Plano City of Excellence | Memorandum

Date: August 13, 2018

To: Bruce D. Glasscock, City Manager

From: Shanette Eaden, Housing and Community Services Manager

Subject: Homeless Housing and Services Program: Proposed FY2018-19 Funding Allocation

Summary

On July 23, 2018, the City Council passed Resolution No. 2018-7-1(R) that authorized the receipt of State of Texas Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP) funds in the amount of $139,113 for fiscal year 2018-19. HHSP funds are targeted for persons that are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA), the oversight agency, requires the City to submit details on how the funds will be spent prior to the contract start date of September 1, 2018. Due to the short turnaround required by TDHCA, staff is proposing to use HHSP funds on a Rapid Re-Housing Program that will be administered by a nonprofit organization selected through a RFP process.

Background

On July 5th, staff was informed of the new eligibility for a HHSP allocation, and on July 27th, TDHCA requested information detailing how the funds would be spent, including a budget. Acknowledging the time needed to determine an appropriate use of the funds and obtain City Council approval, TDHCA provided additional time for the City to submit the requested information. Given the time constraints, staff is suggesting that the City utilize a RFP process to procure a nonprofit agency to administer a Rapid Re-Housing Program.

A Rapid Re-Housing Program will provide financial assistance for homeless individuals to obtain affordable rental housing within the city limits. Program participants will receive a security deposit and up to seven months' rent to assist them in becoming stably housed. Additionally, the nonprofit agency administering the program would receive funds to provide participant case management to ensure issues that have caused their homelessness are addressed. This program will assist in addressing a need that many Plano residents are facing while providing them support to succeed. Additionally, Rapid Re-Housing is a program that can be undertaken quickly, which will ensure that all funds will be expended by the deadline of August 31, 2019.

Although staff is proposing to use 2018-2019 HHSP funding for a Rapid Re-Housing Program, the Collin County Homeless Coalition (CCHC) has identified a more pressing need of Plano's homeless population, a Day Resource Center. Establishment of this type of center takes time and research, which could not be completed within this initial timeframe. As HHSP funding is anticipated to be available annually, staff will continue to discuss this need with the CCHC, research the requirements to establish this type of center, and return to City Council for further discussion in the upcoming months.

Next Steps

Pending City Council's approval of the Rapid Re-Housing Program, staff will submit a program budget to TDHCA and procure a nonprofit agency to administer the program.

xc: Jack Carr, Deputy City Manager
Lori Schwarz, Director of Neighborhood Services