



TO: Members of the CCOC  
FROM: Hickory R. Hurie, CBG Office  
SUBJECT: Questions about the RFP for Fair Housing  
DATE: April 3, 2008

Our Office stands accused of ignoring the intent of the Council in issuing a Request for Proposals for a Fair Housing study, aka Fair Housing testing program.

Attached is a copy of that RFP distributed on March 31 to all alders, the EOC and the CDBG Commission, and over 35 community agencies. It seeks proposals that describe evolving patterns of discrimination in Madison, and propose a way to validate ("test") those emerging patterns. The yellow shading represents the reference to testing and validation requested as part of the 'study'.

I developed the RFP based on BOE budget conversations, explicit input from EOC and CDBG staff, and an extensive CDBG Commission discussion at its February 7 meeting.

Our intent in the RFP was not to thwart the will of the Council. AS EOC and CDBG staff understood the charge, the intent was not to simply move the funds from a regulatory agency to a community development agency, but to explore emerging patterns of discrimination through validation and testing in the field. EOC staff in particular felt that the testing should not be confined to particular complaints as in their several years of experience but focused on emerging systems and patterns.

The CDBG Commission established a subcommittee of two CDBG Commissioners to review the application and make recommendations to the CDBG Commission, and to the Council for its approval of a selected proposal.

If you as a committee believe that the current version of the RFP does not embody the Council's intent, we have several possible remedies.

- 1) Re-issue a new RFP:** If the current RFP misinterpreted the intent of the Council, we could work with the CCOC to revise the RFP, issue a new one, and reset the proposal deadline.
- 2) Withdraw the RFP:** If the intent of the Council were to simply fund one agency, then the CCOC could simply develop a resolution that assigns the testing study to a specific agency and outlines performance measures for a successful project.
- 3) Designate CCOC representation on the selection committee:** The current proposal calls for screening and selection by a subcommittee of the CDBG Commission, with final review and approval by the Council. The CCOC could suggest that the CDBG Commission include one of two members of the CCOC to participate in the development of the recommendation for the Council.

I would be happy to discuss these issues further with the committee.

Thank you for your consideration of these options and any guidance you might wish to provide.

cc: Alders Bruer, Pham-Remmele, and Rummel  
Charlie Sanders  
Larry Studesville, EOC  
Mayor Dave Cieslewicz and Joel Plant  
Mark Olinger