


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	21-256	Meeting:	June 14, 2021
	Agenda Item:	39	Roll Call:	[]
	Submitted by:	Chris Johansen, Neighborhood Services Department Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of supplemental Community Development Block Grant funding to prepare for, prevent, and respond to coronavirus (CDBG-CV 1) allocation to Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) for the Mobile Food Pantry.

SYNOPSIS:

Throughout 2020, the City received several allocations of federal funds under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). The first round of CDBG funds from the CARES Act, referred to as CDBG-CV 1, included emergency food distribution as one (1) of the approved activities, and that activity yielded more than 50,000 meals for residents in 2020. With approximately \$36,000 remaining for this activity, the DMARC Mobile Food Pantry would be able to use the funds to help provide staple food items to residents experiencing food insecurity as a result of income loss from the pandemic.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$36,349.83 of CDBG-CV 1 funds.

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- On March 27, 2020, the CARES Act, which provided additional CDBG-CV and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV) funding to prepare, prevent, and respond to coronavirus was signed into law. From the CARES Act, HUD first allocated \$2,231,212 in CDBG-CV 1 and \$1,108,334 in ESG-CV 1 funds to the City of Des Moines in addition to its regular annual allocation of CDBG, HOME, and ESG funding.
- On May 4, 2020, the City Council approved the following activities for CDBG-CV 1 funds:
 - Small business relief (\$750,000; later reduced to \$625,000)
 - Housing subsistence payments (\$684,970)
 - Emergency food distribution (\$350,000, later increased to \$475,000)

- Of the funds dedicated to emergency food distribution, there is \$36,349.83 remaining, which is being proposed for use by DMARC’s Mobile Food Pantry.
- The Mobile Pantry Program is unique in that it meets people where they are at versus having them come to a location. Data has been analyzed from visitors to other pantry locations within the network to see areas where people have had to travel farther distances to get food assistance or where food assistance does not exist at all and try to provide a closer option with the mobiles.
- The Mobile Pantry Program has become one of the highest volume distributors in DMARC’s food pantry network. Since the pandemic, it has become a preferred way for many of DMARC’s clients, particularly those who are new to the food pantry network, to receive their food support.
- There have been three (3) rounds of federal funding authorized under the CARES Act to prepare, prevent, and respond to coronavirus. This Council action is to approve a grant agreement with DMARC for CDBG-CV 1, 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	3/22/2021	CDBG-CV, round 3	\$ 1,241,887
CDBG-CV Subtotal			\$ 5,540,223
ESG-CV Subtotal			\$ 3,189,748
Total Funding			\$ 8,729,971

- The Mobile Food Pantry currently stops at more than 25 different locations across the City of Des Moines.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: May 4, 2020

Roll Call Number: [20-0792](#)

Action: [On](#) amendment to the 2019 Action Plan and Citizen Participation Plan for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan. ([Council Communication No. 20-189](#)) Moved by Mandelbaum to adopt. Refer to the City Manager to require additional detail on small business relief program, 50% of funds to people of color and women owned businesses; direct that 50% of funds be used for payroll and add a condition that they comply with CDC recommendations including mask wear. Emergency food distribution to start right away. Seek out approval steps and compliance with requirements from HUD. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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