



Date: January 17, 2023

To: Wanda S. Page, City Manager
Through: Bertha T. Johnson, Deputy City Manager
From: Robert D. Morales, Senior Grants Manager
Subject: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Project - Transitional & Independent Housing

Executive Summary

On November 3, 2021, L.I.F.E. Skills Foundation (LSF) submitted proposal “Transitional & Independent Housing” requesting \$259,150.17 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to provide transitional housing and emergency housing assistance to young people ages 18-24 who are homeless, housing insecure, and many of whom have aged out of foster care to increase long-term stability and independence. On May 18, 2022, City Council approved \$181,405.12 funding for this entity. Staff have reviewed the revised proposal and recommends funding.

Motion

To authorize the City Manager to execute an ARPA subrecipient grant agreement with L.I.F.E. Skills Foundation in an amount not to exceed \$181,405.12.

Background

The original proposal from L.I.F.E. Skills Foundation requested \$259,150.17 from the ARPA funds, under core category of Negative Economic Impacts. Proposed “Transitional & Independent Housing” consists of six two-bedroom apartments. Most clients have aged out of foster care and are, now, homeless or housing insecure. The entity provides opportunities for clients to learn and practice independent living skills. “Transitional & Independent Housing” would provide emergency assistance (i.e., rent funds, utility payments) to prevent evictions/late fees for clients. The entity would aid with move-in expenses (i.e., furniture, home goods, deposits, etc.). The ARPA funds would support these efforts which can be the difference between eviction and homelessness.

Issues and Analysis

LSF has six years of successful outcomes among program participants. Funding would support ongoing efforts, during critical times for those served. LSF Transitional Housing apartments are in census tract 13.03 (37063001303).

LSF program serves young adults in Durham, ages 18-24 who are homeless or housing insecure, many of whom have aged out of foster care. Most clients identify as part of a minority community. A significant number of clients are justice-involved. In addition to being homeless, clients often struggle with substance use and/or mental health challenges because of the long-term impact of trauma. Due to the nature of the foster care system, most participants also typically lack natural support (i.e., familial relationships) to help them navigate these issues. This population has historically been at-risk of lower outcomes in school, and employment, which affect overall stability. COVID-19 exacerbated the housing crisis in Durham, increasing

instability. All clients served through the Transitional and Independent Housing Program also have access to LSF full suite of services funded by other sources. These services include mental health care, employment & education counseling, basic needs support, and wraparound services (i.e., soft-skills training, connection to resources, and others based on client need).

LSF will monitor progress and demonstrate the project's impact on the community via the following metrics:

- The number of people housed in LSF transitional housing apartments;
- The number of people who receive independent housing assistance;
- The percentage of people who move out of LSF Transitional Housing apartments and into stable housing;
- The percentage of people with \$500 or more in savings when they move out of LSF transitional housing apartments.

Alternatives

The City Council can choose not to accept the staff recommendation.

Financial Impact

\$181,405.12 is available for this purpose from the funding source of the ARPA federal funds. The City of Durham received \$51,881,733 in two distributions; the first distribution was received on June 1, 2021, in the amount of \$25,940,866.50; the remaining amount was received May 2022. The City will have until December 2024 to obligate the funds. Recipients have until December 2026 to spend the funds.

Equal Business Opportunity Summary

Due to the nature of this agenda item, a review by the Finance Department was not required.

Contractor Workforce Diversity & Hiring Practices

Due to the nature of this agenda item, obtaining Contractor Workforce Diversity & Hiring Practices information would not be applicable.

Attachments

L.I.F.E. Skills Foundation Subrecipient Grant Agreement