CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:

03-287

AGENDA:

JUNE 23, 2003

SUBJECT:

AUTHORIZE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM GRANT

TYPE:

RESOLUTION

ORDINANCE RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:

JAMES M. GRANT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

ITEM

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA

SYNOPSIS —

This action would authorize the City Manager to execute the Affordable Housing Grant Agreement between the City of Des Moines and the Polk County Housing Trust Fund (PCHTF). This grant provides matching funds for the Minor Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program.

FISCAL IMPACT —

The City of Des Moines has been awarded \$250,000 for the Minor Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program. The funds will be used for "bricks and mortar" while the City will continue to fund staff costs and overhead through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. These funds will be disbursed with CDBG funds on a dollar per dollar basis.

RECOMMENDATION —

Approval.

BACKGROUND —

In March 2003 the City applied for an Affordable Housing Program (AHP) Grant from the PCHTF in the amount of \$250,000 to be used in conjunction with funds allocated for the Minor Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program administered by the Neighborhood Conservation Services (NCS) Division of the Community Development Department. In May 2003, the City of Des Moines was awarded \$250,000 in the form of a grant for this purpose.

The 2003 application focused PCHTF funds on the Minor CDBG Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program. Approximately 85 households in emergency situations will be able to access these funds to repair a dangerous furnace or water heater, to fix a leaking roof, to repair a water line, or to repair hazardous wiring or plumbing. The maximum assistance per household is \$6,500. Half of this assistance will consist of PCHTF and the other half will be CDBG funds.

Due to critical reductions of CDBG funds allocated to this program, these funds are critical to the continuation of the Minor Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program. Because the PCHTF is in Des Moines, the program is very easy to administer, and staff is readily available to answer questions.