

**Item Title:** Accept and Appropriate Funds for the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Report

**Specific Action Requested:**

**That the Board of Commissioners amends the Fiscal Year 2025 budget to accept and appropriate \$47,152 from the City of Raleigh and the Town of Cary for consulting services to produce the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Report.**

**Item Summary:**

**Purpose:** In accordance with the North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act, the Board of Commissioners must approve all amendments that increase or decrease the budget appropriation for a fund.

**Background:** Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, known as the Fair Housing Act, requires the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and recipients of federal funds from HUD to affirmatively further the policies and purposes of the Fair Housing Act. As grantees, Wake County, the City of Raleigh, and the Town of Cary must conduct a review to identify and document any barriers or obstacles that prevent people from exercising their right to fair housing choice.

Every five years, the three entitlement jurisdictions jointly prepare a regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice report which satisfies federal requirements. The jurisdictions have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement to share costs related to hiring an unbiased consultant to perform the study and prepare the report. The Raleigh Housing Authority and the Housing Authority of the County of Wake are not required by HUD to complete this assessment. However, they are included in this regional effort as a collaborative partner to ensure a comprehensive review; the housing authorities are not obligated to contribute to the associated cost.

**Strategic Plan:** This action supports Community Health and Wellbeing Goal 1: Create and preserve 2,500 affordable housing units by 2029; and Community Health and Wellbeing Goal 2: By 2029, make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring by reducing the number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness by 10%.

**Fiscal Impact:** This item appropriates \$47,152 in revenues and expenditures to the Housing & Community Revitalization Special Revenue Fund. The City of Raleigh and Town of Cary will each contribute representing one-third of the total consultant cost. Wake County will utilize existing federal grant funding previously appropriated in the Housing Special Revenue Fund to pay for its third of the cost.

**Additional Information:**

The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice document identifies policies, practices, and other factors that impede fair housing and outlines recommended strategies to address systemic discrimination. Under the Fair Housing Act of 1968, jurisdictions receiving HUD funding must conduct a comprehensive review of barriers that may limit the equitable access and availability of housing opportunities for all individuals, particularly members of the protected classes. The Analysis of Impediments document will inform Wake County's 2025- 2030 Consolidated Plan which is required by HUD for the County to receive federal community development grant funds.

Wake County and the City of Raleigh alternate responsibility of procuring and contracting with a consulting partner to conduct the report every five years. For the 2025-2030 report, Wake County administered the procurement process, and the partners have selected TDA Consulting to prepare the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice report. The total consultant cost is \$70,728.

**Attachment:**

1. Budget Memo – FY2025 HACR Special Revenue Fund