



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***HOPE Fair Housing Center Announces Request for Proposals to Award \$600,000
in Grant Funds for Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization in Austin***

Chicago, IL – Today, HOPE Fair Housing Center (HOPE) announces the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for grant funds totaling \$600,000 to be used for revitalization of the Austin community in Chicago.

Funds will be awarded to projects that will rehabilitate 1-4 unit properties for owner-occupancy or strengthen community projects that deal with quality of life issues, such as neighborhood organizing and advocacy, job training, school advocacy and parent support.

“Austin is a great community with a great potential to become a destination community for working and middle class families in Chicago,” said Paula Brkich, Lending and Community Development Program Director at HOPE.

The HOPE Funds are a result of a federal housing discrimination complaint filed in April 2012 by The National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA) and 13 of its member organizations, including HOPE, with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) against Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. alleging that Wells Fargo’s Real Estate Owned (REO) properties in white areas were much better maintained and marketed than REO properties in communities of color. The settlement with Wells Fargo, the first-ever agreement regarding the equal maintenance and marketing of REO homes, provides \$27 million to 19

cities across the nation to foster homeownership, assist with rebuilding neighborhoods of color impacted by the foreclosure crisis, and promote diverse, inclusive communities. HOPE has chosen to target the Austin community in Chicago for a portion of these funds.

“We are pleased that Wells Fargo helped us to institute a community investment program to help us fulfill our mission”, said Anne Houghtaling, HOPE Fair Housing Center Executive Director.

The RFP is available electronically on our website, at www.hopefair.org, or via email from paula.brkich@hopefair.org.

Applicants will be able to ask questions about the RFP until 4pm October 25, 2013. Completed applications are due by hand or by mail postmarked November 1, 2013 at 245 W. Roosevelt Road, Building 15, Suite 107, West Chicago, IL 60185-3739. Selected applicants will be notified by November 25, 2013.

HOPE Fair Housing Center(www.hopefair.org)

Established in 1968, HOPE is the oldest fair housing center in Illinois. HOPE Fair Housing Center seeks to create equal housing opportunities regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, familial status, or any other characteristics protected under state or local laws. Located in West Chicago, HOPE serves 30 counties in Northern and North Central Illinois.

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