Council Communication
November 22, 2021

Department:	Resolution No. 21-N/A	Public Hearing: 11-22-2021
Community Development		

Subject/Title

Status of funded activities for the City of Council Bluffs Community Development Block Grant COVID-19 Assistance Programs

Background/Discussion

In 2020, the City of Council Bluffs was awarded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to assist in the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. A total of $1,509,076 was awarded through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as part of the City's entitlement grant and Iowa Economic Development Authority to prevent, prepare and respond to ensure sustainability during the nationwide pandemic. Funds were allocated to the City of Council Bluffs as follows:

CDBG Entitlement grant	$580,840
CDBG Entitlement grant (2)	366,447
CDBG IEDA	561,789
TOTAL	$1,509,076

Funds were allocated to the following activities to meet the greatest need for Council Bluffs:

1. Extension of the BLink Community-Wide WiFi to the Longfellow and Rue Elementary areas to assist in broadband access during school closures and quarantines.
2. Food Security to provide pantry and meals for families impacted by COVID-19.
3. Business Assistance Grants to local businesses that were financially impacted by COVID-19.
4. Direct Financial Assistance to households that had a loss of income directly attributed to COVID-19.
5. Administration of the program by City staff.

To date, the City has committed $915,269.23 and spent $661,193.21. This amount includes $399,654.21 in entitlement grant fund and $261,539.00 in IEDA funds.

The City has six (6) years to spend its entitlement allocation. Funds from IEDA must be spent within three (3) years. Requests for assistance have significantly declined in the last four months. In the coming year, Staff shall evaluate the allocations and determine if funds need reprogrammed to properly respond to the pandemic and the needs of residents.

Attachments

Funding summary

Community Development Block Grant COVID-19 Assistance Programs

Funding

CDBG-CV Entitlement	$580,840
CDBG-CV Entitlement 2	366,447
CDBG-CV IEDA	561,789
TOTAL	**$1,509,076**

Administration – 20% of CV Entitlement Grants **$214,200.00**

BLink Extension - $200,000 programmed
Design of BLink network in Longfellow and Rue Elementary areas **$200,000.00**

Food Security - $400,000 programmed
New Visions Homeless Services Pantry and Meal Site **$150,000.00**
Together, Inc Food Pantry **$150,000.00**

Business Assistance - $319,906.00 programmed

- Received 41 inquiries and 36 applications
- Funded 23 applications
- Average amount of assistance $9,6100 **$201,069.23**

Direct Financial Assistance - $400,000 programmed

- Received over 700 inquiries 65 applications
- Assisted 54 households since July 1, 2020 **$120,356.09**
  Average amount of assistance: $2,314.54/ household

Total Committed to Date **$915,269.23**

Remaining Available **$593,806.77**

*The City has 6 years to spend CDBG-CV dollars.