

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date: November 3, 2014
	Agenda Item No. 26 Roll Call No. [_____] Communication No. <u>14-526</u> Submitted by: Douglas C. Romig, Housing Services Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving Memorandum of Agreement between Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) and Des Moines Community Action Agency (DMCAA), City of Des Moines.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend Council approval of the Memorandum of Agreement between DMARC and the City of Des Moines Community Action Agency. DMCAA has partnered with DMARC for over 14 years by serving as one of the pantries in the Food Pantry Network.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$35,000 in staffing cost to manage the food pantry.

Funding Source: CSBG through the Iowa Department of Human Rights/Division of Community Action Agencies; deposited to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Operating Budget, S027CSB00114, page 120.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

DMARC established the Food Pantry Network in 1976. The Food Pantry Network provides people with emergency food assistance at time of urgent need. Program goals are to ensure access to affordable, nutritious food, while relieving food insecurity and hunger for the most vulnerable segments of the community including: children and youth, single parent families, seniors, and persons with disabilities living in low-income. Households can receive food once each 30 days, which consists of a free four (4) day supply of nutritionally balanced food. With 12 pantry sites in Ankeny, Des Moines, Johnston, Urbandale, and West Des Moines, the DMARC Food Pantry Network is the largest emergency food pantry system in Iowa. Volunteers are essential in supporting all pantries in the Food Pantry Network. In 2013, the Food Pantry Network of 13 pantries assisted over 34,000 individuals, 16,000 of which were children and youth. Food insecurity is significant in the community. Nearly 390,000 Iowans do not have enough food. One (1) in five (5) children (20%) in Polk County experiences food insecurity.

Community Service Block Grant Funds (CSBG) provide for the staffing of the pantry and DMARC provides the food. DMCAA Pantry offers extended hours to the community on Tuesdays and Thursdays to accommodate working families. In May of 2013, DMCAA became a Choice Food Pantry allowing residents to choose from nutritious food groups based on household size.

In 2013, DMARC estimated that DMCAA received an estimated \$77,000 dollars in non-perishable food items, bread, and seasonal produce. These purchases were made at wholesale cost, which is a significant cost savings. This equates to 61, 276 food items that were distributed to the community from DMCAA pantry. In 2013, DMCAA assisted 3,494 individuals. In 2012, DMCAA served 3, 227 individuals with emergency food assistance.

This Memorandum of Agreement sets forth that DMCAA seeks to become a DMARC Food Pantry Site and that DMARC seeks to provide food and other support to the DMCAA Food Pantry Site consistent with its operational guidelines and requirements for pantry sites participating in the DMARC Food Pantry Network.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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