

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: March 21, 2019

Re: 2020 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 2020 Public Service application that incorporates eight (8) 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 March 15 Commission meeting, the Commissioners voted to recommend eight (8) 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 eight priorities, ranked highest to lowest, included:

- 1) Youth Services (13 to 19)
- 2) Child Care Services (Under 13)
- 3) Services for Abused and Neglected Children
- 4) Mental Health Services
- 5) Services for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault or Stalking
- 6) Health Services
- 7) Substance Abuse Services
- 8) Employment Training

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

Services, Health Services, and Substance Abuse services will allow a wide variety of programs addressing health issues in the community to be eligible for funding and will align with other health initiatives in the community. In addition, the Commission felt the inclusion of Employment Training was important in order to address the high unemployment rates in parts of our City.

CDBG Application Process/Materials/Timeline – 2020

Independent of the funding priorities, the HRC has thoroughly vetted the application materials, process, and timeline for the 2020 grant awards. Additional improvements to the application were made including revising the question on collaboration with other organizations and clarifying the number of people served with CDBG funds.

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 \$250,000 in 2020.
- The HRC believes that the selection of complimentary funding priorities helps to better achieve measurable outcomes for 2020 applicants.