


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	22-403	Meeting:	September 12, 2022
	Agenda Item:	49	Roll Call:	22-1429
	Submitted by:	Chris Johansen, Neighborhood Services Department Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of \$80,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to provide a new roof and boiler for The Beacon at 1717 Woodland Avenue.

SYNOPSIS:

Beacon of Life, doing business as The Beacon, is a non-profit organization that supports adult women from central Iowa who have experienced trauma and systemic inequity. It is located at 1717 Woodland Avenue in the Sherman Hill Neighborhood. City staff are seeking authority to execute a contract with The Beacon for up to \$80,000 to complete the roof and boiler projects. Once completed and paid, reimbursement will be provided to The Beacon.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$80,000

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Beacon is a Des Moines based non-profit organization that provides a community living environment for women in crisis. It supports up to 34 adult women at a time from central Iowa who have experienced trauma and systemic inequity.
- The building was built in 1966, purchased by The Beacon in 1996, and remodeled in 2002. It contains nine (9) housing units along with offices and community spaces.
- A new rubber roof and boiler are necessary for continued operation. Professionals have provided cost estimates for both updates. The Beacon will attempt to obtain three (3) bids from contractors to ensure fair and competitive bidding.
- Housing and programming are provided for stays ranging from six (6) to 24 months. Support is continued for 12 months after graduation from the housing program. In 2021, 100% of residents had a history of homelessness and 77% had experienced domestic abuse.

- During their time at The Beacon, women participate in individual and group mental health counseling, substance use support groups, healthy relationship courses, case management, social activities, and house meetings. The case manager connects clients with community partners to enhance financial literacy and career development.
- This project qualifies for CDBG funding as a public facility. Within CDBG regulations, funds for public facilities include facilities owned by a non-profit and open to the public or facilities for persons with special needs, such as facilities for people experiencing homelessness or domestic abuse. Funds for rehabilitation of public facilities are separate from operating funds for public services, which have a federal cap of 15% of the City's CDBG contract.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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