



Council Communication No. 97-325

SYNOPSIS –

Adoption of the priority rankings and funding criteria for the 1998 Consolidated Plan as recommended by the Des Moines Action Board (DMAB) and the Neighborhood Advisory Board (NAB).

FISCAL IMPACT –

Adoption of the priorities will affect the allocation of 1998 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership Act, and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds.

RECOMMENDATION –

Approval of DMAB/NAB recommended priority ranking and funding criteria procedures.

BACKGROUND –

On April 28, 1997, by Roll Call No. 97-1558, the City Council approved the schedule for development of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 1998 Consolidated Plan for allocation of CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds. This will be the third year of a five-year strategic plan for the HUD programs.

On May 19, 1997, by Roll Call No. 97-1835, the City Council adopted the unranked priorities as recommended by the DMAB and the NAB as a guide to development of the 1998 Consolidated Plan for community development programs and referred them for citizen review and ranking at the Town Meetings.

On June 5, 1997, the DMAB and NAB held eight town meetings to provide an opportunity for neighborhood residents and agency representatives to rank identified needs in their communities regarding housing, human services, employment, economic development, infrastructure, public facilities and homelessness.

On June 10, 1997, at a joint meeting, the DMAB and NAB adopted the ranking of priorities based on the input received at the Town Meetings (Exhibit A).

For the past two years, the City Council has adopted an overall funding policy. At their joint meeting on June 10, 1997, the DMAB and NAB also recommended that the following funding

allocation procedures be adopted for the 1998 Consolidated Plan:

1. That Human Services funding be limited to 15 percent of the total CDBG entitlement amount;
2. That there be a \$50,000 minimum grant amount for all projects; and
3. That staff review all human services projects and prepare a recommendation for the citizen board based on the following criteria: a) agency experience and capacity; b) funding level; c) priority ranking; d) other funding sources; e) whether or not the project is in support of a high priority addressed by a project in another category; and f) whether or not a project demonstrates a meaningful and effective collaboration.

Based on the previous Council policy and the DMAB and NAB recommendations, our office is recommending that the City Council adopt the “ 1998 Consolidated Plan Funding Criteria” (Exhibit B).

The 15 percent limit and the \$50,000 minimum grant amount were both recommended by HUD as a result of their consultation visit in July 1996. They also suggested that the City reduce the number of priorities in the Consolidated Plan in order to focus available funds on high priority needs and demonstrate progress in eliminating or reducing these problems.

The 15 percent limit on the allocation for human service projects will amount to approximately \$780,000. This is over \$400,000 less than what was allocated to these types of projects in 1997.

Agencies providing similar or complementary services will be encouraged to collaborate on proposals in order to meet the \$50,000 minimum grant amount and reduce project administration costs and increase their capacity to perform and/or comply with local and federal regulations.

Upon City Council approval, the ranked priorities and funding criteria will be forwarded to City departments, public agencies, and nonprofits with a Request for Proposal (RFP) for programs and projects which address one or more of the priorities. Agencies will have until July 18 to apply for funding. The new citizen board will review the proposals during August 1997 and will finalize their recommendations for City Council review by August 31, 1997. On September 8, 1997, the City Council will set the date for a public hearing to be held on October 20, 1997, and after a 30-day required review period, adopt the 1998 Consolidated Plan for submission to HUD 45 days prior to the start of the City’ s program year on January 1, 1998.

It is important that Council take action on the 1998 Consolidated Plan Priorities and Funding Criteria at this meeting so that proposal packets can be mailed immediately. As scheduled, proposals are to be returned within a four and one-half week period. Council action will initiate the RFP phase of this planning process.

Both the DMAB and NAB have done an excellent job of developing these recommendations. Their efforts involved difficult decisions which will improve the funding allocation process by

emphasizing high priority needs, maximizing the impact of funds, achieve lasting results and increase the City' s capacity for effective oversight and monitoring.

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