

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 08/27/24

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 24-0740

LOG NAME: 19HEALTHY HOMES FOR HEROES FUNDING ALLOCATION

SUBJECT

(ALL) Authorize a Substantial Amendment to the City of Fort Worth's 2019-2020 Action Plan to Approve Change in Use of Existing Appropriations in the Amount of \$300,000.00 of Community Development Block Grant Funds Currently Allocated by the City for Improvements at the Southside Community Center to the "Healthy Homes for Heroes" Veterans Home Repair Program, and Authorize an Increase in the City's Home Repair Program Contract Authority in the Amount of \$300,000.00 for a Total Annual Amount of \$1,349,904.93 for the Priority Repair and "Healthy Homes for Heroes" Veterans Home Repair Programs

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council

1. Authorize a substantial amendment to the City's 2019-2020 Action Plan;
2. Authorize a change in use and expenditure in the amount of \$300,000.00 of Community Development Block Grant funds from the Southside Community Center to the "Healthy Homes for Heroes" Veterans Home Repair Program (City Project No. 102361); and
3. Authorize an increase in the City's Home Repair Program contract authority by \$300,000.00 for a total annual amount of \$1,349,904.93 for one year resulting in a total five-year (Fiscal Years 2019-2024) contract authority of \$37,358,546.53 to facilitate the increase of the "Healthy Homes for Heroes" Veterans Home Repair Program available funding, as amended through this Mayor and Council Communication.

DISCUSSION:

On August 6, 2019, the City Council approved the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Action Plan for use of federal grant funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which included a budget of \$370,500.00 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the Southside Community Center (Mayor and Council Communication 19-0016). The proposed plans for the community center included Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements, building renovations, and a Senior Center conversion, which would help the Fort Worth residents patronizing the center. Since that time, there have been a number of proposed changes in use for the center, including recommendations from the City's Property Management Department. As of today, the CDBG funds, which are required by HUD to be expended in a timely manner, have not been expended. To remain compliant, staff recommends reallocation of funds for another eligible activity, the "Healthy Homes for Heroes" Veterans Home Repair Program ("Healthy Homes"). Healthy Homes is an internal department program administered through Community Action Partners.

Healthy Homes provides home modifications and home repairs for veterans and surviving spouses. Accessibility, health and safety modifications help ensure that veterans will be able to remain in a healthy home. Some examples of modifications include, but are not limited to: installing ramps, grab bars, and handrails; sealing doors and windows; door widening; and repairing HVAC systems, water and sewer plumbing, electrical system issues, leaky roofs, and unstable flooring.

Priority will be given to low-income households or disabled veterans. This program helps to fulfill the Council-approved goal to Preserve Aging Housing Stock, as it helps veterans and surviving spouses remain in their homes by providing needed repairs and/or modifications.

A reallocation of \$300,000.00 to Healthy Homes will result in an increase in the City's Home Repair Program contract authority by \$300,000.00 for a total annual amount of \$1,349,904.93 for one year, resulting in a total five-year (Fiscal Years 2019-2024) contract authority of \$37,358,546.53.

A 30-day public comment period was held from April 29, 2024 to May 28, 2024. Notice of this public comment period was published in the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* on Sunday, April 28, 2024. Any comments received are maintained by the Neighborhood Services in accordance with federal regulations.

This program is available in ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This M&C does not request approval of a contract with a business entity.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that funds are available in the current operating budget, as previously appropriated, in the Grants Operating Federal Fund for the CDBG (PY19/FY20) project to support the approval of the above recommendations and authorization for the change of use. Prior to any expenditure being incurred, the Neighborhood Services Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds.

Originating Business Unit Head:

Kacey Bess 8187

Brian Brown 5774

Additional Information Contact:

Sharon Burkley 5785

Thenessa Mack-Palmer 7322