

Finance and Budget Committee

Meeting date: September 3, 2025

Agenda Item #: 2 – C

Resolution authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate and execute a contract with the City of Denver to increase their staffing capacity, update and streamline their permit system, and conduct research on building decarbonization policies in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 with a term ending September 14, 2029.

Agenda item type: Consent agenda

Summary

The City of Denver's Jurisdictional Subaward will support the increase of local staffing capacity, updated permit systems for heat pumps, and conduct new research on building decarbonization policies.

Background

In August 2024, DRCOG received a \$199.7 million Climate Pollution Reduction Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop and implement a regional Building Decarbonization Program. A \$39 million component of this program, the Building Policy Collaborative (BPC), supports jurisdictions across the region in adopting and implementing above-code energy policies including performance standards, equipment standards, permitting reforms, and related initiatives.

As part of the Building Policy Collaborative, DRCOG is distributing \$34.8 million in formula-based subawards to eligible jurisdictions through round one of a two-round process. The City of Denver is requesting their full allotted formula amount of \$2,000,000 to hire three new staff to support energy code compliance and plan review, update their permitting system for heat pump installations and facilitate market transformation away from gas systems, and conduct research to explore and evaluate new building decarbonization policies.

DRCOG staff evaluated Denver's proposal based on adopted criteria, including project eligibility, budget alignment, feasibility, anticipated impact, and monitoring and reporting. The proposal received favorable review and is recommended for funding. This subaward will be fully funded through the CPRG award and will advance DRCOG's regional goals to reduce climate pollution from the building sector.

Action by others

None

Previous discussion/action

None



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Recommendation

Move to adopt a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate and execute a contract with the City of Denver to increase their staffing capacity, update and streamline their permit system, and conduct research on building decarbonization policies in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 with a term ending September 14, 2029.

Attachment

Draft resolution

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at 303-480-6701; or Todd Cottrell, Manager, Project and Programming Delivery, at 303-480-6737 or tcottrell@drcog.org.

