

TRANSMITTAL

To: **THE COUNCIL**

Date: **10/09/20**

From: **THE MAYOR**

TRANSMITTED FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. PLEASE SEE ATTACHED.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Eric Garcetti', is written over a large, light blue, stylized 'S' or 'G' shape.

(Ana Guerrero) for

ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor



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Eric Garcetti, Mayor
Ann Sewill, General Manager

September 16, 2020

Council File: 17-1352
Council Districts: Citywide
Contact Person(s): Ryan Ellefson (213) 808-8836
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Honorable Eric Garcetti
Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Room 300, City Hall
200 N. Spring Street,
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attention: Heleen Ramirez, Legislative Coordinator

COUNCIL TRANSMITTAL: REPORT BACK ON THE LOS ANGELES HOUSING + COMMUNITY INVESTMENT DEPARTMENT'S 2020 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATION TO CIT BANK, N.A., FOR THE CITY'S LOW INCOME PURCHASE ASSISTANCE HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAM, AND REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY TO APPLY FOR A FIFTH GRANT OF \$400,000 IN 2021

SUMMARY

The General Manager of the Los Angeles Housing + Community Investment Department (HCIDLA) respectfully requests that your office review and approve this transmittal and forward it to the City Council for further consideration. Through this transmittal, HCIDLA seeks approval, and requests authority to accept and expend a 2020 Community Development Grant (formerly known as the Community Reinvestment Act Grant) of \$400,000 received in August 2020 from CIT Bank, N.A., for the City's Low Income Purchase Assistance (LIPA) Homeownership Program.

HCIDLA will leverage the CIT Bank Grant funds with HCIDLA's LIPA Program funds. The LIPA Program provides purchase assistance to first-time, low-income homebuyers who purchase homes in the City of Los Angeles. The assistance will come in the form of a deferred-payment "soft second" loan to be used toward acquisition gap financing, the lender-required down payment, and closing costs. In combination with HCIDLA's LIPA Program funds, the 2020 \$400,000 grant funds will assist approximately 28 low-income families.

Additionally, HCIDLA requests authority to apply for a 2021 Community Development Grant of \$400,000 from CIT Bank's 2021 grant allocation. The 2021 Community Development Grant application is due to CIT Bank by March 5, 2021.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- I. That the Mayor review this transmittal and forward it to City Council for action;
- II. The City Council, subject to the approval of the Mayor:
 - A. AUTHORIZE the General Manager of HCIDLA, or designee, to accept and expend the 2020 Community Development Grant of \$400,000 awarded to HCIDLA by CIT Bank, N.A., for its LIPA Homeownership Program;
 - B. AUTHORIZE the City Controller to:
 - i. Appropriate \$400,000 into Account 43P647 LIPA - OneWest Bank Grant, within the HCIDLA Small Grants and Awards Fund No. 49N, for the Community Development Grant funds from CIT Bank.
 - ii. Appropriate into Account 43P648 LIPA - OneWest Bank Loan Repayment, within Fund No. 49N, upon receipt of program income from loan repayments and shared appreciation.
 - iii. Expend funds from the above accounts upon proper written demand of the HCIDLA General Manager, or designee.
 - C. AUTHORIZE the General Manager of HCIDLA, or designee, to submit an application for a 2021 Community Development Grant of \$400,000 to CIT Bank, N.A., for the LIPA Homeownership Program; and,
 - D. AUTHORIZE the General Manager of HCIDLA, or designee, to prepare Controller instructions and make any technical adjustments, consistent with Mayor and City Council actions, subject to the approval of the City Administrative Officer, and instruct the Controller to implement the instructions.

BACKGROUND

Since 2017, HCIDLA has successfully applied for grants from CIT Bank for the LIPA Program. HCIDLA received the first grant of \$400,000 in December 2017, the second grant of \$400,000 in December 2018, and the third grant of \$400,000 in September 2019, for a total of \$1,200,000 in grant funds. Of the combined total grant funds, 100% have been fully expended by HCIDLA, assisting 82 low-income families in purchasing their first homes under the LIPA Program. In March 2020, HCIDLA applied for a fourth grant and was subsequently awarded \$400,000 by CIT Bank in August 2020.

