

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, AUTHORIZING CITY STAFF TO APPLY FOR A GRANT FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PATHWAYS TO REMOVING OBSTACLES TO HOUSING (PRO HOUSING) PROJECT

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has created a program titled Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing (PRO Housing), which supports communities that are actively taking steps to remove barriers to affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, HUD has issued a competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to invite eligible applicants to apply for PRO Housing funding; and

WHEREAS, PRO Housing supports communities that are actively taking steps to remove barriers to affordable housing, such as: barriers caused by outdated zoning, land use policies, or regulations; inefficient procedures; gaps in available resources for development; lack of neighborhood amenities; or challenges to preserving existing housing stock; and

WHEREAS, The City of Olympia has an acute demand for affordable housing as illustrated by the Housing Needs Assessment, Housing Action Plan, One Community Plan, Assessment of Fair Housing, 2023- 2027 HUD Consolidated Plan, and the Washington State Growth Management Act Comprehensive Plan update; and

WHEREAS, The City of Olympia has been proactive in working to identify barriers to the production and preservation of affordable housing, including the creation of the One Community Plan, Housing Needs Assessment, 2023-2027 Consolidated Plan and Assessment of Fair Housing, the Housing Action Plan, and creation and participation in the Regional Housing Council; and

WHEREAS, in Section 2 of the City’s adopted Housing Action Plan (Make it easier for households to access housing and stay housed), a recommended action is to establish a down payment assistance program; and

WHEREAS, City staff have identified four major pathways for removing barriers to homeownership for low-income populations; and

WHEREAS, City staff intend to seek funding from the PRO Housing grant to implement the following four pathways: launch a down-payment assistance program; increase access to homebuyer counseling services, particularly for marginalized populations; provide administrative support to grow the capacity of our local land trust organization; and provide capital funding to help non-profits operating in the homeownership field to create new homeownership housing and preserve existing owner-occupied housing and to assist tenants in purchasing their home should the landlord choose to sell it;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE as follows:

1. The Olympia City Council authorizes staff to apply on behalf of the City for a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing (PRO Housing) project.

2. The City Manager or his designee is directed and authorized to execute on behalf of the City of Olympia the application for such grant, and any other documents necessary to complete and submit the grant application.

PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL this _____ day of _____ 2023.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Michael M. Young

DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY