

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 03/26/24

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 24-0239

LOG NAME: 19NSTDHCA-DOE BIL 2023 A2

SUBJECT

(ALL) Authorize Acceptance of Additional Grant from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs in an Amount Up to \$1,500,000.00 for the 2023 Department of Energy Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Weatherization Assistance Program to Provide Assistance for Low to Moderate Income Residents to Lower Home Energy Costs through the City of Fort Worth Weatherization Assistance Program, Authorize Execution of Related Contracts, Authorize an Increase in the City's Home Repair Program Contract Authority by \$1,500,000.00 to Help Facilitate the Administration of the Grant, Waive Indirect Costs of \$50,996.00 and Adopt Appropriation Ordinance

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize the acceptance of additional grant funds from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs in an amount up to \$1,500,000.00 from the 2023 Department of Energy Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Weatherization Assistance Program;
 2. Authorize the execution of related contracts, including any renewals, amendments and extensions, with the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs for the grant funds;
 3. Authorize an increase in the City's Home Repair Program contract authority by \$1,500,000.00, resulting in a total five-year (Fiscal Years 2019-2024) contract authority of \$37,323,330.53, to facilitate the administration of this new grant;
 4. Adopt the attached appropriation ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the Grants Operating Federal Fund in an amount up to \$1,500,000.00, for the purpose of funding the 2023 Department of Energy Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Weatherization Assistance Program (City Project No. 105203); and
 5. Waive indirect costs of \$50,996.00
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DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to authorize acceptance of additional grant from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) from the 2023 Department of Energy Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Weatherization Assistance Program (BIL). These grant funds that will be used to assist with weatherization and energy efficiency efforts in the homes of low-income individuals in the City of Fort Worth (City) and Tarrant County.

On 10/17/2023 through M&C 23-0870 City Council approved the acceptance of a grant from Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) from the 2023 Department of Energy Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Weatherization Assistance Program (BIL) for an amount up to \$1,464,757.00. TDHCA informed the City that additional funding will be available to this grant and the department estimated an additional grant up to \$1,500,000.00 for this program.

The BIL program's goals are to enhance and provide innovation to existing weatherization programs by leveraging resources and performing deep energy retrofits of low-income residential buildings. TDHCA's BIL funds will be administered within existing Weatherization Assistance Program standards and guidelines, and through existing contracts with subcontractors. All subcontractors performing any eligible services for the City will not be paid until work is inspected and approved by Neighborhood Services Department staff.

The Neighborhood Services department currently has \$1,464,757.00 appropriated for funds from this source and are now receiving an additional \$736,792.00, bringing the total amount of received funds to \$2,201,549.00. We are asking for \$1,500,000.00 in additional appropriations instead of the \$736,792.00 due to the fact that there will be additional funds provided this year by this source to make up this difference. Additional funding will be appropriated as the award is received.

A waiver by the City of indirect costs will maximize program benefits. Grant funds support administrative and program delivery allocations for 3.25 full-time employee positions in the Neighborhood Services Department. Indirect costs totaling an estimated \$50,996.00, calculated by taking wages & salaries designated for this grant of approximately \$294,945.00 multiplied by the Neighborhood Service Departments' indirect cost rate of 17.29% defined in the City's most recent Cost Allocation Plan, could be charged to this grant. A waiver of these indirect costs is requested to allow allocation of these funds to further support the programs and services to assist "low-to-moderate" income citizens.

Positions funded with BIL grant funds are subject to grant availability. In the event of a grant award being decreased or eliminated, Neighborhood Services Department would review programs and services funded by the grants and determine a level of service and staffing that aligns with the available funding. Alternative to consider may include staff and program reductions or eliminations.

No matching funds are required from the City for 2023 Department of Energy Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Weatherization Assistance Program.

This program services ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS

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