



**To:** Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority Board of Directors  
**From:** Real Estate Department  
**Date:** September 23, 2021  
**Re:** Indiana Housing First Program Award Recommendations

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### **Background**

The Indiana Housing First Program was established through state legislation in 2017 to provide rental assistance and supportive services to individuals and families with a serious and persistent mental illness, a chronic chemical addiction, or a serious and persistent mental illness with a co-occurring chronic chemical addiction who are also facing a housing crisis or exiting a residential treatment program. The program uses a Housing First model, meaning that services provided are voluntarily selected by participants and are predicated on a harm reduction approach to addiction. Housing First is an approach that aims to quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing a housing crisis to permanent housing without preconditions or barriers to entry. Supportive services are offered to maximize housing stability and prevent returns to homelessness or treatment programs.

### **Process**

On July 19, 2021, IHCDA released an updated policy and Request for Qualifications (“RFQ”). IHCDA conducted an informational webinar on July 26, 2021. Responses to the RFQ were due on August 16, 2021. Eligible respondents were 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, public housing agencies, or units of local government. IHCDA received three responses requesting an aggregate award of \$800,000.00. IHCDA had a total of \$847,226.00 available for allocation.

A selection committee individually reviewed all responses and then met as a group to discuss the merits of each. The selection committee’s review and funding recommendation was based upon the following factors:

- Compliance with the RFQ submission requirements;
- Experience of respondent, particularly experience administering rental assistance programs, providing supportive services, and utilizing the Housing First model;
- Financial capacity;
- Readiness to proceed, as demonstrated by identification of appropriate partners and implementation timelines;
- Program design, including but not limited to proposed tenant selection plan, service delivery model and budget; and
- Past award performance.

### **Key Performance Indicators**

IHCDA will track the following Key Performance Indicators for these Indiana Housing First Awards:

1. The total number of households served under the program
2. The amount of funds disbursed
3. The number of participants that remained stably housed upon discharge of the program

**Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Board approve an award of Indiana Housing First Program funding in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$800,000.00 to the three organizations as set forth in Table A.

<b>Table A</b>				
<b>Applications Recommended for Funding</b>				
<b>Award #</b>	<b>Lead Applicant</b>	<b>Counties Served</b>	<b>Award Requested</b>	<b>Award Recommended</b>
HFP-21-001	Aurora, Inc.	Vanderburgh County	\$300,000	\$300,000
HFP-21-002	Family Promise of Hendricks County	Hendricks County	\$200,000	\$200,000
HFP-21-003	Human Services, Inc.	Bartholomew County	\$300,000	\$300,000
Total:			\$800,000	\$800,000

Each application that was received was recommended for funding.

**Action Needed:**

Staff respectfully requests that the Board approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board approve an award of Indiana Housing First Program funding in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$800,000 to the three organizations as set forth in Table A, as recommended by staff.