

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: October 11, 2010
	Agenda Item No. 19 Roll Call No. <u>10-1652</u> Communication No. <u>10-603</u> Submitted by: Douglas C. Romig Housing Services Director

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, 2010 to September 30, 2011.

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, 2010 to September 30, 2011

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$58,062

Funding Source: Iowa Department of Human Rights/ Division of Community Action Agencies, will be deposited to the Fiscal Year 2010-11 Operating Budget, Housing Services Department, LIHEAP, LIHE2010001, SP033, CDD049900, page 73.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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 Community Action Agency site offices November 1, 2010 through April 30, 2011. 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 Social Security cards for all household members, a copy of their most recent heating and electric bill, telephone bill, and proof of all household members' 19 years of age or older 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 2009-2010 program year, the average award for the 8,296 approved households was \$600.

Funding for the start of the 2010/2011 LIHEAP program is in the amount of \$58,062. The initial contract provides start up funding, with contract amendments providing additional funding as it is released by the Department of Health and Human Services. Staff is requesting that the City Manager be authorized to

approve all contract amendments related to the LIHEAP program. In FY10, after seven contract amendments, a total of \$5,437,712 was received with 8,296 households assisted. In past years:

FY09	\$5,220,710	7,669 households assisted
FY08	\$ 2,896,691	6,438 households assisted
FY07	\$ 2,459,902	6,407 households assisted

Housing Services' Des Moines Community Action Agency 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: 09-1852

Action: [Initial](#) LIHEAP (Low-Income Home 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. ([Council Communication No. 09-702](#)) Moved by Mahaffey to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): -Neighborhood Revitalization Board (NRB)

Date: October 6, 2010

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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