing as a root cause of health equity.

FISCAL EFFECT

There is no fiscal effect as this action item is an endorsement of a collective action plan.

TERMS

Not Applicable

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

James Mathy, Housing Administrator
Teig Whaley-Smith, Community Development Alliance, teigwhaleysmith@gmail.com

PREPARED BY:

James Mathy, Housing Administrator, Department of Health and Human Services

APPROVED BY:

Shakita LaGrant-McClain

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

ATTACHMENTS (2):

Collective Affordable Housing Strategic Plan
Slide Deck Presentation

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Sup. Felesia Martin, Chair, Health Equity, Human Needs, Strategic Planning Committee
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Steve Cady, Research and Policy Director – Comptroller's Office
Allyson Smith, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
Pam Matthews, Budget Analyst – DAS
Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, Research & Policy Analyst, Comptroller's Office