


## COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	<b>22-181</b>	Meeting:	<b>April 18, 2022</b>
	Agenda Item:	<b>39</b>	Roll Call:	[ ]
	Submitted by:	<b>Chris Johansen, Neighborhood Services Department Director</b>		

### AGENDA HEADING:

Resolution approving Memorandum of Understanding between the City and Invest DSM, Inc., whereby Invest DSM, Inc. serves as a fiscal agent for the City's Neighborhood Block Challenge Grant (BCG) Program.

### SYNOPSIS:

The Neighborhood BCG Program provides matching grant funds to improve the physical exterior conditions for residential properties located within the City while bringing neighbors together to build community. In 2021, the City partnered with Invest DSM, Inc. to model Invest DSM, Inc.'s Block Challenge Program and learn best practices in program management. In 2022, City staff will manage the BCG Program and Invest DSM, Inc. will serve as the Program's fiscal agent only.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$2,250

Funding Source: Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Operating Budget, Finance Department, Local Option Sales and Services Tax (LOSST), Neighborhood Improvements Expenditures, Neighborhood Matching Grant, p. 83.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- An administrative fee of \$15 per reimbursement check will be paid to Invest DSM, Inc. to serve as the Program's fiscal agent.
- This action also authorizes Finance Department and Neighborhood Services Department staff to forward the \$200,000 project costs to Invest DSM, Inc. Neighborhood Services Department staff will direct Invest DSM, Inc. when projects are completed and checks should be issued.
- The BCG Program will serve between 100 and 150 program participants, or between 10 and 30 teams. The City will provide up to a 50% matching grant of up to \$2,500 per application depending on team size and location within the City. Households that receive income-based assistance, such as food or utility assistance, may be eligible for a 75% matching grant of up to \$2,500 per application.

- Fifty percent (50%) of the City of Des Moines' annual funding for the BCG program is reserved for low/mod areas, which are census tracts or block groups where at least 51% of the residents are low and moderate income persons. "Low- and moderate-income person" means having an income equal to or less than 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI), as published annually in the Section 8 low-income limit established by HUD.
- The City's application period begins May 1, 2022. The application period will end September 30, 2022, or when funds are depleted, whichever is first.
- The Neighborhood Services Department is marketing the program, with focused outreach at neighborhood association meetings, collaborative outreach with Neighborhood Finance Corporation, a landing page on the dsm.city website, newsletter information, flyers, and yard signs.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: May 24, 2021

Roll Call Number: [21-0784](#)

Action: [Resolution](#) approving the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Des Moines and Invest DSM, Inc., for the administration of the City's Neighborhood Matching Grant Fund Program. ([Council Communication No. 21-225](#)) Moved by Boesen to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: August 19, 2019

Roll Call Number: [19-1346](#)

Action: [Intergovernmental](#) 28E Agreement between the City of Des Moines, Polk County and Invest DSM, Inc. ([Council Communication No. 19-376](#)) Moved by Boesen to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE****ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

This agreement is through June 30, 2023. The City and Invest DSM, Inc. will reevaluate their partnership in 2023 and will make a joint decision if they should renew this agreement. If they do, there will be a Council action in spring 2023 for renewal.

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the first floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to [cityclerk@dmgov.org](mailto:cityclerk@dmgov.org).