

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	21-046	Meeting:	January 25, 2021
	Agenda Item:	30	Roll Call:	21-0104
	Submitted by:	Chris Johansen, Neighborhood Services Department Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of the second round of supplemental Community Development Block Grant funding to prepare for, prevent, and respond to coronavirus (CDBG-CV2) allocations for childcare and mental health care providers.

SYNOPSIS:

Two (2) arenas impacted by the coronavirus pandemic have been childcare and mental health care. To help address childcare and mental health care needs, the City solicited proposals through a Request for Interest and Qualifications (RFQ) process. This action is approving services or facilities extracted as priorities in the RFQ and review process, as recommended by a grant review committee composed of staff from the Neighborhood Services, Development Services, and Civil and Human Rights Departments.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$1,000,000 in CDBG-CV2 funds

Funding Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Iowa Department of Economic Development.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Per the Center for American Progress, childcare programs across the country are suffering as a result of the stay-at-home orders due to COVID-19. The Center for American Progress estimates that the country could lose half of its licensed childcare capacity without government intervention.
- Need for mental health services has been shown by 211 data provided by United Way. In Polk County, calls requesting assistance for mental health services have been 50% higher on average since March 2020 when the public health emergency was declared locally and nationally, compared to calls in 2019 for mental health services, with a spike of 167% increase in May 2020 compared to May 2019.
- In response to these needs, the City of Des Moines reserved \$500,000 for childcare services or facilities and another \$500,000 for mental health services or facilities, totaling \$1,000,000, of its CDBG-CV2 funds.

- Twelve (12) proposals were submitted, of which one (1) was ineligible because it was in West Des Moines.
- CDBG-CV funding requests exceeded \$2.6 million. All funding requests are below with the recommendations highlighted. Mental health proposals are recommended funding at \$305,675 and childcare proposals are recommended funding at \$694,325, totaling \$1 million. More childcare funding is recommended because these proposals had more direct impact to a higher number of children from low-income households.

Facility	Total Cost	CDBG-CV2 Request	CDBG-CV2 Recommendation
Lutheran Services of Iowa (LSI) (1)	\$ 73,224	\$ 73,224	\$ 73,224
LSI (2)	\$ 457,709	\$ 156,152	\$ 156,152
Orchard Place, Unity Point, Des Moines Public School (DMPS)	\$ 377,505	\$ 377,505	\$ 133,451
Iowa Health Foundation, d/b/a Blank Children's Hospital	\$ 549,650	\$ 450,000	\$ 104,072
DMPS	\$ 4,774,335	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
John R Grubb YMCA	\$ 33,101	\$ 33,101	\$ 33,101
Child Development Center (CFI)	\$ 534,259	\$ 301,101	\$ -
YSS, d/b/a IHYC	\$ 518,313	\$ 229,688	\$ -
Homes of Oakridge	\$ 202,000	\$ 150,000	\$ -
Precious Beginnings (Highland Park Development Association)	\$ 470,000	\$ 320,000	\$ -
Hispanic Educational Resources or Connigo Early Education Center	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -
	\$ 8,010,096	\$ 2,610,771	\$ 1,000,000

- At one point, almost all the proposals were determined worthy for funding; however, that was not feasible considering the amount available for award. While narrowing down the proposals further, the committee naturally started to prioritize services or facility improvements that:
 1. Would have direct impact to the most low- or moderate-income residents and children.
 2. Would be sustainable as a program or service.
 3. Connected directly to pandemic response.

- Proposals that would have used funding for indirect salaries, revenue gaps, a less obvious connection to pandemic response (as compared to a general community need, regardless of COVID-19), and some facility improvements, although deserving of financial support, were lower priorities, which is why they are not recommended for funding at this time.
- There have been three (3) rounds of federal funding to prepare, prevent, and respond to coronavirus. This Council action will be funded in CDBG-CV2, which is highlighted among the funding summary below:

Notification of Funding to City	City Council Approval	Description	Amount
4/2/2020	5/4/2020	CDBG-CV, round 1	\$ 2,231,212
4/2/2020	5/4/2020	ESG-CV, round 1	\$ 1,108,334
7/31/2020	9/14/2020	CDBG-CV, round 2	\$ 2,067,124
6/9/2020	11/23/2020	ESG-CV, round 2	\$ 2,081,414
9/11/2020		CDBG-CV, round 3	\$ 1,241,887
CDBG-CV Subtotal			\$ 5,540,223
ESG-CV Subtotal			\$ 3,189,748
Total Funding			\$ 8,729,971

- A summary of the recommended programs is below.

