


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	21-287	Meeting:	June 28, 2021
	Agenda Item:	28	Roll Call:	21-0976
	Submitted by:	Chris Johansen, Neighborhood Services Department Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approve and execute amended Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) agreement with Youth and Shelter Services, Inc (YSS) doing business as Iowa Homeless Youth Centers (IHYC) for an additional \$100,000 for the Rooftop Gardens facility.

SYNOPSIS:

IHYC has acquired 2705 E. Euclid Avenue with the purpose of developing Rooftop Gardens, a new job-training facility for homeless youth. IHYC utilized \$150,000 of CDBG funds in May 2020 to assist with acquisition costs, and the organization is requesting additional funding to help with infrastructure improvements.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$100,000

Funding Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- In early 2020, when the proposed project was first submitted to City staff, the total development costs were estimated to be \$1.9 million. Since then, the estimated costs increased to more than \$3 million. IHYC was able to value engineer the estimated costs down to \$2.5 million, but there is still a gap between the initial and current development estimates.
- IHYC's Rooftop Gardens works to break the cycle of poverty and increase income for transition age homeless youth by providing a guided work experience program. Youth served at IHYC need a greater level of support around soft-skills training and workforce training to help them secure permanent employment and obtain a livable wage job. Most youth in its programs do not have a résumé or have not held a full-time job.
- Between 12 and 16 young residents, ages 16 to 24 years old, will graduate from this program each year. During the training, they will help operate a year-round rooftop hydroponic farm with guidance from IHYC staff, providing them with job skills, access to healthy (locally grown) foods, nutrition education, and community engagement. While in the program they will receive a financial stipend of \$12 per hour for 30 hours each week.

- There are several community partners. IHYC has partnered with Hy-Vee, who has agreed to purchase the produce grown at Rooftop Gardens at a set price.
- CDBG funds will be used primarily for land acquisition. The acquisition cost is \$125,000. The appraisal for the land is \$148,000.
- The Developer will be Rochon Corporation of Iowa, which is based in Urbandale, Iowa.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: May 18, 2020

Roll Call Number: [20-0827](#)

Action: [Community](#) Development Block Grant (CDBG) agreement with Youth and Shelter Services (YSS), doing business as Iowa Homeless Youth Centers (IHYC), for acquisition of 2705 E. Euclid Avenue. ([Council Communication No. 20-227](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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