

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 01/30/24

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 24-0091

LOG NAME: 19NS TACAA 2024

SUBJECT

(ALL) Authorize Acceptance of Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program Funds in an Amount Up to \$1,200,000.00 from the Texas Association of Community Action Agencies, Authorize Execution of Related Contracts and Adopt Appropriation Ordinance

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize the acceptance of targeted Low-Income Weatherization Program Grant Funds in an amount up to \$1,200,000.00 from the Texas Association of Community Action Agencies;
 2. Authorize the execution of related contracts, including any renewals, amendments and extensions, with the Texas Association of Community Action Agencies for the grant funds; and
 3. Adopt the attached appropriation ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the Grants Operating Other Fund in the amount up to \$1,200,000.00, subject to receipt of the grant, for the purpose of assisting with weatherization and energy efficiency efforts in the homes of low-income individuals.
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DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication is to approve acceptance of 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 Association of Community Action Agencies (TACAA) will be executed upon receipt of the contract from TACAA in January, 2024.

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) has been operated by the City since 1982. The bulk of the funding for the program comes from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, which administers grant funds from the United States Department of Energy and the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Additional funds are supplied by TACAA, which administers monies allocated by Oncor Electric Delivery (Oncor) to provide a Low-Income Weatherization Program that complements the federally funded WAP and provides assistance to Oncor's low-income customers for energy efficiency measures.

The primary objective of TACAA's weatherization program is to efficiently reduce energy use in the homes of eligible families with cost-effective measures. In order for a household to qualify, in addition to other necessary qualifications, household income must be at or less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level and the household must be an Oncor customer. Eligible services may include attic insulation, weather stripping, caulking, window and door repairs and/or replacement, installation of compact fluorescent lighting and installation of water saver devices and Energy-Star-Rated air conditioners and refrigerators. Final determination of services is made through the performance of an energy audit or in accordance with an approved priority list.

TACAA's program will be administered within existing WAP standards and guidelines and through various 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. All WAP funding will allow for up to 200 homes to be weatherized through the grant cycle.

Positions funded with Texas Association of Community Action Partners 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.

This grant does not allow indirect costs.

The program serves ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This contract will be with a governmental entity, state agency or public institution of higher education: Texas Association of Community Action Agencies (TACAA)

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

Submitted for City Manager's Office by: Fernando Costa 6122

Originating Business Unit Head: Victor Turner 8187

Additional Information Contact: James Armstrong 7380
Lori Dickinson 7534