



# Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

<b>Date</b>	October 12, 2009
<b>Agenda Item No.</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Roll Call No.</b>	<b>09-</b>
<b>Communication No.</b>	<b>09-702</b>
<b>Submitted by: Larry Hulse, Director Community Development</b>	

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Approving initial LIHEAP (Low Income Energy Assistance Program) contract with the Iowa Department of Human Rights/Division of Community Action Agencies for energy-related assistance for low-income persons from October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010.

**SYNOPSIS:**

Recommend City Council approval of initial LIHEAP (Low Income Energy Assistance Program) contract with the Iowa Department of Human Rights/Division of Community Action Agencies for energy-related assistance for low-income persons from October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Amount: \$106,857

Funding Source: Iowa Department of Human Rights/ Division of Community Action Agencies

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The LIHEAP contract is administered by the Community Development Department, Community Services Division.

LIHEAP is funded by the Department of Health and Human Services through the Iowa Department of Human Rights/DCAA, and has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs. Applications in Des Moines are taken at the City of Des Moines' Community Services site offices November 1, 2009 through April 30, 2010. Households with elderly or disabled members and households with a heating crisis (facing disconnection of utility services or non-functioning furnace) may apply now. Applicants will need to furnish some form of identification, a copy of their most recent heating and electric bill, telephone bill, and proof of all household members' gross income for the past three months or for the past calendar year.

The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and other factors. During the 2008-2009 program year the average award for the 7,669 approved households was \$600.

In FY09, after six contract amendments, \$5,220,710 was received with 7,669 households assisted. In past years:

FY08	\$ 2,896,691	6438 households assisted
FY07	\$ 2,459,902	6407 households assisted

The Community Services Division operates as the Community Action Agency for the City of Des Moines. It is charged with providing services to the City's low-income families and trying to address and eliminate causes of poverty. The City became a public Community Action Agency (CAA) in 1977.

The origins of Community Action can be found in the signing of the federal Equal Opportunity Act in 1964. There are now 1,000 Community Action Agencies in the U.S. The City of Des Moines is one of eighteen Community Action Agencies that serve Iowa.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: October 12, 2009

Roll Call Number: 08-1762

Action: LIHEAP Contract with the Iowa Department of Human Rights, Division of Community Action Agencies, for energy-related assistance for low-income residents from October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009. (Council Communication No. 08-590) Moved by Coleman to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):**

Date: October 7, 2009

Roll Call Number:

Action: Recommend approving initial LIHEAP (Low Income Energy Assistance Program) contract with the Iowa Department of Human Rights/Division of Community Action Agencies for energy-related assistance for low-income persons from October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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