

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date:	September 26, 2011
	Agenda Item No.	25
	Roll Call No.	<u>11-1635</u>
	Communication No.	<u>11-626</u>
	Submitted by:	Douglas C. Romig, Housing Services Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving an initial Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) contract with the Iowa Department of Human Rights/Division of Community Action Agencies for energy-related assistance for low-income persons from October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012.

SYNOPSIS:

Approval of an initial LIHEAP contract with the Iowa Department of Human Rights/Division of Community Action Agencies for energy-related assistance for low-income persons from October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$123,407

Funding Source: Iowa Department of Human Rights/ Division of Community Action Agencies, being deposited to Fiscal Year 2011-12 Operating Budget, Housing Services Department, LIHEAP, SP033, CDD049900, LIHE2012001, page 72.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

LIHEAP is funded by the Department of Health and Human Services through the Iowa Department of Human Rights/Division of Community Action Agencies 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 Des Moines Community Action Agency site office November 1, 2011 through April 30, 2012. Households with elderly or disabled members and households with a heating crisis (facing disconnection of utility services or a non-functioning furnace) may apply beginning October 1, 2011. Applicants 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 gross income. The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel and other factors. During the 2010-2011 program year, the average award for the 8,296 approved households was \$600. Funding for the start of the 2011-2012 LIHEAP program is in the amount of \$123,407. 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 the 2010-2011 program year (Fiscal Year 2011), after six contract amendments, a

total of \$ 4,472,434 was received, with 7,207 households assisted. In past fiscal years (FY):

FY10 \$5,437,712	8,294 households assisted
FY09 \$5,220,710	7,669 households assisted
FY08 \$ 2,896,691	6,438 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 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 11, 2010

Roll Call Number: 10-1652

Action: [Initial](#) LIHEAP (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program) Contract with Iowa Department of Human Rights for energy-related assistance for low-income individuals from October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011. ([Council Communication No. 10-603](#)) **Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.**

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Housing Services Board

Date: September 21, 2011

Resolution Number: N/A

Action: Recommend approving an initial Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) 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.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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