

MEMORANDUM

TO: Carrboro Board of Aldermen
Chapel Hill Town Council
Board of Orange County Commissioners
Hillsborough Board of Aldermen

FROM: David Andrews, Town Manager, Town of Carrboro
Roger Stancil, Town Manager, Town of Chapel Hill
Bonnie Hammersley, County Manager, Orange County
Eric Peterson, Town Manager, Town of Hillsborough

SUBJECT: Approve Revised Scope and Renaming of the HOME Program Review Committee to the Orange County Local Government Affordable Housing Collaborative

DATE: September 26, 2017

The purpose of this memorandum is to share an expanded scope of the HOME Program Review Committee with the elected officials of the jurisdictions participating in the Orange County HOME Consortium.

Overview: The Orange County HOME Program Review Committee was formed in 2000 to provide an opportunity for elected officials and staff from the participating jurisdictions to discuss program activities and develop future spending plans. Recent discussions among elected officials indicate an interest in the staff and the HOME Review Committee to broaden its scope to include broader discussions about affordable housing issues.



Recommendations

That the Governing Body of each jurisdiction approve the resolution to expand the scope of the HOME Program Review Committee and rename the Committee to the Orange County Local Government Affordable Housing Collaborative.

Background

- The Orange County HOME Program Consortium was formed in 1992 to receive federal HOME Program funds.
- The Towns of Chapel Hill, Carrboro, Hillsborough and Orange County are partners in the Consortium.
- Through the HOME Program, the Consortium provides grants to non-profit organizations to build, buy, and/or rehabilitate affordable housing for rent or homeownership, and for rental assistance.
- Orange County staff manages the HOME Program on behalf of the Consortium.

- In 2000, several elected officials from the participating jurisdictions expressed interest in having more involvement in the evaluation of funding applications and development of the annual HOME Program plan.
- A charge for the HOME Program Review Committee was approved by the Council on October 23, 2000, and was also approved by all of the partners in the Consortium.
- The Committee initially met on a quarterly basis. Over recent years the Committee has met during the budget time to evaluate funding applications.
- Staff from the participating jurisdictions also meet to review the status of projects.
- At an Assembly of Governments Meeting, elected officials indicated an interest in the staff and the HOME Program Review Committee to broaden its scope to include broader discussions about affordable housing issues.

Proposal for Consideration

- We propose to rename the group the Orange County Local Government Affordable Housing Collaborative (the Collaborative).
- We propose that the staffs of the Collaborative meet monthly to share information and monitor activities, and that the full Collaborative including elected officials meet quarterly.
- The purpose of the Collaborative would be to:
 - strategize about funding options;
 - provide updates on projects and affordable housing efforts, as well as code or policy changes;
 - provide guidance on administration of the HOME Program activities
 - establish priorities and criteria for HOME Program funding
 - annually evaluate applications for HOME funding and provide a recommendation to the elected bodies of each jurisdiction;
 - provide oversight of performance measures and expenditure rates (to be developed by the staff for review by the Collaborative)
 - establish a scoring system for reviewing applications
 - tell the story of the impact of our affordable housing initiatives;
 - develop shared targets and goals for affordable housing preservation and development and track progress over time; and
 - serve as advocates for affordable housing in Orange County (elected officials)

Fiscal Impact/Resources: Formation of the Collaborative would not have a fiscal impact on our operations.

Next Steps: We recommend that we implement this new design of the Collaborative in October, 2017.