

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 04/12/22

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 22-0268

LOG NAME: 17ARPA CENTER FOR TRANSFORMING LIVES

SUBJECT

(ALL) Approve Allocation of \$3,000,000.00 in Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act and Authorize Execution of a Contract with the Center For Transforming Lives to Develop a Centralized Campus to Improve Access to Childcare, Healthcare and Workforce Development

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Approve the allocation of up to \$3,000,000.00 from the American Rescue Plan Act, Subtitle M (Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds); and
 2. Authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the Center For Transforming Lives to develop a centralized campus to increase access to childcare, healthcare and workforce development across Tarrant County.
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DISCUSSION:

The Center for Transforming Lives (CTL) intends to complete an adaptive reuse of a 1950's era structure, located at 2851 S. Riverside Drive. This facility is located within the 76119-zip code which has one of the highest poverty rates in Tarrant County, which is located in the qualified Census Tract Code 103800. The proposed redevelopment will restore both the building and the surrounding land to create a hub for services, such as early childhood education and economic opportunity. The City of Fort Worth and Tarrant County, have identified a need to partner on the establishment of this centralized campus to improve access to childcare, healthcare and workforce development among those populations that have been disproportionately impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting recession.

The facility will serve low to moderate income families in need of increased housing stability, affordable quality childcare, increased economic security and/or improved mental health. In order to address these issues, CTL will provide the following services at the facility:

- **Improved access to childcare:** The new facility will offer care for up to 120 children, including those who qualify for Head Start or Early Head Start as well as traditional childcare, with expansive natural playgrounds.
- **Improved access to quality behavioral healthcare:** CTL's behavioral health providers are licensed through Medicaid and CHIP and the new facility will offer state of the art therapeutic spaces for child therapy, as well as individual and group therapies.
- **Expanded workforce development opportunities:** CTL's new Economic Mobility Center, included within the facility, will offer free drop-in child care so that women may attend classes, interviews and coaching services without childcare as an access barrier.
- **Strengthen Fort Worth Businesses:** The Economic Mobility Center will also offer ample space for individual and group business coaching and education, along with incubator and accelerator services. In addition to these services, the space will facilitate meetings with mentors, provide areas for interviews with local employers and meeting spaces for small business development. Business growth will be encouraged through a Small Business Fund for entrepreneurs, which will be funded through CTL.

Upon execution of the Agreement, the City will make available a payment in the amount of \$1,500,000.00 to CTL from the City's FY22 ARPA funds for expenses related to eligible uses associated with the construction of the core and building improvements of the campus. A second payment of \$1,500,000.00 from the City's FY23 ARPA funds for eligible expenses associated with the construction of the core and building improvements will be provided to CTL for a total amount of \$3,000,000.00. The proposed opening of the facility is estimated to be in the Fall of 2024.

Allocation of ARPA Subtitle M Funding

Responding to the negative health and economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic is a specifically identified use of ARPA dollars under Section 603(c)(1)(A) of Title VI of the Social Security Act (added by ARPA). Treasury Department guidance specifically notes that these Fiscal Recovery Funds can be deployed for a broad range of uses to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on local residents and accelerate the community's recovery from the pandemic. The intended outcomes of this program will be to deliver increased access to childcare, healthcare and workforce development.

Providing matching funds for eligible joint projects with other agencies was also determined to be a qualified priority by City Management for ARPA funding as approved by the City Council in Mayor & Council Communication (M&C) 21-0445 on June 22, 2021. ARPA funds must be committed by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026.

Approval of this M&C will allocate \$1,500,000.00 for FY2022 and \$1,500,000.00 for FY2023 in the American Rescue Plan Act project in the Grants Operating Federal Fund budget. Necessary reporting and documentation requirements will be followed to ensure the City can comply with all reporting requirements of the ARPA legislation.

The following chart reflects the current status for allocation of the City's ARPA funding under Subtitle M and incorporates each ARPA M&C on the October 19, 2021 Council Agenda:

		M&C's
Total CFW ARPA Subtitle M Funding	\$173,745,090.00	21-0445
Allocations Approved To-Date	\$6,000,000.00	21-0794 25ARPA-VFW-TDG
Allocations Approved To-Date	\$1,000,000.00	21-0805 13ARPA-ADMINISTRATION
Allocations Approved To-Date	\$4,245,533.42	21-0810 17ARPA ALLOCATIONS EVANS & ROSEDALE REDEVELOPMENT
Allocations Approved To-Date	\$301,126.29	22-0112 17AMEND ARPA ALLOCATIONS EVANS & ROSEDALE REDEVELOPMENT
Allocations Approved To-Date	\$2,400,000.00	21-0811 17ARPA ALLOCATIONS UNTHSC TECHSTARS
Allocations Approved To-Date	\$10,100,000.00	21-0814 19ARPA ALLOCATIONS TO HOUSING AND HUMAN SERVICES PROJECTS
Allocations Approved To-Date	\$3,000,000.00	21-0809 19ARPA ALLOCATION CDFI FRIENDLY AMERICA
Allocations Approved To-Date	\$300,000.00	21-0820 25ARPA-WRMC MURAL PLAQUES
Allocations Approved To-Date	\$6,400,000.00	21-0935 21ARPA-PEG FUNDING-FUTURE CITY HALL
Allocations Approved To-Date	\$8,000,000.00	21-00908 23ARPA-VACCINATIONS AND TESTING
Allocations Approved To-Date	\$4,560,000.00	21-0913 25ARPA-PED_CAPITAL_RESTORE

Allocations Approved To-Date	\$52,000,000.00	21-0934 21ARPA-FWCC EXPANSION FUNDING & PROJECT MANAGEMENT
Pending Allocation	\$3,000,000.00	17ARPA CENTER FOR TRANSFORMING LIVES (This M&C)
Remaining Unallocated Balance	\$72,438,430.29	

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the above recommendations, funds are available in the current operating budget, as appropriated, of the Grants Operating Federal Fund. The Economic Development Department shall be responsible for ensuring that only expenditures allowable under the American Recovery Plan Act are charged to this funding source.

Submitted for City Manager's Office by: Reginald Zeno 8517

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