

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	20-527	Meeting:	December 7, 2020
	Agenda Item:	24	Roll Call:	[]
	Submitted by:	Chris Johansen, Neighborhood Services Department Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

General fund advance for homelessness prevention under the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV) funding, second round, to prepare, prevent, and respond to coronavirus.

SYNOPSIS:

The City of Des Moines has received multiple rounds of federal funding to address community needs as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. To access the funding, the City must follow several procedures with the State of Iowa and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that may take several weeks or months to complete. This action is to advance general funds to two (2) agencies Home Opportunities Made Easy, Inc. (HOME, Inc.) and IMPACT Community Action Agency (IMPACT) to continue administering rental and housing assistance as the City waits for access to its federal funds. The funds are being made available to households who are extremely vulnerable to eviction or foreclosure as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$500,000

Funding Source: General Fund

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- There have been three (3) rounds of federal funding to prepare, prevent, and respond to coronavirus. A summary of the City’s awards is below:

Notification of Funding to City	City Council Approval	Description	Amount
04/02/2020	05/04/2020	CDBG-CV, Round 1	\$ 2,231,212
04/02/2020	05/04/2020	ESG-CV, Round 1	\$ 1,108,334
07/31/2020	09/14/2020	CDBG-CV, Round 2	\$ 1,951,677
06/09/2020	11/23/2020	ESG-CV, Round 2	\$ 2,081,414
09/11/2020		CDBG-CV, Round 3	\$ 1,241,887
			CDBG-CV Subtotal
			\$ 5,424,776
			ESG-CV Subtotal
			\$ 3,189,748
			Total Funding
			\$ 8,614,524

- Both IMPACT and HOME, Inc. received allocations from the first rounds of CDBG-CV and ESG-CV funding. Both agencies have exhausted their first round of funds.
- The City of Des Moines is awaiting grant agreements for its second rounds of CDBG-CV and ESG-CV. The City Council has already approved emergency housing payments and homelessness prevention as activities to be funded in the second rounds of CDBG-CV and ESG-CV.
- By advancing \$200,000 to IMPACT and \$300,000 to HOME, Inc., the City of Des Moines is ensuring the programs can continue to run and help households who are extremely vulnerable to eviction or foreclosure as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Both IMPACT and HOME, Inc.'s programs provide one-time or short-term emergency housing payments on behalf of individuals or families. Payments are made directly to landlords or mortgage companies on behalf of a household.
- Households may not use assistance from other entities for the same rent or mortgage payments. For example, if someone received assistance for the month of May from one (1) program, they cannot request May's rent a second time or from another source.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: November 23, 2020

Roll Call Number: [20-1977](#)

Action: [On](#) amendment to the 2019 Action Plan for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan. Moved by Boesen to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: September 14, 2020

Roll Call Number: [20-1511](#)

Action: [On](#) application to Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds to prepare, prevent, and respond to Coronavirus. Moved by Gatto to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

There will be another Council action to approve the grant agreements between HUD and the City of Des Moines and between Iowa Economic Development Authority and the City of Des Moines.

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