Council Communication

Department: Community Development	Resolution No.: 25 -	Public Hearing: May 5, 2025

Subject/Title

Resolution supporting the City's application to Iowa Economic Development Authority (IDEA) for Community Development Block Grant-Covid (CDBG-CV) funds to support operating expenses to New Visions Homeless Services (NVHS) and MICAH House, and that the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to submit an application to IEDA for CDBG-CV grant funding and execute any related contracts with IEDA upon award.

Background/Discussion

IDEA is accepting applications CDBG-CV grant funding from cities in partnership with a limited number of emergency shelters throughout the state. IDEA identified two shelters within Pottawattamie County which include NVHS and MICAH House for the following:

Program	Amount of Funds	Activity Delivery Cost Per Unit or Individual Activity	National objective
1. MICAH House	$125,000	Operating Costs	LMC – Low/Mod Limited Clientele Benefit
2. New Visions Homeless Services	$300,000	Operating Costs	LMC – Low/Mod Limited Clientele Benefit
Total amount	$425,000		

In addition to the $425,000 the City can apply for $1,500 per shelter ($3,000) for activity delivery/administration fees.

Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) has heard from many emergency shelters serving homeless about the financial strain they are experiencing while operating. The identified CDBG-CV funding source does require a city to act as the applicant for the funds through a streamlined application process. If the city's application is approved by IEDA, the city will enter into a contract with IEDA to receive the CDBG-CV grant funding, and in turn, the city will enter into a subrecipient agreement with your nonprofit agency to provide the grant funding for emergency shelter operations. Maximum grant awards have been pre-determined by IEDA | IFA and will be communicated to the city and your agency directly. Eligible uses of the funding will be emergency shelter operating expenses, including costs for staffing, utilities, maintenance, and insurance. Contracts will have an expiration date of May 31, 2026, and monthly draw submissions for eligible expenses on a cost reimbursement basis will be required to be submitted through the city. CDBG-CV funding will be used for individuals, families, men and women experiencing homelessness. Activities will assist NVHS and MICAH house with operating expenses of the facilities to assist homeless persons defined as low- and moderate-income persons. Activities may include relocation, plans to minimize any displacement of persons as a result of the funded activity, and plans to assist persons actually displaced if that were to occur. Community Development and Housing Needs of low to moderate persons in the City and any other planned or potential activities to address these needs.

The City is asking for public input on Community Development and Housing Needs of low to moderate persons and activities to address these needs. All members of the community are encouraged to attend and provide feedback. The need for this CDBG-CV project comes from individuals, families, men and women experiencing homelessness. The project and activities will assist NVHS (1325 N. 15th Street) and MICAH House (1415 Ave J) with operating expenses of the facilities to assist homeless persons defined as low- and moderate-income persons. The amount of assistance is $300,000 to NVHS that anticipates to assist 800 men and $125,000 to MICAH House that anticipates to assist 700 families and women. The project does not include relocation that, or displacement of persons.

It shall be the policy of the City to take affirmative steps to ensure that a duplication of benefit does not occur in the administration of its CDBG-CV funding. Subrecipients and partners responsible for implementing projects and activities funded under the City's CDBG-CV grants shall be required to adhere to the policy and procedures outlined in this document and must ensure that DOB prevention is specifically addressed in their policies and procedures. The Duplication of Benefits policy can be found in the City's CDBG-CV Guidelines.

Staff believes the City of Council Bluffs should apply for the CDBG-CV founds as it will be beneficial to New Visions Homeless Services and MICAH House and that it would be in the best interest of the City to allocate CDBG-CV funds as outlined above.

Staff Recommendation

The Community Development Department recommends approval of resolution supporting the City's application to IDEA for CDBG-CV funds to support operating expenses to New Visions Homeless Services and MICAH House; and that the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to submit an application to IEDA for CDBG-CV grant funding and execute any related contracts with IEDA upon award.

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Attachments
Notice of Public Hearing Resolution Application