

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FY2024 ANNUAL OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET FOR ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY, GEORGIA SO AS TO PROVIDE GRANT FUNDING, IF AWARDED, TO THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (HCD) DEPARTMENT FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) FY23 FAIR HOUSING EDUCATION AND OUTREACH INITIATIVES GRANT PROGRAM IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR IDENTIFYING AND OVERCOMING LOCAL BARRIERS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING PRODUCTION AND PRESERVATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Commission of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia hereby ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. The Commission of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia desires to amend the Grants Special Revenue Fund to provide grant funding, if awarded, to HCD from the HUD FY23 Fair Housing Education and Outreach Initiatives Program in order to provide funding to carry out education, outreach and enforcement activities to prevent or eliminate discriminatory housing practices and to inform individuals of their rights and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act (FHA).

Said Operating and Capital budget is hereby amended as follows:

Grants Special Revenue Fund:

REVENUES:

Increase:

HUD FHA Education and Outreach Grant	\$114,998
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Expenditures:

Increase:

Housing & Community Development (HCD) Department	
Personal Services Expense	\$45,564
Operating Expense	<u>\$69,434</u>
	\$114,998

SECTION 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**THE UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM**

SUBJECT: HUD Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity: Fair Housing Initiatives Program- Education and Outreach Initiatives Grant Application

DATE: December 18, 2023

REVENUES: \$ 114,998 HUD FY23 Fair Housing Education & Outreach Initiatives Grant Application
\$ 114,998 Total HUD FY23 Fair Housing Education and Outreach Initiatives Grant Application

EXPENSES: **HUD FY23 FHEOI Grant Application Allocation Categories**
\$ 45,564 Personnel (Direct Labor) Activities
\$ 2,508 Materials and Supplies Activities
\$ 38,000 Translation Services
\$ 28,000 Legal FHIP/Agency and Fair Housing Certification/Staff Training
\$ 926 Administrative and Legal

Activities
\$ 114,998 Total HUD FY23 Fair Housing Education and Outreach Initiatives Allocations

FUNDING SOURCE: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

COMMISSION ACTION REQUESTED ON: February 6, 2024

PURPOSE:

To request that the Mayor and Commission:

- a. Authorize the submission of a grant application for up to \$114,998 in HUD FY23 Fair Housing Education and Outreach Initiatives Grant Program funds;
- b. Accept the grant funds, if awarded;
- c. Adopt the attached budget Amendment Ordinance (**Attachment #1**); and
- d. Authorize the Mayor and appropriate ACCGov staff to execute all related grant agreements, contracts, and documents.

HISTORY:

1. On September 29, 2023, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the release Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Fair Housing Initiatives Program- Education and Outreach Initiatives.
2. On October 3, 2023, the Mayor and Commission accepted the Affordable Housing Investment Strategy. Providing comprehensive fair housing education supports improved access to homeownership and rental opportunities, as outlined in the AHIS.

3. On November 30, 2023, HCD submitted its HUD FY23 Fair Housing Education and Outreach Initiatives grant application.
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FACTS & ISSUES:

1. April is Fair Housing month, and annually, HCD provides training sessions and meetings that focus on key fair housing topics to assist the public in better understanding, practicing, and protecting their fair housing rights.
2. HUD issued the FY23 Fair Housing Education and Outreach Initiatives Grant under the authority of Section 561 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987, as amended (see 42 U.S.C. 3616a). The implementing regulations are found at 24 CFR Part 125.2. Funding for this NOFO is provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328, approved December 29, 2022).
3. This NOFO supports HUD's Strategic Plan for fiscal years (FY) 2022-2026 to accomplish HUD's mission and vision.
4. Approximately \$9,466,347 in funding is available through this NOFO, with minimum award amounts of \$75,000 and maximum award amounts of \$1,300,000. HUD expects to make approximately 70 awards available.
5. The estimated start date for awarded projects is April 30, 2024 and the estimated end date is April 30, 2025, for a 12-month project period and budget period.
6. The Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP) funds non-profit organizations and other fair housing organizations and currently provides funds to eligible organizations through competitive grants under several initiatives to carry out education and outreach and enforcement activities to prevent or eliminate discriminatory housing practices and to inform individuals of their rights and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act (FHA).
7. The purpose of the Fair Housing Education and Outreach Initiatives Grant Program is to develop, implement, carry out, and coordinate education and outreach programs designed to inform members of the public concerning their rights and obligations under the provisions of the Fair Housing Act. HCD applied for the following component:
 - **EOI - General Component** This component provides funding for general fair housing education and outreach activities to inform people of their rights and responsibilities under the FHA. The Department encourages proposals which target antisemitic and Islamophobic discrimination, among other forms of housing discrimination.
8. The Housing and Community Development Department's FY21-25 Consolidated Plan identifies the Department as lead facilitator for public and community training and meetings pertaining to Fair Housing.
9. HCD will request \$114,998 to support HCD personnel costs, fair housing materials and supplies, contractor fees, and administrative and legal activities to carry out fair housing education and outreach initiatives. All activities are in support of HCD's FY21-FY25 Consolidated Plan.

