

**Burlington Housing Trust Fund
FY2017 Capacity Grant Applications**

Agency/Organization: CEDO

Project: Fund the administration of Chittenden County's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Project, carried out by CEDO in conjunction with Burlington Housing Authority, Winooski Housing Authority, and Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity. The project will address segregation/integration, disparities in access to opportunity, and disproportionate housing needs.

Funding Request: \$11,630

Burlington Housing Trust Fund
FY 17 Capacity Grant Application
Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Project
Submitted by CEDO and Housing Authorities

Funding Request

The Community & Economic Development Office, in conjunction with community partners of Burlington Housing Authority, Winooski Housing Authority and Champlain Office of Economic Opportunity request **\$11,630** in capacity grant funds to administer the Chittenden County's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Project. Although this request exceeds the usual amount given by the Housing Trust Fund for Capacity Grants, this project will span two fiscal years, with some timeline activities taking place next summer and early fall. This request is a one-time ask for this 2017 project.

Program/Project Narrative – How Funds Will Be Used

This past year, the US Department of Housing & Urban Development published a Final Rule regarding a grantee's obligation to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing (AFFH). The City of Burlington is a grantee with HUD for its Entitlement Funds and the two Housing Authorities with Section 8 and other housing programs. Under this new rule, grantees will identify fair housing issues in our community and related contributing factors through the analysis of neighborhood data and data provided by HUD and an open and transparent community planning and participation process. In addition, grantees will prioritize and set goals of the upcoming planning period.

HUD has developed a specific AFFH tool which must be used in order to develop this project. The tool itself requires an indepth analysis of general demographics of our community as well as considerations of the following categories:

- Segregation/Integration
- Disparities in Access to Opportunity (educational, employment, transportation, low poverty exposure, environmentally healthy neighborhoods)
- Disproportionate Housing Needs

The magnitude of this tool and project exceeds the current capacity of these agencies who are already burdened with the current regulatory environment of HUD to execute current programs properly within the administrative funding provided.

The funds will be used to increase the capacity of the agencies via the hiring of an AmeriCorps member to assist with research and community engagement. Funds will also be used to provide

language access to community participants, publish required notices, survey protected classes and hold several required community events both to receive input and then feedback on the plan and strategies.

Timeline

This project will take place in conjunction with the City's 5 year Consolidated Plan and Citizen Participation Plan and process. The next Consolidated Plan is due on May 15, 2018 which makes our AFFH due no later than October 2017.

Timeline events include:

- Advertise and hire an AmeriCorps member
- October 2016 - Creating an MOU between participating agencies which will be submitted to HUD
- November 2016 – Amend our current Citizen Participation Plan
- November – January – research data provided by both HUD and local agencies and develop maps and visuals for the public to comment
- December/January 2017 – create opportunities to interview and survey protected classes
- February – March 2017 – Conduct public meetings for citizen participation to identify fair housing issues
- March – April 2017 – Develop fair housing goals to overcome contributing factors and fair housing issues and metrics and milestones for determine what fair housing results will be achieved
- May – June – Complete a first draft of the AFFH and provide summary copies and publish draft.
- June – August – Conduct public meetings to receive feedback on draft of AFFH
- August – September 2017 – Revise and finalize AFFH; seek approval of governing bodies of municipalities and housing authorities.
- October 2017 – Submit AFFH to HUD

Description of Need

Community Need

In the City's most recent Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report, the City of Burlington reported that according to the American Community Survey 2010- 2014, 25% of Burlington residents overall and of the families with a female head of household, 52.4% live in poverty. Within Chittenden County, people living in poverty are concentrated within Burlington and the adjoining city of Winooski. Portions of Burlington's Old North End neighborhoods have

the highest poverty rates of any census tracts in the state and represent a Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area. It is recognized that poverty is a regional, national and very often generational issue. Some factors lie outside of our local control. Poverty affects women raising children as single parents significantly in our area as well as, seniors. The poverty rate in Burlington is double that of Chittenden County.

Burlington has seen major demographic changes in the last three decades. In 1980, Burlington was a city where 98.5% of its residents were white and only a half of one percent of residents didn't speak English proficiently. Now, 10.1% of city residents identify themselves as something other than white and not Hispanic. Much of this change has resulted from the resettlement of several thousand refugees in the Burlington area. Over 46 languages are spoken in the schools and the City. In Burlington High School, 35% are students of color; 21.6% are of non-English language background; 16% take English Language Learner classes. According to the American Community Survey 2010-14 over 12% of Burlington households speak a language other than English at home. In South Burlington, that number is 11.8% and in Winooski that number is 12.9%. Winooski and Burlington represent the concentrations of immigrants in Chittenden County whose overall percentage of households speaking a language other than English is 8.4%.

