

December 5, 2006

Board of Commissioners  
Housing Authority of the County of Marin  
3501 Civic Center Drive  
San Rafael, CA 94903

**SUBJECT: Submittal of renewal Grant Proposal to the Community Development Block Grant Program for the Housing Search Specialist**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Authorize the Executive Director to submit to the County of Marin a grant application for FY 2007-08 for the Housing Search Specialist in the amount of \$21,150.

**SUMMARY:** Marin Housing Authority (MHA) staff requests authorization to submit a renewal grant application to the County for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for a Housing Search Specialist in the amount of \$21,150. If awarded grant funds will be used to support program staff for the position of the Housing Search Specialist within our Housing Assistline. The primary objective of this position is to assist extremely low-income individuals and families to overcome barriers to locating affordable rental housing in Marin County.

Marin Housing has found that very-low income participants have more barriers to utilizing their Section 8 Vouchers and finding stable housing; we have identified them as *hard to house* and include individuals with disabilities, frail elderly, and households with a source of income other than employment, a language barrier or families with three or more children. These families and individuals have a significantly lower success rate in finding housing than the Voucher-holding population as a whole.

The Housing Search Specialist will work with hard to house families and individuals. The focus of the position will be dedicated to individuals with disabilities, or families with disabled members, with the goal of decreasing the number of households that have to return their Section 8 Vouchers due to an inability to locate a unit within the 60-day search period.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None

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BARBARA COLLINS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Attachment: CDBG Proposal, Budget, and Tax Exempt Status Letter