



Good Neighbors

San Diego
Housing Commission

- ◆ 1625 Newton Avenue
- ◆ San Diego, California 92113-1038
- ◆ 619.231.9400
- ◆ FAX: 619.544.9193
- ◆ www.sdhc.net

REPORT

DATE ISSUED: October 17, 2003

ITEM 100

REPORT NO.: HCR03-092
For the Agenda of October 24, 2003

SUBJECT: Application for State of California Exterior Accessibility Grants for Renters (EAGR) Program (CITYWIDE)

SUMMARY

Issue: Should the San Diego Housing Commission seek funding from the State of California Exterior Accessibility Grant for Renters (EAGR) Program?

Recommendation: That the Housing Commission recommend the City Council authorize application to the State of California for up to \$500,000 in funding from the Exterior Accessibility Grant for Renters (EAGR) Program.

Fiscal Impact: The grant provides for reimbursement of staff for project-related soft costs, anticipated to be approximately \$100,000 of the total \$500,000 and would be recovered within each grant funded over the two-year period of the grant. No general administrative fees are provided for this program.

Affordable Housing Impact: A \$500,000 allocation would provide exterior accessibility grants to assist approximately 100 low income renter families with disabilities earning less than 80 percent of Median Area Income (currently \$51,050 for a family of four).

BACKGROUND

The State of California established and adopted on October 1, 2003 the Exterior Accessibility Grants for Renters ("EAGR") Program described in Chapter 4, Section 53533(5) (B) of Part 11 of Division 31, Health and Safety Code. The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is administrator of funds provided by the passage of Proposition 46, the Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2002. On October 6, 2003, HCD issued a Notice of Funding Availability ("NOFA") under the EAGR Program to provide \$4.75 million (\$4,750,000) to fund local public agencies or nonprofit corporations to provide grants for lower-income tenants with disabilities for the purpose of making exterior modifications to rental



housing in order to make that housing accessible to persons with disabilities. Applications under this NOFA are due to HCD on November 7, 2003. A copy of the NOFA is included as Attachment 1. Cities with populations in excess of 400,000 may apply for a maximum amount of \$500,000 to be expended within 24 months from the date of the award letter.

DISCUSSION

It is anticipated that the EAGR Program funding would be another tool in the Commission's programs to provide further assistance to lower-income tenants with disabilities. Citizen participation in the City's Consolidation Plan for July 2003 – June 2004 requested more assistance be provided for persons with disabilities and this funding could provide assistance of a type which has not had sufficient funding in the past. The Commission's application request would be for the maximum allowable of \$500,000. Proposed program guidelines are:

1. Lower-income tenants with disabilities and rental owners with vacant units desiring to make them accessible and affordable may apply.
2. Maximum grant would be \$3,000 per unit and \$7,000 for common area accessibility improvements, with a maximum of \$25,000 per multi-unit complex.
3. The improvements to residential rental housing (multi-unit or single family) would enhance accessibility for persons with mobility, visual, hearing or other physical disabilities from or to the rental unit to other common areas.

The NOFA guidelines define an eligible applicant as a city, county, or nonprofit corporation. Under this definition, approval by the City Council of the City of San Diego is required for this application. The resolution authorizing the application would include language that would allow the City to delegate to the San Diego Housing Commission the responsibility to make application for funding and execute any and all instruments necessary or required by HCD to participate in the EAGR Program.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Do not make an application to the State of California at this time.
2. Apply for less than \$500,000. The minimum allocation request is \$100,000.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by,

Signature on File with Original Document

Jack D. Farris
Housing Finance & Development Manager

Elizabeth C. Morris
Chief Executive Officer