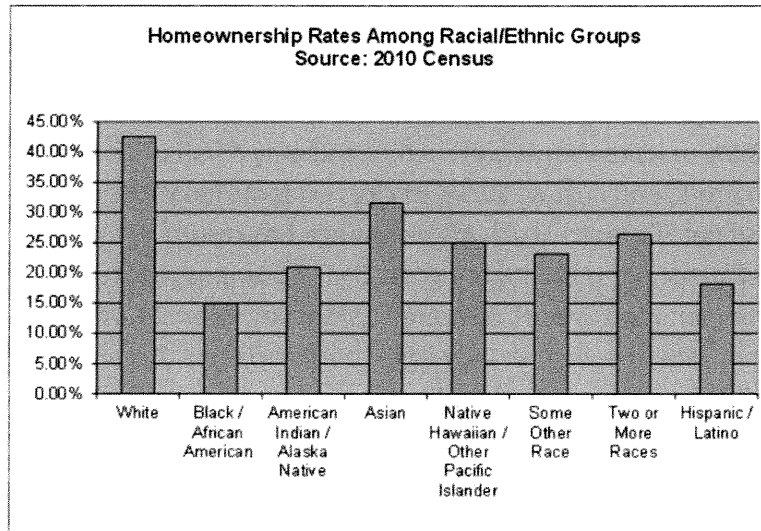
CEDO also follows the educational success of our students and although our dropout rate has risen the past year, it is still relatively low. However, there are clear disparities in educational proficiencies among students on free and reduced lunch in comparison to their non-economically challenged counterparts.

Even though the unemployment rate in our area is quite low, we note significant median income disparities by race and ethnicity. Minorities in Burlington generally have a lower median household income than the state average among each respective race and ethnic group, and disparities among white and non-white median incomes are higher in Burlington than at the state level.

Disproportionate housing needs are also well documented. Although the rental vacancy rate has risen to an almost normal level of 3% (normal being noted as 4%), rental affordability, measured by a 'housing wage' that allows a tenant to pay no more than 30% of income for housing and utilities, continues to be out of reach of lower-income residents. The 2015 median sales price for a home (\$257,000) remains far above the median family income for both the Burlington MSA (\$62,175) and the City of Burlington median housing income (\$42,175).

For the City of Burlington, housing cost burden is the most significant issue. Cost burden is defined as households paying more than 30% of their income for housing. Cost burden becomes extreme when households pay more than 50% of their income for housing. A disproportionately greater need exists when the percentage of persons in a category of need who are members of a particular racial or ethnic group is at least 10 percentage points higher than the percentage of persons in the jurisdiction as a whole. Because of our small population

numbers, this figure is difficult to determine. However, we can accurately note significant disparity in homeownership rates among racial/ethnic groups according to the 2010 Census.



These obvious disparities existing in our community demonstrate the significant need for a solid and comprehensive Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Strategy with clear metrics and goals to reduce disparities.

Agency Need

As noted above, this extensive and critical project represents an investment of time and personnel, funding and resources over and above the budgets and staffing of the agencies involved. Also, most grant funding sources are earmarked for specific activities and administrative funds are already used to administer current projects and programs. It is important to our community and the people we serve to delve into this AFFH project with additional support and resources.

Organization Budget

Community & Economic Development Office

Revenues

Federal Grants	\$2,531,665
State Grants	\$858,127
TIF	\$541,512
General Fund	\$361,728
Other Funds	\$753,332
Prior Year Funds	\$236,518
TOTAL Revenue	\$5,282,882

Expenses

Salary/Benefits	\$2,202,532
Program Delivery	\$2,408,717
Consultants	\$555,000
Operating Expenses	\$116,633

Project Budget

Revenue

CEDO/CDBG	\$1500
BHA	\$1500
WHA	\$1500
Total Revenue	\$4500

Expenditures

Member Costs

AmeriCorps Member	\$9950
Parking	\$480
Mileage	\$100

Travel/HUD
Required)
Training \$350

Operating Costs

Advertising \$300
Language Access \$750
Special Supplies \$2500 (\$250/10 meetings)
Printing \$300
HUD Training (3-4 attendees) \$1400

Total Project \$16,130

Financial Need: \$11,630

Plan for long term affordability – n/a

Progress Report – n/a

On behalf of the participating agencies of this AFFH project, we thank you in advance for your time and consideration.