

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL **DATE: OCTOBER 26, 2009**

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF FUNDING PRIORITIES FOR APPLICATIONS TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT, EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT AND HUMAN SERVICE ENDOWMENT FUND (CDBG/ESG/HSEF) PROGRAMS FOR THE 2010 – 2011 PROGRAM YEAR

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that City Council take the following actions:

- a. Approve the Funding Priorities for activities under the CDBG/ESG/HSEF Programs for the 2010-2011 Program Year as described in this report and
- b. Authorize the release of Request for Proposal (RFP) for the 2010-2011 Program Year.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ADVISORY BODIES

Human Services Commission

On September 9, 2009, the Human Services Commission concurred with the staff recommendation to establish the public/human service needs assessment/program priorities as described in this Agenda Report.

Northwest Commission

On September 24, 2009, the Northwest Commission concurred with the staff recommendation to establish the non-public needs assessment/program priorities as described in this Agenda Report.

BACKGROUND:

Needs Assessments and Program Priorities for July 1, 2010- June 30, 2011

Prior to the release of the Request for Proposal (RFP) to solicit applications for funding for the 2010-2011 program year under the Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Shelter Grant and Human Services Endowment Fund (CDBG/ESG/HSEF),

City staff in cooperation with the Human Services Commission and the Northwest Commission conducted a needs assessment to identify unmet needs and service gaps for the purpose of determining funding priorities. The needs assessment process included outreach efforts to secure community input, public meetings to receive public comment (May 28 at Jackie Robinson Center and June 16 at Victory Park Center), completion of a public survey process, as well as the review of other data, research, reports and survey findings to identify unmet needs and develop funding priorities. At their meetings of September 9 (Human Services Commission) and September 24 (Northwest Commission) staff reviewed and discussed the findings from the needs assessment process and recommendations for funding priorities with the respective commission. The funding priorities will be included in the instructions for the Request for Proposal application, which is targeted for release on November 3, 2009.

The following priorities for funding are recommended for the 2010-2011 program year for CDBG, ESG and HSEF projects.

PUBLIC/HUMAN SERVICES (Listed in alphabetical order without ranking, and applicable for a two-year funding cycle for 2010-2012)

- **COMMUNITY VIOLENCE AND SAFETY:** Youth violence, violence prevention programs, gang activity and fear for personal safety.
- **EDUCATION:** Academic enrichment (Tutoring, CAHSEE/ SAT prep.) and basic academic skills (literacy, math etc...) cultural enrichment and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes.
- **EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING:** Job training, job survival skills, career development, resume preparation and interviewing skills, youth employment (ages 14-21) and apprenticeship and on the job training programs.
- **FOOD AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS:** Access to food banks, access to affordable, nutritious food and nutrition education (information on obesity, diabetes and staying fit and healthy).
- **HEALTH CARE SERVICES:** Medical care, dental care, vision care, mental health services, preventive care (check-ups, screening tests and immunizations), health information classes and materials, affordable insurance, and getting medication and supplies.
- **HOMELESSNESS:** Homeless prevention and intervention, including housing and support services (i.e. job training, childcare and access to services).
- **SERVICES FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS:** free or reduced cost programs, mentorship programs, recreational activities (sports, access to open space, etc...), educational opportunities (tutoring etc...), enrichment opportunities (arts, music, etc...), and youth participation in government.

NON-PUBLIC SERVICES (Listed in rank order and applicable for a one-year funding cycle for 2010-2011)

- **HOUSING SERVICES INCLUDING FAIR HOUSING (Most Urgent Priority Need)**
Home ownership/buyer assistance programs, home repair/restoration assistance, fair housing services and landlord/tenant issues. Proposals will be encouraged to address housing related activities that complement affordable housing efforts.
- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Second Most Urgent Priority Need)**
Create opportunities for business retention, expansion, education and relocation activities that limit adverse community impacts and generate new employment opportunities for Northwest Pasadena residents.
- **PUBLIC FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS**
Access to public transportation is a priority particularly transportation for the disabled and seniors and associated cost of transportation. (Transportation projects are generally ineligible as CDBG non-public service projects).
- **CODE ENFORCEMENT**
Code enforcement including the associated inspections and correction of deficiencies was deemed a priority. It is anticipated that code enforcement together with public and /or private improvements, are expected to arrest the decline of the area. Many properties in the CDBG Benefit Service Area are blighted, deteriorating and owed by absentee property owners, etc.
- **PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION**
Planning/Administration proposals, which will analyze and develop strategies for future CDBG activities that focus on housing revitalization and economic Development.

Minimum Project Funding Threshold

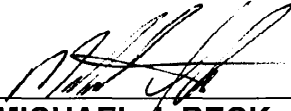
At the October 20, 2009 meeting of the Human Services Commission, the Commission reviewed the advantages and disadvantages of the current \$25,000 minimum funding threshold for projects awarded grants through the Public/ Human Service portion of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) and Human Services Endowment Fund (HSEF) Programs. After considerable discussion reviewing such issues as effectiveness, efficiency and inclusion of a wide range of applicants and services, the Commission recommended maintaining the current minimum funding threshold of \$25,000.

FISCAL IMPACT:

It is anticipated that the CDBG and ESG programs collectively provide approximately \$2.6 million in federal funds to the community annually, including \$2.5 million in CDBG and \$100,000 in ESG. Not more than 15% of the CDBG funds can be allocated to

public/ human service projects. The HSEF is expected to provide approximately \$115,000 for additional public service project funding. These funds will be used to supplement services delivered to low/moderate income Pasadena residents. Approval of this recommendation will establish the funding priorities for both public/ human service and non-public services and will facilitate the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for the 2010-2011 program year. No specific allocation of funds is requested at this time; funding recommendations for Fiscal Year 2011 will be submitted to City Council for action following the completion of the Request for Proposal and review process, targeted for May 2010.

Respectfully submitted,



MICHAEL J. BECK
City Manager

Prepared by:



JOHN D. DEPEW
Program Coordinator

Concurrence:



PATRICIA A. LANE
Director, Human Services & Recreation

Approved by:



William K. Huang
Director, Housing Department