LSI (1) – Childcare (\$73,224)

- Lutheran Services in Iowa’s (LSI) Refugee Services, Economic Development Department, Childcare Business Development program supports refugee and immigrant childcare providers in central Iowa with specialized training and support ensuring they can start, stay open, grow and earn more income from their businesses, providing greater access to childcare for refugee and immigrant populations in Central Iowa. Providers gain access to culturally- and linguistically-appropriate training and resources to allow for long term success in their businesses, which also ensures refugee and immigrant populations can continue to work and go to school in order to improve their lives and that of their children.
- 10 individuals per year (20 over two {2} years) will be assisted with startup training and support in becoming registered childcare providers.
- 70 new and existing providers per year will receive technical assistance and training in order to support childcare provider quality and sustainability.
- At least 15 providers will be assisted with additional services that will allow them to achieve a higher level of certification to earn more income through the DHS Quality Rating System.

LSI (2) – Mental Health (\$156,152)

- LSI Refugee and Immigrant Services Department supports refugees and immigrants in central Iowa with specialized mental health support and case management as they transition to life in the United States. This includes access to culturally- and linguistically appropriate care for critical mental health issues - including PTSD, depression, anxiety, substance use, suicidality, and domestic violence.
- 40 to 50 families per year will be served.

Orchard Place, Unity Point, DMPS (partial award of \$133,451)

- Orchard Place believes in preventing kids from unnecessarily being hospitalized for mental health reasons, early identification of children needing additional mental health support, and

providing financial assistance to childcare providers that are serving the most vulnerable kids.

Two (2) components are being proposed:

- Mental Health Groups: Mental health groups promote overall well-being and the capacity to cope with life challenges and stressors in safe and healthy ways. Group sessions would be available to select students in K-12 grades in the DMPS and would strive to reduce the incidence and prevalence of mental health disorders among youth.
- Child Care Provider Relief Fund: This fund will offer opportunities for childcare providers within the City of Des Moines to receive funds to subsidize their businesses as they experience additional expenses during COVID-19 due to updated cleaning expectations, smaller group sizes, and intermittent closures due to exposure. This fund would distribute funds to providers in amounts from \$500 to \$2,000.
- 400-500 students across 36 different DMPS school buildings will be served with Mental Health Groups.
- 120 childcare providers will be assisted with the Child Care Provider Relief Fund.

Blank Children's Hospital (partial award of \$104,072)

- Blank Children's Hospital will respond to the increased mental health needs of children in the community due to the COVID-19 pandemic through a 2-generation, multi-tiered approach by offering:
 - Prenatal education and postpartum support to mothers and caregivers experiencing postpartum depression and isolation due to the pandemic; and
 - Enhanced assistance to pediatric primary care patients and their families in navigating federal, state, and local community resources to respond to the family's financial needs and emotional stress created by COVID-19.
- 2,000 families will receive prenatal education.
- 50 participants each year will receive postpartum support.
- 600 families per year will receive enhanced community resource navigation.
- 120 patient/family visits per month will be supported by a second behavioral health consultant/therapist.

