



Date: October 2, 2023

To: Wanda S. Page, City Manager
Through: Bertha T. Johnson, Deputy City Manager
From: Victoria W. Samayoa, ARPA Grants Manager
Subject: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Project – Strengthening of Durham Nonprofits

Executive Summary

On November 3, 2021, The Triangle Nonprofit & Volunteer Leadership Center, submitted proposal “Strengthening of Durham Nonprofits” requesting \$210,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to provide resources to support the efforts of nonprofits capacity to serve residents impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. On May 18, 2022, City Council approved \$147,000 funding for this entity. Staff has reviewed the revised proposal and recommends funding.

Motion

To authorize the City Manager to execute an ARPA subrecipient grant agreement with The Triangle Nonprofit & Volunteer Leadership Center (TNVLC) in an amount not to exceed \$147,000.

Background

The original proposal from TNVLC requested \$210,000 from the ARPA funds under the core category of Negative Economic Impacts. TNVLC’s “Strengthening of Durham Nonprofits” program intends to assist non-profit agencies maintain their level of services to impacted communities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In effort to assist in loss of volunteers for service provision, TNVLC provides services to strengthen the capacity and assistance to nonprofit agencies to recover from the effects of the pandemic.

Issues and Analysis

Since 1972, TNVLC has worked with and provided resources to nonprofits throughout the community to help agencies maintain their level of services which in turn, assist the populations most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many nonprofit agencies provide essential services and are an important safety net for most vulnerable residents.

Nonprofit agencies have been deeply affected by the pandemic, both financially as well as a tremendous loss of volunteers. During times of disaster or crisis, the demand for the services of nonprofits escalates. Agencies must mitigate trying to handle increased needs with decreased funding and resources.

TNVLC provides services that support nonprofits with individualized outreach and connections to specialized service resources. 88% of agencies served have budgets of less than \$500,000. Nonprofits (in Durham County), also employ more than 48,000 people. This project will focus on providing essential resources to help these agencies better serve their constituencies through:

- mobilizing AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP volunteers to serve to meet direct and administrative needs;
- free monthly organizational training that concentrates on nonprofit best practices/operations;
- providing financial assistance for agencies to participate in specialized and in-depth coaching/training in the areas of capacity-building/volunteer recruitment in partnership with the Governor's Office; and
- providing on-site volunteer coordinators for organizations without volunteer personnel.

TNVLC will administer and report on this project. Metrics include:

- Number of nonprofit agencies receiving assistance;
- Number of residents served by the nonprofit agencies;
- Number of training sessions completed;
- Number of volunteers deployed;
- Evaluation surveys from participating agencies;
- Number of volunteer coordinators recruited, trained, and utilized during the project.

Alternatives

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

Financial Impact

\$147,000 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

The Triangle Nonprofit & Volunteer Leadership Center Subrecipient Grant Agreement