HCIDLA's Homeownership Unit currently administers three programs designed to assist first-time, low- and moderate-income homebuyers to purchase homes and secure permanent housing in the City of Los Angeles. The Department's programs assist eligible homebuyers with purchase assistance in the form of a subordinate "soft second" loan, which is used for down payment, closing costs, and acquisition gap financing. HCIDLA currently utilizes federal HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, Affordable Housing Linkage Fee revenue, and penalty fees from the Foreclosure Registry Program to fund the soft second loans. Additional financial support comes from the California Debt Limit Allocation Committee's (CDLAC) Single Family Home Mortgage Revenue Bond allocation for HCIDLA's Mortgage Credit Certificate (MCC) Program. The

MCC Program provides a federal income tax credit, enabling the homebuyer to qualify for a higher first mortgage, which in turn increases their purchasing power.

The homebuyer programs represent an essential component of the City's strategy to address neighborhood revitalization, community preservation, and protection from blight, decline, and property neglect. They also serve to increase the homeownership rate in the City. Interested homebuyers apply for program funds through HCIDLA's participating lenders, and obtain homebuyer education provided by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and HCIDLA-approved housing counseling agencies.

To market the homeownership programs, HCIDLA engages in various marketing and outreach activities throughout the year. Staff conduct presentations and provide training sessions to lenders, realtors, and non-profit educational providers, as well as provide training to the public by participating in homebuyer fairs, workshops, town hall meetings, and other important community events. Homeownership information is also regularly posted on HCIDLA's website. Printed program information is made available in both English and Spanish, and disseminated to the public via City Council offices, City Libraries, Parks and Recreational Centers, Family Source Centers, HCIDLA's public counters, and through a vast network of Los Angeles' real estate professionals and lenders. Department outreach, in combination with various training opportunities and support from real estate professionals, provides hundreds of residents each year with multiple ways to obtain first-time low- and moderate-income homebuyer program information.

CIT Bank Community Development Grant

The Community Development Grant is offered by CIT Bank, N.A. headquartered in Pasadena, California, and provides grants to non-profit organizations and governmental agencies that provide community development activities for low- or moderate-income individuals. CIT Bank defines community development activities as affordable housing, essential community services, economic development, and activities that revitalize or stabilize low- or moderate-income geographies, designated disaster areas, or distressed or underserved middle-income geographies. CIT Bank provides grants at its sole discretion, and will determine the grant amount award which has been approved by their Executive Committee.

Low Income Purchase Assistance (LIPA) Program

To stretch HCIDLA's homebuyer program funds and assist more low-income homebuyers to purchase homes in the city, HCIDLA proposes to leverage the 2020 CIT Bank Grant funds with the LIPA Program funds. The LIPA loan maximum is currently set at up to \$90,000, and assists households with incomes up to 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI). The LIPA loan carries zero interest; however, it has a shared appreciation component, which is a ratio of the City's loan amount to the home purchase price. The loan, along with the shared appreciation amount, is due upon sale of the home, title transfer, first mortgage repayment, or at the end of 30 years as a balloon payment. Attachment A to this report provides a description of the LIPA Program features and requirements, and Attachment B provides a summary of the LIPA Program loans funded by Council District, covering the last five fiscal years.

The 2020 low-income limits, established by HUD, are as follows:

HUD 2020 Low-Income Limits								
Household Size	1 person	2 people	3 people	4 people	5 people	6 people	7 people	8 people
Annual Household Income Limit	\$63,100 or less	\$72,100 or less	\$81,100 or less	\$90,100 or less	\$97,350 or less	\$104,550 or less	\$111,750 or less	\$118,950 or less

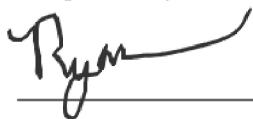
2021 CIT Bank Community Development Grant Application

Upon City Council and Mayor approval to apply for the 2021 grant allocation, and if awarded, HCIDLA anticipates using the 2021 CIT Bank Community Development Grant funds of \$400,000 to assist approximately 27 low-income first-time homebuyer households. HCIDLA proposes utilizing the CIT Grant by combining up to \$75,000 in LIPA Program funds, with up to \$15,000 in CIT Bank Grant funds per household, to equal a total LIPA loan amount of up to \$90,000 per household.

