

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: September 22, 2014
	Agenda Item No. 29 Roll Call No. <u>14-1473</u> Communication No. <u>14-452</u> Submitted by: Douglas C. Romig, Housing Services Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving initial Low Income Home 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, 2014 to September 30, 2015.

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, 2014 to September 30, 2015.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$134,704

Funding Source: Iowa Department of Human Rights/Division of Community Action Agencies, Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-2016, Recommended Operating Budget, Housing Services Department, LIHEAP, S033LIHOO115, page 120.

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, 2014 through April 30, 2015. A priority application period begins October 1, 2014 for households with elderly or disabled members and households with a heating crisis (facing disconnection of utility services or a nonfunctioning furnace). Automatically eligible applicants received letters in August to begin their application process. Applicants will need to furnish a copy of their most recent heating and electric bill, proof of gross income, and social security numbers for all household members. If approved for the LIHEAP program, the amount of assistance received is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and other factors. During the 2013-2014 program year, the average award for the 6,992 approved households was \$400.

Staff is requesting that the City Manager be authorized to approve all contract amendments related to the LIHEAP program. 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.

In FY14, after four (4) contract amendments, a total of \$3,440,984 was received with 6,992 households assisted. In past years:

FY13: \$3,405,360-	6,546 households assisted
FY12: \$3,665,661-	6,742 households assisted
FY11: \$4,472,464-	7,207 households assisted
FY10: \$5,437,712-	8,294 households assisted

The 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 (1) of 18 Community Action Agencies that serve Iowa.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: September 23, 2013

Roll Call Number: [13-1486](#)

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, 2013 to September 30, 2014. ([Council Communication No. 13-491](#)) Moved by Meyer to adopt. Motion Carried 6-1.

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):

Board: Housing Services Board

Date: September 17, 2014

Resolution Number: N/A

Action: Recommending approval of the initial Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) contract with the Iowa Department of Human Rights/Division of Community Action Agencies from October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

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