

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: March 26, 2012
	Agenda Item No. 27 Roll Call No. [_____] Communication No. <u>12-135</u> Submitted by: Douglas C. Romig, Housing Services Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving Des Moines Community Action Agency’s (DMCAA) Emergency Services Grant (ESG) contract with the Iowa Finance Authority.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approving acceptance of the award of the Des Moines Community Action Agency’s (DMCAA) Emergency Services Grant (ESG) with the Iowa Finance Authority in the amount of \$12,000.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$12,000

Funding Source: Emergency Services Grant (ESG) through the Iowa Finance Authority deposited to the FY12 Operating Budget, Emergency Services Grant – SP039, CDD049900, SESG2012001.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Des Moines Community Action Agency has been awarded a \$12,000 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) by the Iowa Finance Authority. The Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), part of the HEARTH Act of 2009 (Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing), is a federal grant program designed to assist individuals and families quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis. ESG provides essential services to those households facing the real possibility of homelessness or currently experiencing homelessness.

Direct Housing Financial Assistance will be implemented Short Term (0-3 months) and will be available in one or several of the following ways: eligible rent arrearages, current rent, late fees, security deposit, first and/or last month’s rent, utility assistance and deposits, and moving costs. Assistance will be awarded according to household eligibility, composition, and unique circumstance. Case Management and Advocacy will be completed through individualized case management assessments, sessions, and appointments. Caseworkers will assess each situation to determine eligibility according to HUD ESG standards (24 CFR 576.4) and work with the households on a short-term (0-3 month) basis, or while receiving Direct Housing Financial Assistance.

Des Moines Community Action Agency’s (DMCAA) initial involvement in ESG will be limited to \$12,000 in funds for direct client services. In accordance with HUD regulations (24 CFR Part

576.201), a matching component required of DMCAA and has been determined from various sources within the current DMCAA budget, including staff salaries and office resources.

In an effort to promote stability for the household, caseworkers will meet with applicants to develop an individual plan to help navigate pertinent resources and determine a course of action for the family. Additionally, approved households will be required to enroll in DMCAA's Financial Foundations educational course. These Financial Foundations classes provide an overview of budgets, importance of savings, savings techniques, goal setting strategies and credit report basics. Coupling direct financial assistance with individualized case management services and education will help create personal responsibility and accountability for the family, leading toward long-term stability.

Originating with Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) - piloted in Iowa by the 17 Community Action Programs across the state - ESG is the refinement of this vital program needed to help promote strong communities through stable housing. As an outreach of CAPs (Community Action Programs), ESG is critical to continue the war on poverty by addressing and offering solutions to housing crisis issues.

DMCAA will engage in the Eligible Activities allowed through the HUD ESG Grant Guidelines (Eligible Activities 42 U.S.C. 11374 (a)) and will focus on preventing homelessness and establishing suitable housing for households that are currently homeless as defined by HUD (Definition 24 CFR 576.3). Homeless households are those with no permanent night-time legal residence, while near homeless households are facing eviction or imminent loss of housing. Eligible Activities DMCAA will participate in will include Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing. These essential services will be conducted through: Direct Housing Financial Assistance, Case Management and Advocacy, and Housing Habitability Standard Inspections.

Housing Habitability Standard Inspections will be completed through DMCAA and in accordance with HUD regulations (CFR Part 982.507 and CFR 576.403) and comply with Fair Market Rent values and Rent Reasonableness limitations. An emphasis will be placed on lead based paint identification and poisoning prevention for households with children under 5 years of age (Lead Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act 42 U.S.C 4821-4846).

Due to limited funding, DMCAA will be working to establish partnerships to effectively accept referrals of those households most vulnerable and help all eligible clients navigate resources, regardless of direct financial assistance.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Housing Services Board

Date: February 15, 2012

Resolution Number: N/A

Action: Received and filed.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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