FISCAL IMPACT

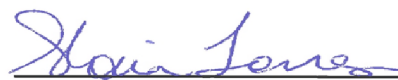
There is no impact to the General Fund. The recommendations in this report will authorize HCIDLA to accept and expend the 2020 CIT Bank Community Development Grant funds to assist more homebuyers and apply for the 2021 CIT Bank Community Development Grant for the LIPA Program.

Prepared By:



RYAN ELLEFSON
Management Analyst

Reviewed By:



GLORIA TORRES
Finance Development Officer II

Reviewed By:



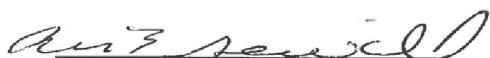
HELMI HISSERICH
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Reviewed By:



SEAN L. SPEAR
Assistant General Manager

Approved By:



ANN SEWILL
General Manager
Housing+Community Investment Department

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: LIPA Program Description
Attachment B: LIPA Loans Funded per CD

Attachment A
City of Los Angeles
Low Income Purchase Assistance (LIPA) Program

The Low Income Purchase Assistance (LIPA) Program helps first-time, low-income homebuyers purchase homes in the City of Los Angeles by providing loans to cover the down payment, closing costs, and acquisition.

The City's homeownership program funds are leveraged with private mortgage financing and other assistance programs to achieve the maximum purchasing power for the homebuyer. The LIPA Program provides purchase assistance of up to \$90,000 for households earning up to 80% Area Median Income (AMI). LIPA loans have a zero percent interest rate and are due upon sale, title transfer, first mortgage repayment, or in 30 years as a balloon payment. The loan contains a shared appreciation provision based on a ratio of the loan amount to the purchase price. Borrowers are required to pay the principal and the percentage share of appreciation upon LIPA loan repayment.

The program features and requirements are detailed below:

Homebuyer Eligibility:

- First-time homebuyers who have not had an ownership interest in any real property in the past three years
- U.S. Citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents, or other Qualified Aliens
- Household income must be within program limits
- Minimum 1% down payment from borrower's own funds
- Homebuyer must occupy home as primary residence
- Completion of eight-hours of in-person homebuyer education course from an approved education provider

LIPA Loan Features:

- Loan up to \$90,000
- Zero Percent (0%) interest rate
- Deferred – requiring no monthly payments
- Shared appreciation provision in which the City will share a certain percentage of the appreciation in the value of the property
- Loan with shared appreciation is due on sale, title transfer, first mortgage repayment, or in 30 years as a balloon payment

Property Eligibility:

- Home must be located in the City of Los Angeles
- Home must pass HCIDLA property inspection
- 1-unit, single-family homes including condominiums and townhouses
- Properties cannot be tenant-occupied, unless the tenant is the prospective homebuyer
- Home purchase price must be within current program limits:
 - Single Family Homes: \$747,750
 - Condominiums and Townhomes: \$513,000

2020 Maximum Income Limits

Household Size	1 person	2 people	3 people	4 people	5 people	6 people	7 people	8 people
Annual Household Income Limit	\$63,000 or less	\$72,100 or less	\$81,100 or less	\$90,100 or less	\$97,350 or less	\$104,550 or less	\$111,750 or less	\$118,950 or less

ATTACHMENT B

Low Income Purchase Assistance (LIPA) Loans Funded by Council District July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2020 (Past 5 Fiscal Years)

CD	Loans Funded	Percent of Total Loans Funded	Total Assistance Amount	Percent of Assistance Amount
1	3	0.90%	\$240,000	1.01%
2	6	1.80%	\$472,661	1.99%
3	37	11.08%	\$2,782,631	11.69%
4	2	0.60%	\$150,000	0.63%
5	3	0.90%	\$262,590	1.10%
6	57	17.07%	\$4,036,471	16.96%
7	64	19.16%	\$4,342,140	18.25%
8	46	13.77%	\$3,185,843	13.39%
9	30	8.98%	\$2,073,275	8.71%
10	2	0.60%	\$180,000	0.76%
11	0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%
12	15	4.49%	\$1,034,874	4.35%
13	0	0.00%	\$0	0.00%
14	5	1.50%	\$345,674	1.45%
15	64	19.16%	\$4,691,882	19.72%
Total	334	100.00%	\$23,798,041	100.00%

LIPA Loans Funded by Council District

