

City Council – Action Request Form

Date: May 11, 2020

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

From: Marla Y. Newman, Community Development Director
Tasha Logan Ford, Assistant City Manager

Council Action Requested:

Resolution authorizing execution of grant agreements with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic among individuals and families who are homeless or receiving homelessness assistance; execution of subgrantee agreements with recommended agencies; and submission of periodic progress reports to HUD

Strategic Focus Area: Livable Neighborhoods

Strategic Objective: Expand Housing Assistance Programs

Strategic Plan Action Item: No

Key Work Item: No



Summary of Information:

HUD has announced CARES Act funding allocations for Winston-Salem, including \$660,748 in ESG-CV funds and \$1,300,830 in CDBG-CV funds. ESG-CV funds are allocated to address homelessness, which is also an eligible activity using CDBG-CV funds. In order to deploy funds to address the housing needs of homeless persons impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is necessary to implement a process to allocate funding to local agencies which operate programs to house homeless persons and to prevent homelessness for those at imminent risk of homelessness.

The selection of programs and projects to be funded will be accomplished using the process established in the Governance Charter of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Continuum of Care (CoC). Projects will be reviewed by the CoC Rating Panel, which will develop funding

Committee Action:

Committee	Finance 5/11/2020 CDHGG5/12/2020	Action	Approval
For	Unanimous	Against	

Remarks:

recommendations. The Panel’s funding recommendations will be presented to the CoC Operating Cabinet for comments. The Panel’s recommendation will be subject to approval by the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Commission on Ending Homelessness. Funding awards to agencies will be subject to the City receiving awards of ESG-CV and CDBG-CV funds from HUD that are required to support the selected projects.

Table 1 below shows a projected allocation of funding using eligible ESG-CV and CDBG-CV activities. The final amounts may vary after project selection, depending on applications received from local agencies and selected through the funding process.

Table 1			
ACTIVITY	ESG-CV Amount	CDBG-CV Amount	Total Amount
Emergency Shelter Essential Services	160,000	0	160,000
Rapid Re-housing Services	110,000	0	110,000
Rapid Re-housing Financial Assistance	390,750	0	390,750
Diversion Assistance, Prevention Assistance and Permanent Supportive Housing	0	299,250	299,250
Total	660,750	299,250	960,000

Emergency shelter essential services includes services such as case management to assist participants in developing an individualized plan to obtain and retain permanent housing. Rapid re-housing provides short- and/or medium-term rental assistance, accompanied by case management. Diversion programs provide counseling and limited financial assistance to help persons avoid shelter entry or to exit quickly upon entry. Prevention assistance programs assist persons in avoiding eviction if they have stable housing. Permanent Supportive Housing is housing with long-term services and assistance for homeless persons with disabilities.

All projects selected for funding will be required to participate in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) which is required by HUD for projects assisting homeless persons using HUD funds. HMIS is used for reporting to HUD.

The remainder of the \$1,300,380 in CDBG-CV not allocated through this process will be reserved for future allocations to meet community development needs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Recommendations for allocations of the funds will be presented to the Mayor and City Council at a future meeting.

The accompanying resolution authorizes the City Manager to execute funding agreements with HUD, negotiate and execute agreements with agencies in the amount of funding determined through the Continuum of Care funding process, negotiate and execute agreements for participation in the Homeless Management Information System and submit periodic progress reports to HUD. A project budget ordinance is also attached.