Council Communication

Department: Community Development Case/Project No.: N/A	Ordinance No.: Resolution No.: 23-	City Council: 7-10-2023

Subject/Title

Resolution supporting the City's application to the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IDEA) for the Thriving Communities Program.

Background/Discussion

In April 2023, Iowa Economic Development Authority announced the Thriving Communities program which provides a designation to three municipalities over 50,000 population and one municipality under 50,000. This designation will provide additional points to applications submitted to the Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) and Workforce Housing Tax Credit (WHTC) programs. As each of these programs are highly competitive, additional points on the LIHTC and WHTC applications will give selected cities an increased potential of receiving awards to these programs. Additionally, designated cities will have an opportunity to present their sites/cities at a developer conference to attract additional, qualified developers to their community.

The Thriving Communities designation will be based on several criteria that ensure a healthy, thriving community. These include:

1. Planning and Assessment: adopted building codes, comprehensive planning and housing needs assessment, nuisance abatement process, rental housing registration.
2. Strategic Leadership and Partnerships: support from other local and quasi governments, nonprofit and housing developer support.
3. Financial support: City financial commitment, waived fees, use of TIF and tax abatement and other local financial support.
4. Neighborhood: site-ready development areas or strategic areas in the community for housing initiatives.
5. Workforce attraction and retention: employer sponsored housing actions including down payment assistance, housing counseling, housing development and sponsored childcare.

Based on these criteria, Staff believe Council Bluffs is a thriving community and this designation will be beneficial for furthering the City's housing goals.

Staff Recommendation

The Community Development Department recommends approval of resolution supporting the City's application to the IEDA Thriving Communities Program.

Attachments

Resolution

Submitted by: Courtney Harter, Director, Community Development Department