

MEMORANDUM

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

Thru: Ross Black, Community Development Director

From: Jessica Zobac, Chairperson Human Resources Commission

Date: July 25, 2017

Re: 2018 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 2018 Public Service application that incorporates six (6) funding priorities.

CDBG Public Service Application Priorities

In December 2012, the City Council directed the HRC to review the priorities and process of selecting entities for the award of the 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 July 21 Commission meeting, the Commissioners voted to recommend six (6) 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 twenty-one (21) eligible activities allowed per federal regulations (Attachment B – Eligible activities and descriptions). 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 six priorities, ranked highest to lowest, included:

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

A listing of the total survey results can be found in Attachment C.

CDBG Application Process/Materials/Timeline – 2018

Independent of the funding priorities, the HRC has thoroughly vetted the application materials, process, and timeline for the 2018 grant awards. Additional improvements to the application were made including expanding the questions about the qualifications of staff that the grant funds will support, the applying agency's overall budget, and the tools and methods used by the organizations to measure outcomes of the program.

At this time, the HRC recommends for approval from City Council the application materials, timeline, and process for the 2018 CDBG Public Service grants (Attachment D).

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 12 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 \$225,000 in 2018.
- The HRC believes that the selection of funding priorities helps to better achieve measurable outcomes for 2018 applicants.