

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Jim Ardis and Members of the City Council

Thru: Ross Black, Community Development Director

From: Jessica Zobac, Chairperson Advisory Commission on Human Resources

Date: June 1, 2018

Re: 2019 Public Service Application and Process

I am addressing you on behalf of the Advisory Commission on Human Resources (HRC) to request the City Council approve the 2019 Public Service application that incorporates seven (7) funding priorities.

CDBG Public Service Application Priorities

In December 2012, the City Council directed the HRC to narrow the priorities for accepting applications for CDBG public service funds. Since this direction, the HRC has identified funding a handful of priorities as a recommendation to City Council for approval.

At the April 20 Commission meeting, the Commissioners voted to recommend seven (7) priorities for the application process this year. At the request of the Commission, City staff gathered area data and statistics to present to the Commission prior to the selection of priorities. Staff then created an online survey to include the eligible activities allowed per federal regulations. Each Commissioner, using his or her community knowledge and social service experience, ranked his or her top ten (10) priorities. The survey totals were calculated using a weighted scale for each response where the top priority was given ten points with the points lowering through the tenth priority.

The top seven priorities, ranked highest to lowest, included:

- 1) Employment Training
- 2) Child Care Services (Under 13)
- 3) Youth Services (13 to 19)
- 4) Mental Health Services
- 5) Health Services
- 6) Services for Abused and Neglected Children
- 7) Substance Abuse Services

Although the voting results showed a gap between priority number six and priority number seven, the Commission felt it was important to include Substance Abuse Services as a priority given the need for these services in our community to combat the opioid epidemic. The Commission also believes that including this along with Mental Health Services and Health

Services will allow a wide variety of programs addressing health issues in the community to be eligible for funding.

CDBG Application Process/Materials/Timeline – 2019

Independent of the funding priorities, the HRC has thoroughly vetted the application materials, process, and timeline for the 2019 grant awards. Additional improvements to the application were made including revising questions on the prevention component of a program, the design of a program, and the evaluation tools and methods to measure success of the program. In addition, the Commission modified the evaluation criteria and approved evaluation guidance for members of the Commission to use in ranking each component of the applications.

At this time, the HRC recommends for approval from City Council the application materials, timeline, and process for the 2019 CDBG Public Service grants.

Summary

As the City Council considers the requests presented to them, I would like to provide additional information that may help to better explain the position of the HRC. In my opinion:

- The 13 volunteer members of the HRC bring a broad spectrum and duration of community knowledge to the table and give of their time very generously. They truly care about the needs of people in our community and want to help people realize their fullest potential.
- The Commissioners, as well as staff, understand that many needs exist in our community, and that it is extremely difficult to address all needs with limited funds; an estimated \$256,000 in 2019.
- The HRC believes that the selection of funding priorities helps to better achieve measurable outcomes for 2019 applicants.