

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 11/19/24

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 24-1020

LOG NAME: 22ENV COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANT - AIR QUALITY

SUBJECT

(ALL) Authorize Application for and Acceptance of, if Awarded, an Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grant for Sustainable Futures and Air Quality Planning in Fort Worth from the United States Environmental Protection Agency in an Amount Up to \$20,000,000.00, Authorize Execution of a Grant Agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Authorize Execution of a Partnership Agreement with the North Texas Commission Foundation in an Amount Up to \$50,000.00 from Grant Award, and Adopt Appropriation Ordinance

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize the application for and acceptance of, if awarded, an Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grant for Sustainable Futures and Air Quality Planning in Fort Worth from the United States Environmental Protection Agency in an amount up to \$20,000,000.00;
 2. Authorize execution of a grant agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency;
 3. Authorize the execution of a partnership agreement with the North Texas Commission Foundation in an amount up to \$50,000.00 from grant award; and
 4. Adopt the attached Appropriation Ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the Grants Operating Federal Fund, subject to the receipt of the grant in an amount up to \$20,000,000.00, for the purpose of funding the Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grant Program for Sustainable Futures and Air Quality Planning in Fort Worth.
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DISCUSSION:

Grant funding is available through the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grant (CCG) program to support local efforts to advance environmental and climate justice activities that benefit communities. If awarded, funds requested through this CCG application would be used to advance long-range sustainability planning in Fort Worth and to support air quality programming to include a pilot project for community-based air quality sensors.

This grant application is a competitive federal funding opportunity. If awarded, funding is requested for Sustainable Futures and Air Quality Planning in Fort Worth which supports themes for local sustainability planning and air quality. Grant funding is requested to develop a City of Fort Worth Sustainability Plan which would also incorporate and update long-range solid waste and environmental strategies. Planning efforts are anticipated to align with other local and regional plans to include the Transportation and Public Works Department's Moving 1 Million Master Transportation Plan, the City's 2050 Comprehensive Plan and the North Central Texas Council of Governments' Dallas-Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan.

Through this grant, funds are specifically requested to research and to develop local air quality programming with a pilot project for community-based sensors. Installing community-based air quality sensors requires many considerations to include parameters to be monitored, sensor technology selection, sensor locations, network support, data integrity, and costs associated with long-term maintenance. While community-based sensor networks do not directly impact changes to air quality, added sensors can provide additional data to augment a regulatory air quality monitoring network. Community-based sensor networks can assist with communicating air pollution levels to the community and help to inform other air pollution control activities.

CCG grant applications from local governments are required to include a partnership with a community-based, non-profit organization. For this application, the North Texas Commission (NTC) Foundation will serve as a statutory partner and subrecipient for an amount up to \$50,000.00, if awarded. This amount is less than 1% of the total grant award, and funds will be used by NTC to support these projects through community engagement and collaboration with stakeholders, residents, and community participants. NTC will also assist with community outreach activities, project data collection, and overall promotion of sustainable planning and environmental stewardship within Fort Worth.

No local match is required. Indirect costs are limited to 20%. The Grant Application repository number is GRNT-APPL-0000000086.

No employee salaries will be supported with this grant.

If awarded, grant funds are expected in 2025, and the performance period of this grant is anticipated to end in 2028. If received, the performance period of this grant cannot exceed three years.

These projects will serve ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the above recommendations, and adoption of the attached appropriation ordinance, funds

will be available in the current operating budget, as appropriated, in the Grants Operating Federal Fund. The Environmental Services Department (and Financial Management Services) will be responsible for the collection and deposit of funds due to the City. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the Environmental Services Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds. This is an advance grant.

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