



## Agenda Item Summary

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**File #: 23-00807**

**Agenda Date: 12/12/2023**

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**Agenda Item Name:**

**Alachua County Energy Efficiency Program (ACEEP) Contract Update: Second Pilot Program**

**Presenter:**

Betsy Riley, Sustainability Manager, Office of SEEDS

**Description:**

Contract between Rebuilding Together North Central Florida and Alachua County, for the purpose of administering the Alachua County Energy Efficiency Program, which serves to complete energy tune-ups and install energy efficiency upgrades in low-income rental housing.

**Recommended Action:**

Approve the signing of the contract

**Prior Board Motions:**

December 6, 2022: Approval of pilot program work plan. Approval of contract between Rebuilding North Central Florida and Alachua County for the purpose of administering the program.

June 27, 2023: Update to water heater requirements and extension of the program beyond August 2023.

September 26, 2023: Approval of recommended program updates, and commencement of a second pilot program.

**Fiscal Note:**

Funding for the program was approved on Dec 6, 2022, with the additional \$500,000 approved for a second pilot project on Sept 26, 2023. Account Number 052.00.0064.554.82.15 (Other Grants project ARP2021x012).

**Strategic Guide:**

Housing

**Background:**

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Federal Government provided the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners (ACBoCC) funding through the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Many disenfranchised and marginalized communities were disproportionately impacted in their ability to find and maintain affordable housing due to job loss and other income insecurities caused by COVID-19. This project is intended to bring affordable housing relief to communities with limited financial resources by using energy efficiency improvements and weatherization to address the high costs of utilities on renters.

The program functions by providing funding for energy efficiency upgrades on the properties of low-income tenants in exchange for a short-term commitment from the landlord to keeping the unit affordable. The length of the affordability commitment is dependent on how much funding a landlord is interested in receiving.

Up to \$15,000 per unit was made available for eligible rental property owners within the unincorporated areas of Alachua County and smaller municipalities. Alachua County partnered with Rebuilding Together North Central Florida and the Community Weatherization Coalition to identify applicants, vet contractors, and complete individual projects. The agenda item is an amendment to the original contract, which reflects the program updates approved by the Board in the September 26, 2023 meeting.