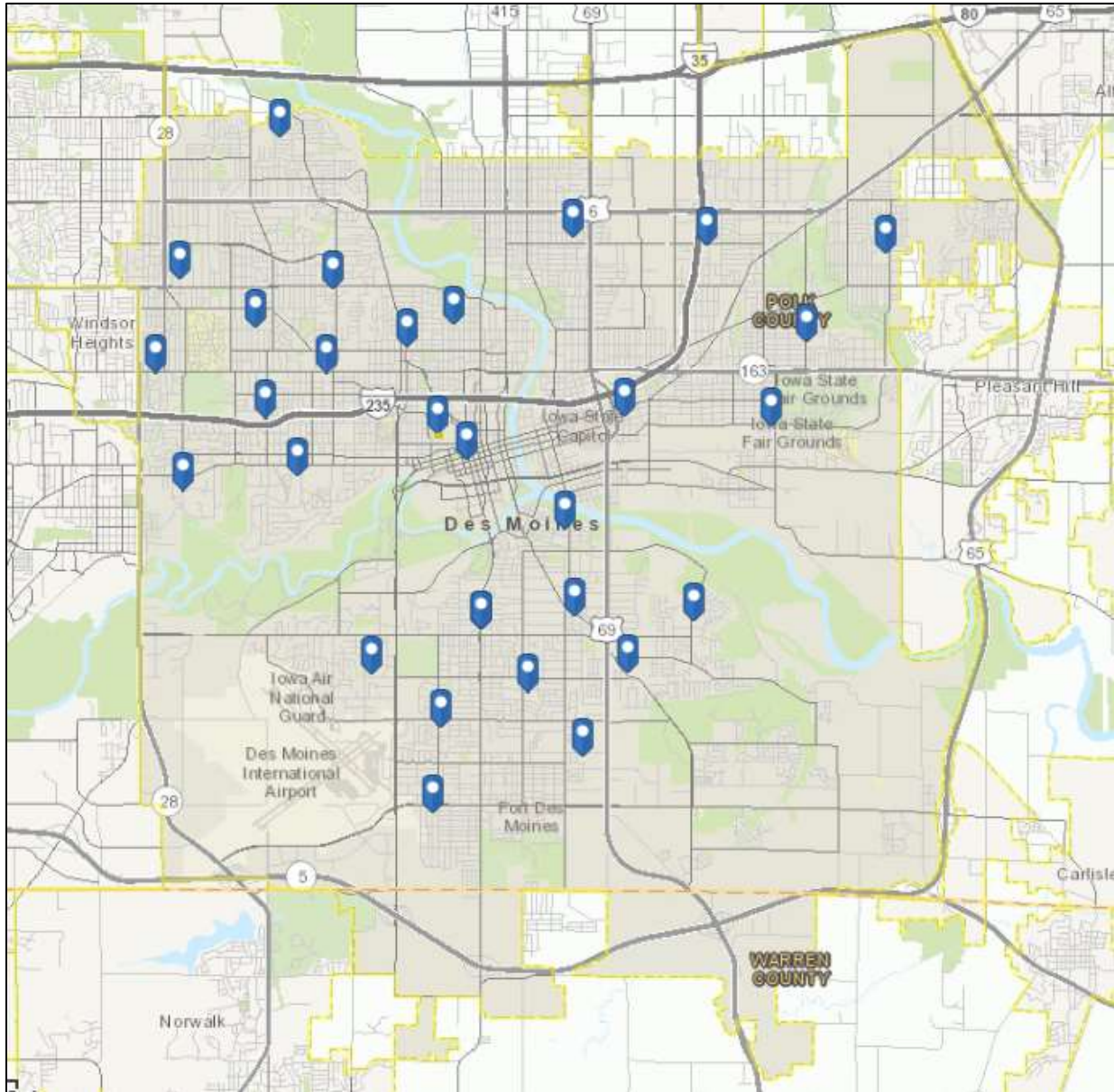
DMPS Metro Kids (\$500,000)

- Metro Kids Care is a fee-based childcare program licensed by the Iowa Department of Human Services. Metro Kids maintains the integrity of the DMPS mission by providing enrichment activities that encourage children to further their educational and social development by participating in creative, technical, recreational and interactive opportunities, while attending out-of-school-time programming. The Metro Kids childcare program of DMPS is the largest provider of out-of-school-time enrichment opportunities for students in the state of Iowa.
- 200 students will be served with this funding.

John R Grubb YMCA (\$33,101)

- The John R Grubb YMCA provides support for DMPS virtual learning students who need assistance while not attending in-person learning. Students K-5 will receive support for technical issues with remote learning, academic assistance, and enrichment activities. The CDBG-CV funds will be used to address air quality issues and improve Wi-Fi access.
- 70 students will be assisted.

Facility Locations



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: December 21, 2020

Roll Call Number: [20-2115](#)

Action: [Supplemental](#) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV), second round, funding agreement with the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) to prepare for, prevent, and respond to coronavirus. ([Council Communication No. 20-555](#)) 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: NONE

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