RESOLUTION

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE CREATION OF A VETERANS' HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AND HOMELESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – LICKING COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION (LCVSC)

Whereas: The Licking County Board of Commissioners (LCBOC) created a Veterans Assistance line item with funds remaining from the 2023 Licking County Veterans Service Commission (LCVSC) budget. This new partnership will continue to be funded with remaining funds from the LCVSC as available; and,

Whereas: This new line item was created to provide assistance to Veterans that is outside the scope of assistance provided by the LCVSC; and,

Whereas: The purpose of these funds is to be used toward workforce development, housing development and homeless services; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners, County of Licking, State of Ohio:

That we do hereby approve the creation of a Veterans' Housing Development and Homeless Assistance Program as outlined below:

Licking County Board of Commissioners
Veterans' Housing Development and Homeless Assistance Program

- **Introduction: What can this program assist with:**
  - Financial assistance for the development and preservation of affordable housing for Veterans and their eligible dependents.
  - Financial assistance for the development, support, and operational expenses of homeless shelter and transitional housing for Veterans and their eligible dependents.

- **Qualifications: What types of organizations can apply:**
  - Must be an established non-profit for a minimum of 3 years.
  - Housing must be based on income, disability and/or age (unless providing homeless services).
  - Must have a Veteran preference program for residents or be a Veteran only program.
    - If the housing is not Veteran only then the organization must show that at least 30% of the occupancy is Veterans and/or their dependents or at least 25% of the occupancy is reserved for Veterans and/or their dependents.
  - The facility must be located within Licking County.
  - Must have a minimum occupancy of 4 units, unless providing emergency shelter. If providing emergency shelter the facility must have the capacity to serve a minimum of 10 individuals.

- **Definition: Veteran and Dependents:**
  - Former Service Member must meet the definition of a Veteran per the Ohio Revised Code 5901.01 (B).
    - (1) A person who served in the armed forces of the United States on active military duty and was discharged from the service under honorable conditions, and who either served on active duty for reasons other than training or, while serving on active duty for training, incurred a disability recognized by the department of veterans' affairs or department of defense as service connected.
    - (2) A person who served in the United States merchant marine, who either served on active duty for reasons other than training or, while serving on active duty for training, incurred a disability recognized by the department of veterans' affairs or department of defense as service-connected, and to whom either of the following applies:
      - (a) The person has an honorable report of separation from the active-duty military service, form DD214 or DD215.
      - (b) The person served in the United States merchant marine between December 7, 1941, and December 31, 1946, and died on active duty while serving in a war zone during that period of service.
  - Qualified Dependents are defined as the following:
    - Current legal spouse of a Veteran.
    - Surviving spouse that resided with the Veteran prior to death. (If a surviving spouse remarries prior to the age of 55, they are no longer considered the dependent of the Veteran, unless this marriage is terminated due to death).
    - Unmarried children (including an adopted child or stepchild) who meets one of the eligibility requirements listed below:
      - They're under 18 years old, **or**
      - They're between the ages of 18 and 23 years old and enrolled in school full time, **or**
      - They become permanently disabled before they turn 18
    - Divorced spouses or separated spouses do not qualify as dependents.

- **Development and preservation of affordable housing includes:**
  - Creating new affordable rental housing opportunities for Veterans and their eligible dependents.
  - Preserving existing affordable housing properties, including units with federal subsidies.
    - Bringing the housing unit up to program standards and codes.
    - Eliminating hazards and deficiencies in major systems.
    - Reducing maintenance costs.
    - Improving handicap accessibility.
  - Addition of available units specifically for Veterans and/or their eligible dependents.
  - Advancing livability standards to promote a healthy environment for residents.

- **Development, support, and operational expenses of homeless shelter and transitional housing includes:**
  - Creating new homeless shelter or transitional housing for Veterans and their eligible dependents.
  - Preserving existing homeless shelters or transitional housing units.
  - Bringing the housing unit up to program standards and codes.
  - Eliminating hazards and deficiencies in major systems.
  - Reducing maintenance costs.
  - Improving handicap accessibility.
  - Operational support included:
    - The cost of maintenance and repair.
    - Property taxes and insurance.
    - Replacement of major building systems: structural support, roofing, weatherproofing, plumbing, electrical, heating, ventilation and air conditioning.
    - Utilities including electricity, gas, heating oil or other heating cooling costs, water, sewer, and trash removal.
    - Equipment, including office equipment, appliances such as microwaves, refrigerators, stoves, washers and dryers that remain on the property.
    - Staffing expenses that are required for daily operations of the facility.

- **Duration and Amount:**
  - Organizations may submit one application per calendar year.
  - Amount of possible assistance:
    - Units or facilities with an occupancy of 50 or more up to $125,000.00.
    - Units or facilities with an occupancy of 25 to 49 up to $75,000.00.
    - Units or facilities with an occupancy of 10 to 25 up to $50,000.00.
    - Units or facilities with an occupancy of less than 10 up to $25,000.00.
      - Assistance requester higher than the listed amount may be considered if the request is found to be necessary for Veterans specific housing.

- **Required Documentation:**
  - Verification of non-profit 501(c)3 IRS Determination Letter and current federal W-9.
  - Board of Directors list and key staff members.
  - Operational budget to include all current funding sources (current year).
  - Current budget vs. actual budget breaks down.
  - Organization description and break down of services, to include mission statement and history.
  - Strategic plan.
  - Basic eligibility guidelines for occupancy.
  - Verification of Veteran and dependent occupancy and/or preference.
  - Detailed financial breakdown of assistances being requested.
  - Guarantee acknowledgment of financial usage.

Motion by BUBB seconded by BLACK

that the resolution be adopted was carried by the following vote:

YEAS: _____ * _____ * _____

NAYS: _____ * _____ * _____

CC: Michael L. Smith, Auditor
April Foster, Veterans Service Commission

FILE

Adopted: July 11, 2024

Duane H. Flowers
Rick Black
Timothy E. Bubb

Beverly Adzic PMT

Beverly Adzic, Clerk/Administrator