Council Communication

Department: Community Development	Resolution No.: 22 -	City Council: July 11, 2022

Subject/Title

Resolution approving the allocation of $150,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the Pottawattamie County Housing Trust Fund.

Background/Discussion

Formed in 2011, the Pottawattamie County Housing Trust Fund (HTF) is a local nonprofit organization that allocates State of Iowa Housing Trust Fund dollars to other local nonprofits that focus on housing-related needs in the community. Currently receiving $280,000 per year, the HTF makes the most of a small amount of funding. Over the course of 10 years, the HTF has granted over $1.6 million within the community and impacted 848 households.

In April, the HTF met with the Mayor's Office to discuss a request to receive American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to support the organization's efforts within the city limits of Council Bluffs. The request outlined the HTF's goal to continue efforts supporting low- and moderate-income (LMI) households in Council Bluffs through its programs including housing rehabilitation, down payment assistance and rental/ utility assistance. Organizations funded through the HTF including Habitat for Humanity, the 712 Initiative, Heartland Family Service, Interfaith Response and Connections Area on Aging, Family Housing Advisory Services, and the Municipal Housing Authority.

The HTF has requested $150,000 of ARPA funds over a three-year period ($50,000/year) to support its continued mission of assisting LMI households. Funds will be used to match the grant received from the Iowa Finance Authority. Funds will be granted to local nonprofits in accordance with the HTF Housing Assistance Plan (HAP).

If funded, the HTF commits to the following requirements:

1. Shall only allocate funds within the city limits of Council Bluffs
2. Shall meet all reporting requirements as outlined by the City
3. Shall ensure funding provided will be in addition to what is typically funded within the city limits of Council Bluffs. Example: if currently funding is 65% in city limits with IFA dollars, the HTF will commit to keeping the 65% in Council Bluffs city limits and adding the additional amount provided to maximize the benefit to Council Bluffs residents

The HTF currently utilizes the services of MAPA to administer its grant program. This contract will remain in place to ensure all reporting requirements are met. All households assisted are income qualified to ensure recipients are at or below 80% of the median family income. Priority Projects and funding amounts allowed are outlined in the HAP.