

City Council – Action Request Form

Date: Janaury 11, 2021

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

From: Tasha Logan Ford, Assistant City Manager
Marla Y. Newman, Community Development Director

Council Action Requested:

Resolution Authorizing Acceptance Of CARES Act Grant Funds and Execution of Agreements with Local Homeless Service Provider Agencies

Strategic Focus Area: Livable Neighborhoods

Strategic Objective: Expand Housing Assistance Programs

Strategic Plan Action Item: No

Key Work Item: No



Summary of Information:

On June 15, 2020, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services announced CARES Act funding allocations for Winston-Salem and Forsyth County area, in the amount of \$712,943 in NC ESG-CV1 funds. The City Council approved a resolution authorizing acceptance of these CARES Act grant funds and execution of agreements with local agencies to provide services and assistance to homeless persons using a portion of the funds. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has now released a second round of CARES Act funding allocations for the Winston-Salem and Forsyth County area, in the estimated amount not to exceed \$944,181. The City of Winston-Salem is the collaborative applicant for local agencies for these funds. Community Development Department staff are undertaking a process to obtain proposals from local agencies for the NC ESG- CV2 funds. The State’s Request For Applications (RFA) requests that housing stability activities, such as rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention, be prioritized at 60% of funding.

Committee Action:

Committee	Finance 1/11/2021 CDHGG 1/12/2021	Action	Approval
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For	Unanimous	Against	
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Remarks:

The remaining balance of 40% in funds may be allocated to crisis response activities such as emergency shelter and street outreach.

Funding Process

The selection of programs and projects to be funded will be accomplished using the process established in the Governance Charter of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Continuum of Care (CoC). Under this process, projects first are reviewed by the CoC Rating Panel, which develops funding recommendations. The second step is to present the funding recommendation to the CoC Operating Cabinet for comments. Next, the funding recommendations are presented to the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Commission on Ending Homelessness for its approval of the funding recommendation, which is subject to the approval of the City of Winston-Salem. Further description of these groups and the process are provided below.

The CoC Rating Panel is comprised of citizens appointed by the CoC Operating Cabinet in a process facilitated by the Community Development Department. Six of the seven current Rating Panel members are citizen volunteers recruited from the list of graduates of the City of Winston-Salem University. The seventh member, serving in an ex officio capacity, is the chair of the Continuum of Care. Rating Panel members serve three-year terms and select a chair and vice chair to serve one-year terms.

The Panel's funding recommendations are presented to the CoC Operating Cabinet for comments. The Operating Cabinet is elected by the CoC's general membership and is comprised of 36 representatives. Since the Operating Cabinet includes agencies that are funded with HUD funds or seeking funding, the Operating Cabinet reviews the funding recommendations and provide comments, but has no authority to approve or reject the funding recommendations.

After CoC Operating Cabinet review, the funding recommendation and any comments obtained are presented to the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Commission on Ending Homelessness. The Commission is comprised of sixteen voting commissioners. Five commissioners are appointed by the City Council, upon the recommendation of the Mayor. Five commissioners are appointed by the County Commissioners. Five commissioners are nominated by the Operating Cabinet of the Continuum of Care and are subject to recommendation for appointment by the City. The Mayor and the Chairperson of the County Commissioners appoint the chairperson of the Commission. To avoid any conflicts of interest, no member of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Commission on Ending Homelessness may participate in or influence discussions or resulting decisions concerning the award of a grant or other financial benefits to an organization that the member represents as a staff person or board member.

The funding recommendations resulting from the CoC process are subject to approval of the City of Winston-Salem. Also, funding awards to agencies will be subject to the City receiving an award of ESG-CV funds from the State of North Carolina that are required to support the selected projects.

Funding Priorities

The ESG- CV2 funding programs have a number of eligible activities. Table 1 below shows the priority for use of funding from the available sources. The priorities are based on needs identified by Continuum of Care partner agencies and City staff. Prioritization to meet these needs is consistent with the CoC's Strategic Plan.

