

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

02-577

AGENDA:

NOVEMBER 18, 2002

SUBJECT:

REALLOCATION OF
\$135,000 OF 2003
CDBG FUNDS FROM
DES MOINES PUBLIC
SCHOOLS TO
COMMUNITY
HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION, INC.

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:

JAMES M. GRANT
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

SYNOPSIS —

Approval of the reallocation of \$135,000 of 2003 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding from Des Moines Public Schools (DMPS)/New Horizons Program to Community Housing Development Corporation (CHDC), Inc.

FISCAL IMPACT —

N/A

RECOMMENDATION —

Approval.

BACKGROUND —

On November 4, 2002, by Roll Call No. 02-2628, the City Council approved the 2003 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Consolidated Plan that included allocations of \$70,000 and \$65,000 of 2003 CDBG funding for the DMPS/New Horizons Program Special Needs Minor Repair and Special Needs Seasonal Chore Services Programs respectively. As the services of the two aforementioned programs have primarily been funded from sources outside the school district (CDBG [City of Des Moines], Older Americans Act, and Aging Resources of Iowa), they have required increasing district resources.

These two programs provide an opportunity to deliver services to senior citizens and handicapped persons, to assist these individuals to remain in their homes. In the case of the Minor Home Repair/Chore Service Project, critically needed home repair and chore services are provided to these individuals. Students are involved in the project to learn work-based skills and at the same time become sensitive to the needs of the clients. Currently, the project employs four adults and 16 students who serve the economically disadvantaged, handicapped, and those over 60 years of age.

The Special Needs Seasonal Chore Services Program is a component of the summer youth program that employs nine adults and 38 youth during the summer months. These individuals mow lawns and do general cleanup work for senior citizens and handicapped.

In light of diminishing school district resources, more focused school district

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benchmarks and priorities, and higher expectations of all school district programming, services must be aligned to meet the needs of the students. While certainly vital to the community, assisting the elderly and adult handicapped is not the primary mission of the school district; therefore, these services will be transitioned to a community-based agency. Recognizing the value of this programming to the larger community, including students who benefit from work-based learning, negotiations have been held with the Director of CHDC, Carol Bower, to assume funding and to provide the services currently offered.

CHDC has a very good reputation in providing intensive, in-depth housing and neighborhood improvement services and contracted with the City of Des Moines for these services over the past five years. While CHDC does not currently provide a minor home repair service similar to the one offered by New Horizons, they will be developing one. CHDC currently provides older youth with employability skills development opportunities through a Youth Build grant.

The services available through CHDC enhance those provided by New Horizons in that CHDC provides a more comprehensive mission and expanded scope of services. Transitioning these projects to CHDC will provide a more seamless continuum of needed services, decrease service fragmentation, and offer clients more options to meet their needs. For example, CHDC has access to social workers from other community agencies that are available to accompany home repair staff to thoroughly assess critical needs and connect clients with additional services.

New Horizons will continue to provide supportive services and subsidized wages to youth referred to CHDC for employment experiences. New Horizons support staff will process records and payroll for students participating in subsidized employment. Building-based staff and the school district School-To-Work Coordinator will continue their involvement in coordinating work-based learning opportunities for these students.

There are a number of reasons for transitioning these services to CHDC. As these services are presently offered, senior citizens, economically disadvantaged, and the handicapped are the primary benefactors. Secondarily, a relative small number of students benefit. These projects also require considerable coordination and administrative support that is funded by the school district rather than outside resources.

At their meeting on November 6, 2002, the Neighborhood Revitalization Board (NRB) recommended that the CDBG funding be reallocated to CHDC.

