

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

99-265

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

JUNE 7, 1999

City Council approval of a contract with The Downtown Partnership, Inc. for \$25,000 of 1999 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to operate the Neighborhood Support Services project for the period from July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000.

SUBJECT:

NEIGHBORHOOD
SUPPORT SERVICES
CONTRACT

FISCAL IMPACT -

Allocates \$25,000 of federal CDBG funds set aside for this purpose.

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval.

SUBMITTED BY:

JAMES GRANT
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR

BACKGROUND -

At the Public Hearing on November 2, 1998, the City Council approved the 1999 Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Consolidated Plan including a \$25,000 set-aside for a Neighborhood Support Services project. The Council also directed the Neighborhood Revitalization Board (NRB) to issue a request for proposal (RFP) to use these funds to provide assistance to neighborhood organizations throughout the city.

The RFP was issued on March 23, 1999, with a due date of April 23, 1999. The RFP was mailed to 50 neighborhood associations and public/private organizations. Basic services to be provided included: production and mailing of quarterly newsletters and flyers for up to 30 neighborhood associations located in the city's low- and moderate-income areas and access to computers, copiers, and other office equipment.

There were three proposals received - one from The Downtown Partnership in association with Des Moines Neighbors, Inc. and two from the Greater East Side Development, Inc. (one is for \$25,000 to provide basic services and the other is for \$35,000 of CDBG funds for expanded services).

The NRB received copies of the proposals on May 5, 1999. The Board met to hear presentations from the applicants at their meeting on May 19, 1999, and approved a motion to recommend that the City Council approve a contract with The Downtown Partnership as Operating Agency and Fiscal Agent and Des Moines Neighbors as Program Coordinator of the Neighborhood Support Services project.

The NRB based their recommendation on the following:

- Besides offering the basic services to all recognized neighborhoods throughout the city, the project proposes to provide additional services including: a web site, an Ad Hoc Committee on Technical Assistance, professional assistance with financial issues/problems, a communication exchange center, and a Neighborhood Resource Center with extended hours.
- The formal commitment and expertise of collaborators who include The Downtown Partnership, Des Moines Neighbors, Commercial Federal Bank, and the Iowa University School of Social Work. They also have informal commitments from Iowa State University and United Way, and will seek collaboration with Drake University.
- The proposal includes \$20,000 of additional funding from the collaborators which will allow the project to provide some level of service to all recognized neighborhood associations whether they are located in low to moderate areas or not.

Based on staff review and the NRB recommendation, staff recommends that the City Council approve the contract for \$25,000 of 1999 CDBG funds with The Downtown Partnership to operate the Neighborhood Support Services project for the period from July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000.

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