

MEMORANDUM

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

Thru: Ross Black, Community Development Director

From: Nancy Rakoff, Chairperson Human Resources Commission

Date: June 22, 2016

Re: 2017 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 2017 Public Service application that incorporates seven (7) 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 priorities and recommended approval from City Council.

At the June 17 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 twenty-one (21) eligible activities allowed per federal regulations (Attachment B – Eligible activities and descriptions). Each Commissioner, using her/his community knowledge and social service experience, ranked her/his 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 survey results showed a clear break in the Commission's ranking. The top seven priorities, ranked highest to lowest, included:

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

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

CDBG Application Process/Materials/Timeline – 2017

Independent of the funding priorities, the HRC has thoroughly vetted the application materials, process, and timeline for the 2017 grant awards. In July 2015, HUD monitored the City's CDBG program, specifically reviewing public service grants. The HRC continued to incorporate the HUD monitors recommendations and ensured that the existing standards and policies remained in the proposed 2017 application process. Additional improvements to the application were made including expanding the questions that indicate the facts needed to demonstrate the need for the program, creating a maximum grant request amount of \$30,000, and clarifying past outcomes and goals from the program.

At this time, the HRC recommends for approval from City Council the application materials, timeline, and process for the 2017 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 \$224,000 in 2017.
- The HRC believes that the selection of funding priorities helps to better achieve measurable outcomes for 2017 applicants.