

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	21-225	Meeting:	May 24, 2021
	Agenda Item:	32	Roll Call:	21-0784
	Submitted by:	Chris Johansen, Neighborhood Services Department Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Resolution approving Memorandum of Understanding between the City and Invest DSM, Inc. for administration of the City's Neighborhood Matching Grant Fund Program.

SYNOPSIS:

Invest DSM has a Neighborhood Block Challenge Grant Program for its four (4) Special Investment Districts. Because the program has been so successful, the City would like to model the Block Challenge Program, which provides matching grant funds to exterior home improvement projects, and expand the service area to include the entire City rather than only the four (4) Special Investment Districts. City staff will work with Invest DSM staff to learn how the program should work and maintain consistency between the two (2) entities' processes as much as possible.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$200,000

Funding Source: Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Operating Budget, Finance Department, Local Option Sales and Services Tax (LOSST), Neighborhood Improvements Expenditures, Neighborhood Matching Grant.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The program will serve between 100 and 150 program participants, or between 10 and 30 teams. The City will provide up to a 50% matching grant of up to \$2,500 per project depending on team size and location within the City.
- The City's application period will begin July 1, 2021. The application period for 2021 will end September 30, 2021. In future years, the City will accept applications April through August.
- The Neighborhood Services Department in coordination with the Public Information Office will be marketing the program. Efforts will include an article in the quarterly newsletter, City Source, yard signs, and a landing page on the dsm.city web site. Flyers or direct mailings may also be used if deemed necessary.

- Under the adopted FY21 Operating Budget, \$200,000 for the Neighborhood Matching Grant was approved and is the amount under the agreement with Invest DSM. An additional \$100,000 for the Neighborhood Matching Grant was approved under the adopted FY22 Operating Budget; however, the FY22 funding of \$100,000 is not included in the agreement with Invest DSM.
- Of the \$200,000 with the agreement with Invest DSM, \$29,250 will be reserved for Invest DSM staff time to train City staff and coordinate the application processes such as project review, design recommendations, and approval.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: August 19, 2019

Roll Call Number: [19-1346](#)

Action: [Intergovernmental](#) 28E Agreement between the City of Des Moines, Polk County and Invest DSM, Inc. ([Council Communication No. 19-376](#)) Moved by Boesen to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: June 24, 2019

Roll Call Number: [19-1048](#)

Action: [Creation](#) of Invest DSM, Inc., receiving Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws and appointing board members. ([Council Communication No. 19-297](#)) Moved by Boesen to adopt; refer to the City Manager to develop an information sheet regarding this program and other similar programs offered, periodically report to the Council on progress and benchmarks, to designate co-chairs from the City and from Polk County and each year to rotate through the Ward Council Members as alternates. The City Manager to provide input on how the City can publicly recognize Polk County for their support of the program. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Cownie.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

This agreement is through April 30, 2022. The City and Invest DSM will reevaluate their partnership in 2022 and will make a joint decision if they should renew this agreement. If they do, there will be a Council action in spring 2022 for renewal.

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