Source	Amount	Priorities
CARES Act NC ESG-CV2	\$944,181	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shelter Essential Services• Shelter Operations• Rapid Re-Housing• Homelessness Prevention

Funds are eligible to be used for both permanent housing and shelter activities. Permanent housing activities include Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), rapid re-housing, and homelessness prevention. Permanent Supportive Housing is housing with long-term services and assistance for homeless persons with disabilities. Rapid re-housing provides short- and/or medium-term financial assistance, accompanied by case management. Homelessness prevention provides financial assistance and supportive services to assist persons in avoiding homelessness.

Emergency shelter essential services include services such as case management and housing search and placement assistance. Shelter operations includes costs to operate emergency shelters including maintenance, facility rent, security, fuel, equipment, insurance, utilities, food, and furnishings. Where no appropriate emergency shelter is available for a homeless family or individual, eligible shelter operations costs may also include a hotel or motel voucher for that family or individual. Funds also can be used for shelter renovation or to convert a building into an emergency shelter.

State CARES Act Funding

On December 4, 2020, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services issued its Request for Applications (RFA) for NC ESG-CV2 funds and will accept requests for up to \$944,181 from Winston-Salem agencies. The State's RFA requests that Housing Stability activities, such as rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention be prioritized at 60% of funding. The balance of 40% in funds may be allocated to crisis response activities such as emergency shelter and street outreach.

The NC-ESG-CV2 applications are due to the State on January 22, 2021. The process described above, utilizing the CoC Rating Panel, Operating Cabinet, and Commission on Ending Homelessness, will be used to select applications to submit to the State for funding consideration.

Table 2 below shows a projected allocation of NC-ESG-CV2 funding. The final amounts may vary after project selection, depending on applications received from local agencies and selected

Table 2: NC ESG-CV2 Project Allocations	
ACTIVITY	NC ESG-CV 2 Amount
Emergency Shelter Operations and Services	\$363,175
Rapid Re-housing	\$352,756
Homelessness Prevention	\$228,250
Total	\$944,181

through the State’s funding process. The project allocations shown will satisfy the State’s requirement that at least 60% of funds are allocated to housing stability activities.

Other Issues

All projects selected for funding will be required to participate in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) which is required by HUD for projects assisting homeless persons. HMIS is used for performance measurement and reporting to HUD and the State.

Action Request

The accompanying resolution authorizes the City Manager to submit an application to the State of North Carolina for Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV2) funds under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act); execute funding agreements with the State, negotiate and execute agreements with agencies in the amounts determined through the funding process, and submit periodic progress reports to the State.

Detailed Use/Activity Descriptions	
Uses	Description
Rapid Re-Housing	Rental assistance and arrears, security and utility deposits, utility payments and services such as housing search and placement and case management. Targeted to homeless persons.
Homelessness Prevention	Rental assistance and arrears, security and utility deposits, utility payments and services such as housing search and placement and case management. Targeted to persons at imminent risk of homelessness.
Emergency Shelter	Services, rehabilitation, conversion and operations.
Permanent Supportive Housing	Rental assistance, leasing costs, operations and supportive services such as housing search and placement and case management. Targeted to homeless individuals with disabilities.
Shelter Services	Housing search and placement, case management, child care, education, employment assistance and job training, health services, legal services, life skills training, mental health services, substance abuse treatment and transportation. Targeted to homeless persons in emergency shelters.
Shelter Operations	Maintenance (including minor or routine repairs), rent, security, fuel, equipment, insurance, utilities, food, furnishings, hotel/motel vouchers and supplies necessary for the operation of the emergency shelter. Used to support emergency shelters.
Street Outreach	Engagement, case management, emergency health and mental health services and transportation. Targeted to unsheltered homeless persons.
Homeless Management Information System	Software and services for the information system required by HUD for funded agencies.
Shelter Renovation or Conversion	Improvements to a building, either an existing emergency shelter or converting a building into an emergency shelter.
Housing Production	Labor and materials to create additional housing units.
Coordinated Entry System	Staff and operational costs of the system required by HUD to perform intake, assessment and referral of homeless persons to programs funded by HUD.