10. Fair Housing Initiative Program (FHIP) and legal services contractors will be hired to conduct targeted public and agency/business training sessions and may also support HCD staff fair housing training and certification opportunities. Materials and supplies will be shared with local housing agencies, financial and lending institutions, realtors and FHIP partners to ensure expansive access to fair housing information. Funding will also support translation providers to assist in creating materials in Spanish, Chinese and Korean, as these are the top three languages spoken in Athens-Clarke County after English. The extent of supply sharing will be determined after the program is implemented and the need has been fully assessed.
11. To make fair housing information more attainable, HCD will provide digital information to more easily file Section 508 complaints and make available fair housing marketing materials (information guides, booklets, posters, a website page, and other resources as determined) in English, Spanish, Chinese and Korean.
12. Outreach efforts will include collaborating with African American/Black, Latino(a)(x)/Hispanic, Chinese, and Korean-speaking community members by offering fair housing information in alternative formats, setting up fair housing information sessions in their local communities, partnering with relevant organizations to assist with engaging the population, and other activities determined necessary during program operations.
13. HCD will utilize fair housing funding to create an awareness campaign that expands fair housing education in the format of forums, classes, lunch and learns, and by collaborating with legal services and Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP) agencies to support future homebuyers, financial institutions, lending agencies, realtors, and other local housing agencies.
14. All educational pursuits and marketing materials will include information on how to file a fair housing complaint with HUD, and HCD will implement a fair housing referral program to track the number of fair housing concerns noted by members of the community.
15. Effectiveness will be measured by pre and post participant surveys to determine knowledge gained, deficiencies that may exist in the trainings, and what information is still needed to better understand fair housing rights. HCD will also collect feedback from the community by providing written responses and by encouraging local affordable housing providers to offer feedback. When HCD creates its Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) report for HUD, public engagement polls and surveys will be used to assist in determining any increases in knowledge and the impacts of training and education as it applies to fair housing protections.
16. Cost sharing or matching is not required for this program (page 20 of NOFO at <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/350421>).
17. These recommendations support the following ACCGov Strategic Plan Goals, Strategies, and/or initiatives:
 - a. Strategy 1A: Work to create and implement systems to identify, acknowledge, and address racism, trauma, harm, and violence in our community.

- b. Strategy 2D: Ensure existing resources reach marginalized people and those most in need through effective and accessible social service delivery, non-profit capacity building, and problem solving with connected community partners.
- c. Strategy 3C: Improve programs, processes, policies and communication external and internal, assess how resources are allocated to meet existing and future needs for better service delivery and what we deliver.
- d. Strategy 4B: Update development codes, zoning, and funding/resources resulting in diverse, affordable housing options to meet community needs.
- e. Strategy 4E: Improve equitable housing opportunities in identified disinvested or underinvested areas.
- f. Strategy 4F: Provide support to tenants to improve quality of life.

OPTIONS:

- 1. Mayor and Commission:
 - a. Authorize the submission of a grant application for up to \$114,998 in HUD FY23 Fair Housing Education and Outreach Initiatives funds;
 - b. Accept the grant funds, if awarded;
 - c. Adopt the attached Budget Amendment Ordinance (**Attachment #1**); and
 - d. Authorize the Mayor and appropriate ACCGOV staff to execute all related contracts and documents.
- 2. Mayor and Commission deny approval of the FY23 Fair Housing Education and Outreach Initiatives grant application for submission to HUD.
- 3. Mayor and Commission defined option.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED ACTION: Option #1 a, b, c, & d

DEPARTMENT: Housing & Community Development

Prepared by: Melinda Lord

Roderick Wallace
Roderick Wallace, Director

12/21/2023
Date:

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS:

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION: Option #1 a, b, c, & d



Manager

January 11, 2024

Date:

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment #1 – Budget Amendment Ordinance