

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

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

00-041

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:
FEBRUARY 7, 2000

The Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) has approved the transfer of remaining State ESG funds (\$7,575) from Our Community Kitchen to the Beacon of Life-Food Enterprises Project.

SUBJECT:

TRANSFER OF
STATE ESG FUNDS
FROM OUR
COMMUNITY
KITCHEN TO
BEACON OF LIFE-
FOOD ENTERPRISE
PROJECT.

FISCAL IMPACT -

There is no fiscal impact to the City. Our Community Kitchen and Beacon of Life are currently sub-recipients within the existing State ESG contract. This action moves \$7,575 from one sub-recipient to another within that contract.

TYPE:

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval.

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

BACKGROUND -

SUBMITTED BY:

JAMES GRANT,
DIRECTOR,
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

The program known as Our Community Kitchen (OCK) prepared and served free hot meals Monday through Friday at several sites around the City for the past 18 years. The program suspended operations on December 24, 1999.

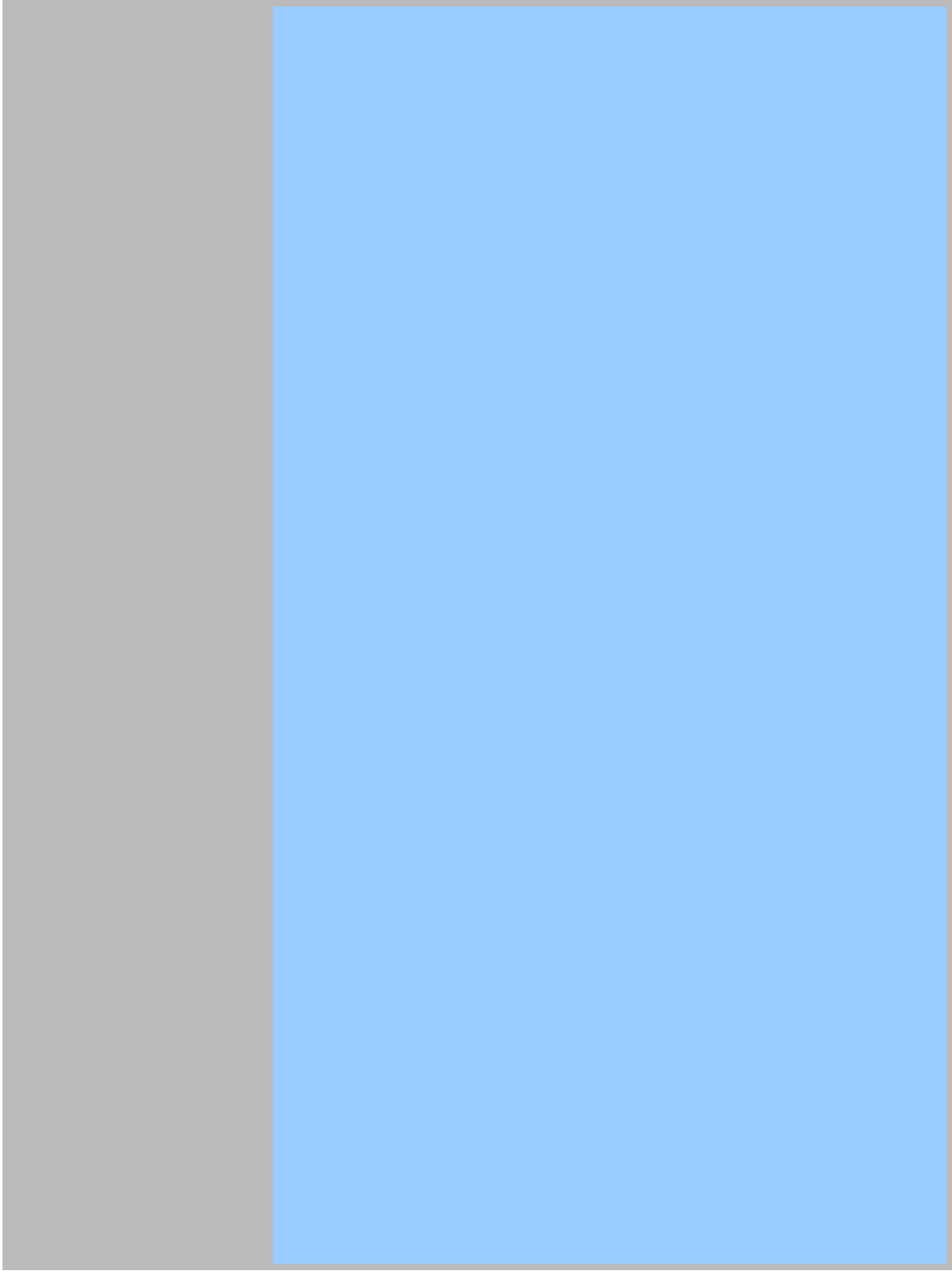
A collaboration of six agencies including Beacon of Life, Door of Faith, Churches United, Catholic Charities, Iowa Homeless Youth Centers, and Children and Families of Iowa have developed and launched a new food program known as Food Enterprises. This New Program is now providing hot meals at four sites around the city formerly served by OCK. These sites include the Southeast Community Center, Lighthouse Baptist Church, Polk County Senior Center, and the YWCA Community Center. Food Enterprises plans to expand upon the service previously provided by OCK to include serving meals

seven days a week at up to seven sites; a food recovery program which will reduce food costs, and a culinary arts training program for homeless persons.

Qualified candidates will, upon completion of the 12-week course, receive a certificate and a job commitment. The Food Enterprises program has developed partnerships with the YWCA-Des Moines Register Learning Center, Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC), Iowa Hospitality Association and the Food Bank of Iowa.

In addition, the collaboration of agencies has developed a business plan for Food Enterprises that will make the program self sufficient by the fifth year of operation and eliminate the need for public funding. The plan includes partnering with a local caterer to increase their business and generate additional income that will be used to support all aspects of the Food Enterprises program.

In the interim, Food Enterprises is using the kitchen facility at Churches United to prepare the food for the hot meal program. The program intends to secure more permanent arrangements in the next 30 to 60 days. The Food Enterprises program is modeled after successful programs in Boston and Washington D.C.



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