

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

03-256

AGENDA:

JUNE 9, 2003

SUBJECT:

REGGIE'S PLACE
PROGRAM
PROJECT

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:

MIKE E. MATTHES
ACTING HOUSING
SERVICES
DIRECTOR

ITEM _____

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

SYNOPSIS —

Approval of Reggie's Place Program Project with Iowa Homeless Youth Centers for downtown youth services for the period June 1 to December 31, 2003.

FISCAL IMPACT —

\$40,000 was set aside to fund this activity out of the Program Year (PY) 2003 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to the City as directed by the City Council approved 2003 Action Plan of the Five-Year HUD Consolidated Plan.

RECOMMENDATION —

Approval.

BACKGROUND —

At the public hearing to approve the 2003 HUD Consolidated Plan on November 4, 2002, the City Manager recommended and the City Council approved setting aside \$40,000 in CDBG funds for a program to address the needs of homeless youth who congregate in the downtown area. Staff was directed to study the issue and prepare a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for a program to address this problem.

On April 16, 2003, the Neighborhood Revitalization Board (NRB) reviewed and recommended approval of the NOFA for a Downtown Youth Services Program. The NOFA was approved by City Council on April 21, 2003, by Roll Call No. 03-902. The NOFA was forwarded to operating agencies and interested parties on April 23, 2003 with an application deadline of May 21, 2003.

Iowa Homeless Youth Centers (IHYC) submitted the only proposal. The agency is proposing to establish the Reggie's Place Project in street level space of the parking garage located at 701 Grand Avenue. A review team made up of Police, City Manager, and Community Investment Administration representatives met on May 27, 2003 to review the proposal.

The review team had several questions and comments regarding the hours of operation, equipment, and coordination with a special police unit which will be assigned to youth problems and issues in the downtown area.

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Community Investment Administration staff met with IHYC staff on May 28, 2003 to discuss the review team's comments and questions. IHYC will coordinate efforts with the Police Department's Helping Adolescents Who Need Direction Squad (H.A.N.D.S.) to address youth issues. In addition, IHYC will collaborate with Creative Visions to survey the youth population frequenting the downtown area.

IHYC will provide daytime activities Monday through Friday (3-6 p.m.), such as access to computers, job seeking, and life skills training, mentoring, counseling, education, and support groups. IHYC will provide a nighttime coffee shop Thursday through Saturday (8 p.m. - 2 a.m.) to serve as a safe location for young people frequenting the downtown area. By working in conjunction with the IHYC Street Outreach Program and through collaborators such as Polk County Victim Services, YWCA, and the Young Women's Resource Center, such services as information referral, shelter referral, food, counseling, group sessions, violence prevention, victim services, and family intervention and reunification will be provided. Additionally, IHYC will operate their Mobile Outreach to Homeless/Runaway Youth (MOHRY) van six evenings per week (Tuesday - Thursday, 6:30 - 11:30 p.m.; Friday - Saturday, 6:30 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.; and Sunday, 6:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.). Staff recommends approval of the proposal.

At their meeting of June 4, 2003, the NRB reviewed and recommended approval of the Reggie's Place Program project.

