

Information Item

Date: June 12, 2023

To: Mayor Allen Joines, Mayor Pro Tempore Denise D. Adams, and Members of the City Council

From: Patrice Toney, Assistant City Manager
Wanda Allen-Abraha, Human Relations/DEI Department Director

Subject:
Ethnic Community Self-Help Program Grant

Strategic Focus Area: Livable Neighborhoods

Strategic Objective: Support Inclusion of Community Populations

Strategic Plan Action Item: No

Key Work Item: No



The Human Relations/DEI Department has applied for the Ethnic Community Self-Help Program (ECSH) grant, through the US Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families, Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). The department seeks funding in the amount of \$260,000 per year for three years. This grant does not require a match.

The grant will be used to improve the inclusion of diverse, multilingual residents in the community when accessing city programs and services. The specific goal of the grant program is to support Ethnic Community-Based Organizations (ECBOs) in providing refugee populations with critical integration services. Under the ECSH Program, the following three main objectives must be implemented: 1) to strengthen ECBOs' provision of culturally and linguistically appropriate services to refugees within five years after their initial resettlement; 2) to support ECBOs' organizational development and engagement in capacity building by encouraging their collaboration with established refugee service providers and mainstream organizations; and 3) to support ECBOs in promoting community building and civic engagement.

The Building Integrated Communities (BIC) program is a fulfillment of the description and scope of the aforementioned goals. Specifically, the grant funding can be used to: 1) enhance and improve interpretive and translative communication of essential information to newly-arrived immigrant/refugee populations; 2) provide access to fair housing protections, public transportation, public safety/law enforcement, health care, education, financial education, legal services, and digital literacy during quarterly BIC Pipeline sessions presented by continuing to collaborate with English-speaking community stakeholder presenters; and 3) support and promote community building and civic engagement through the Community Ambassador Program by partnering the City with representatives from specific language groups to orient and train others in the respective language group.