

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date:	November 5, 2012
	Agenda Item No.	25
	Roll Call No.	<u>12-1706</u>
	Communication No.	<u>12-567</u>
	Submitted by:	Phillip Delafield, Community Development Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of 2011 Phase II and 2012 Phase II Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding to Polk County General Assistance.

SYNOPSIS:

The Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program is designed to assist people to quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness. In 2011 and 2012, the City received additional funding from HUD through the ESG program for programs to include Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Assistance. It is recommended that Polk County General Assistance receive the 2011 Phase II and 2012 Phase II funding.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$242,495

Funding Source: 2012-2013 Operating Budget, Community Development Department, Special Revenue Fund, SPO39, Page 57

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

On October 11, 2012, the City requested applications from agencies seeking to provide homeless assistance services through the ESG program. The eligible programs were for Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Assistance and eligible applicants were nonprofits and governmental agencies. The total funding available was \$242,495 and applications were due on October 25, 2012.

The City received applications from the following agencies:

- Beacon of Life
- Children and Families of Iowa (CFI)
- City of Des Moines Community Action Agency
- Polk County General Assistance
- Proteus

On October 29, 2012, a review committee comprised of representatives from nonprofit agencies that provide homeless outreach, the Neighborhood Revitalization Board (NRB), and City staff reviewed the five (5) proposals and recommended funding the proposal from Polk County General Assistance.

Polk County General Assistance will use these funds to help individuals/families in emergency or crisis situations remain in their homes. These funds would be available for those who qualify and who don't meet General Assistance eligibility criteria. Assistance will include: current and past due rent, security deposits, rental application fees and current and past utilities.

Under their program, participants will be eligible for a maximum of \$2,500 per household. The Director of General Assistance would have the ability to make exceptions above \$2,500 based on the needs of the household. Not all individuals/ families would receive the maximum amount as the amount of assistance would be based what is needed to stabilize the household.

Case management services would be provided during the period of assistance under this grant. Services would include assessments, reassessments and budgeting. An important aspect of case management would be helping participants connect with other community resources.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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