

# Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 10/17/23

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 23-0870

LOG NAME: 19NSTDHCA-DOE BIL 2023

## **SUBJECT**

(ALL) Authorize Acceptance of a Grant from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs in an Amount Up to \$1,464,757.00 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 \$1,464,757.00 to Help Facilitate the Administration of the Grant, and Adopt Appropriation Ordinance

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize the acceptance of grant funds from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs in an amount up to \$1,464,757.00 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 \$1,464,757.00, resulting in a total five-year (Fiscal Years 2019-2024) contract authority of \$35,823,303.53, to facilitate the administration of this new grant; and
  4. Adopt the attached appropriation ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the Grants Operating Federal Fund in an amount up to \$1,464,757.00, for the purpose of funding the 2023 Department of Energy Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Weatherization Assistance Program.
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## **DISCUSSION:**

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication is to authorize acceptance of a 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. A contract for services between the City and the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) will be executed upon approval of this Mayor and Council Communication.

The Weatherization Assistance Program has been operated by the City since 1982. The City receives funding from the Low-Income Housing Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Texas Association of Community Action Agencies (TACAA), and Department of Energy (DOE) to administer its ongoing program.

TDHCA applied for and received new weatherization funding from the US Department of Energy through funds made available in the 2023 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). This funding was allocated to the City of Fort Worth by TDHCA and the City received news of the funding in July 2023. 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 BIL funding will provide the funding to weatherize an additional 103 housing units within a two year (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025) grant cycle. The City's existing Weatherization Assistance Program has weatherized approximately 187 housing units in the 2023 Fiscal Year.

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.

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

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## **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. Neighborhood Services (and Financial Management Services) will be responsible for the collection and deposit of funds due to the City. Prior to expenditures being incurred, Neighborhood Services Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds. This is a reimbursement grant.

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