

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: September 23, 2013
	Agenda Item No. 24 Roll Call No. <u>13-1486</u> Communication No. <u>13-491</u> Submitted by: Douglas C. Romig, Housing Services Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving 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, 2013 to September 30, 2014.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend City Council approval of 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, 2013 to September 30, 2014.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$147,494

Funding Source: Iowa Department of Human Rights/ Division of Community Action Agencies, Fiscal Year 2012-13 Operating Budget, Housing Services Department, LIHEAP, LIHE2013001, SP033, CDD049900, page

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 Des Moines Community Action Agency site office November 1, 2013 through April 30, 2014. Households with elderly or disabled members and households with a heating crisis (facing disconnection of utility services or non-functioning furnace) may apply beginning October 1, 2013.

Automatically eligible applicants received letters in August to begin their application process. Applicants will need to furnish social security cards for all household members, a copy of their most recent heating and electric 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 2012-2013 program years the average award for the 6,546 approved households was \$442. Funding for the start of the 2013/2014 LIHEAP program is in the amount of \$147,494. 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 FY13, after three (3) contract amendments, a total of \$ 3,405,360 was received with 6,743 households assisted. In past years:

FY12 \$3,665,661 - 6,742 households assisted

FY11 \$4,472,464 - 7,207 households assisted

FY10 \$5,437,712 - 8,294 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 18 Community Action Agencies that serve Iowa.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: September 24, 2012

Roll Call Number: [12-1502](#)

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, 2012 to September 30, 2013. ([Council Communication No. 12-499](#)) Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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