


# COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	<b>23-408</b>	Meeting:	<b>September 11, 2023</b>
	Agenda Item:	<b>39</b>	Roll Call:	<b>23-1263</b>
	Submitted by:	<b>Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director</b>		

## AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of agreement for administration of the GRASP Program with IMPACT Community Action Partnership.

## SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the agreement with IMPACT Community Action Partnership (IMPACT) for administrative support of verifying income and issuing GRASP cards as a component of their assistance programs for a period extending from September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2025, with the option to renew for up to three (3) additional 1-year periods upon mutual agreement of the parties under the same terms and conditions by execution of a written addendum.

## FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$6,000 due January 15 each year. Contractor may request City consideration of proposed price changes of up to five percent (5%) above the prior year's payment during any renewal term.

Funding Source: FY2024 Operating Budget, Parks and Recreation, Management Services, PK001200, Page 158

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Greater Des Moines Recreational Activity Scholarship Program (GRASP) is a program that gives access to discounted recreational activities for households within Des Moines that meet established income guidelines. City of Des Moines residents whose household income is less than 250% of Federal Poverty Level (\$36,450) qualify for these discounted programs.
- Current discounts include:
  - 50% off open-air shelters, boat, and bike rentals at Gray's Lake Park
  - 75% off season swim passes and community garden plots
  - \$5 registration for grades K-7 for basketball, flag football, volleyball, soccer, baseball, and swim lessons
- Participants in the GRASP Program have grown since its inception. From 2019 through 2022, 1,831 households and 7,012 individuals accessed this program.

- IMPACT Community Action Partnership is the City's partner in delivery of GRASP benefits, with their primary responsibilities being verifying income and issuing GRASP cards. The Parks and Recreation Department is generally responsible for public inquiries both via phone and in-person, accounts payable and program/amenity registrations. This division of responsibilities gives residents ease of access to GRASP. IMPACT has also been key in marketing GRASP alongside their other need-based programs.
- In 2009, due to the wide ranging adverse financial repercussions affecting the nation's economy, a Financial Hardship Reduced Fee Program for various parks and recreation department recreational facilities and programs and certain cemetery fees was implemented and administered by Red Rock Area Community Action Program. The reduced fee program subsidized recreation fees for the remainder of 2009 for residents of the City of Des Moines and was the initial program that has now evolved into GRASP.
- Multiple agreements have been in place since the beginning of 2009 and with the latest terminating on August 31, 2023. Of note, in October 2015, Red Rock Community Action Program evolved to become IMPACT Community Action Partnership. This change had no effect on the agreement in place at that time.
- The current proposed agreement with IMPACT for administrative support of verifying income and issuing GRASP cards continuing to be a component of their assistance programs will begin in September 2023 and go through August 2025, with the option to renew for up to three (3) additional one (1)-year periods.
- These beneficial discounts on recreation programs and related opportunities will continue to positively assist Des Moines residents with access to opportunities they would otherwise not be able to participate in. GRASP is anticipated to continue to grow as both the Parks and Recreation Department and IMPACT both actively communicate and market its availability.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: May 18, 2015

Roll Call Number: [15-0871](#)

Action: [Assumption](#) Agreement with Red Rock Area Community Action Program, Inc. for conveyance of Des Moines Community Action Agency programs and service area. ([Council Communication No. 15-269](#)) Moved by Hensley to adopt. City Manager to submit reports to Council every 60 days for the first year of transition. Motion Carried 4-3. Nays: Gray, Gatto and Moore.

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

Anticipated actions include renewals of this agreement.

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