



REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL ACTION

MEETING DATE:

October 7, 2020

DEPARTMENT:

Community Development

DIVISION:

Neighborhood Services

- ☒ Motion
- ☐ Resolution
- ☐ Ordinance - Introduction
- ☐ Ordinance - Adoption
- ☐ Public Hearing

TITLE:

Second Allocation: CDBG funds for COVID-19 Emergency Response

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the use of CDBG funds from the CARES Act in an amount of \$775,575 to continue an Emergency Rental Assistance Program for households economically impacted by COVID-19-related job losses and continued unemployment. Additionally, funds will be used for equipment and supplies needed to halt virus spread in the homeless population. (Community Development/Neighborhood Services) (Rhonda Lee-James)

REPORT:

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has notified the City of Yuma that it will receive an additional \$775,575 of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV) funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). HUD has distributed the CARES Act funding in three tranches. The first tranche was allocated via the regular CDBG funding formula and netted \$505,565 to the City. The second tranche was allocated only to states and territories. This new funding for the City comes from the third tranche which was distributed via a formula that focused on communities where households are facing the highest risk of eviction and the prevalence of COVID-19 cases.

A portion of the first allocation of CDBG-CV was used for an Emergency Rental Assistance Program for those who were furloughed, laid-off, or otherwise lost income because of COVID-19 and were unable to pay their rent. The program launched in April and was closed at the end of August when the funding was exhausted. Assistance was provided to 166 households, which included 542 people. Currently staff has a wait list of 32 families facing continued unemployment or under employment because of the virus and are in danger of being evicted because of rent delinquency.

Through the First Amended Subrecipient Agreement, Western Arizona Council of Governments (WACOG) works with the City to determine eligibility of households and to make rent payments to landlords on their behalf.

With the first allocation, the City also provided \$20,000 to Crossroads Mission for the purchase of supplies needed to protect residents and staff from the virus. That funding was quickly used for cleaning supplies, face masks, and PPE. Staff has identified the need for additional equipment and

supplies to prevent the spread among shelter staff, those in-shelter, as well as the homeless who come to the facility for meals and other services.

Staff recommends these funds be designated to continue the Emergency Rental Assistance Program and for supplies and equipment to protect the homeless population from the virus spread. The proposed allocation is as follows:

- \$300,000 – Rental payments for up to 3 months for those financially harmed by COVID-19 and facing possible eviction from rent delinquency.
- \$30,000 – WACOG's program delivery costs related to processing applications and payments to landlords.
- \$140,000 – to Crossroads Mission for the purchase of equipment and supplies to properly sanitize the shelter to prevent COVID spread; provide quarantine accommodations for those with a positive COVID test; and purchase equipment and supplies needed to safely provide services to the homeless who cannot be housed in the shelter.
- \$305,575 – Held for other critical community services in response to the COVID-19 threat

To facilitate the implementation of these emergency responses in a timely manner, this Council action will:

- Authorize an amendment to the City of Yuma 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan to allocate \$775,575 in CDBG-CV to emergency response to community needs resulting from COVID-19;
- Authorize the City Administrator to execute necessary documents and agreements to facilitate the receipt and expenditure of the CDBG-CV allocation.
- Authorize a budget amendment to the current WACOG CDBG CARES Subrecipient agreement adding \$300,000 to Direct Rental Assistance paid to landlords and \$30,000 for program delivery expenses.
- Authorize a budget amendment to the current Crossroads Mission CDBG CARES Subrecipient agreement adding \$140,000 for the purchase of equipment and supplies needed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the homeless population.

FISCAL REQUIREMENTS	CITY FUNDS:	\$0.00	BUDGETED:	\$775,575.00
	STATE FUNDS:	\$0.00	AVAILABLE TO TRANSFER:	\$0.00
	FEDERAL FUNDS:	\$775,575.00	IN CONTINGENCY:	\$0.00
	OTHER SOURCES:	\$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00	FUNDING FOR THIS ITEM IS FOUND IN THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT / FUND / CIP: CDBG-CV funds	
	TOTAL:	\$775,575.00		
	FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:			
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	SUPPORTING INFORMATION NOT ATTACHED TO THE CITY COUNCIL ACTION FORM THAT IS ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK:			
	1. 2. 3. 4. 5. IF CITY COUNCIL ACTION INCLUDES A CONTRACT, LEASE OR AGREEMENT, WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ROUTING THE DOCUMENT FOR SIGNATURE AFTER CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL? <input type="radio"/> Department <input checked="" type="radio"/> City Clerk's Office <input type="checkbox"/> Document to be recorded <input type="checkbox"/> Document to be codified			
SIGNATURES	CITY ADMINISTRATOR:		DATE:	
	Philip A. Rodriguez		9/30/2020	
	REVIEWED BY CITY ATTORNEY:		DATE:	
	Richard W. Files		9/28/2020	
RECOMMENDED BY (DEPT/DIV HEAD):		DATE:		
WRITTEN/SUBMITTED BY:		DATE:		
Rhonda Lee-James		9/21/2020		