

STAFF REPORT

Date: October 26, 2022

To: Mayor and City Council

Thru: Doug Thornley, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Approval of First Amendment to Agreement with Volunteers of America for Rapid Rehousing, Bridge Housing, and Street Outreach using ESG-CV funds for the period of January 1, 2021 - September 30, 2023, in an amount not to exceed \$1,439,520 with funding provided by the Emergency Solutions Grant, CARES (ESG-CV2) allocation.

From: Hettie Read

Department: City Manager's Office – Housing & Neighborhood Development

Summary:

As an entitlement jurisdiction, the City of Reno receives an annual allocation of Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City also received supplemental ESG-CV2 funding to provide housing resources for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. This amendment to the agreement between the City of Reno and Volunteers of America's (VOA) Restart Program reduces the total dollar amount, to not to exceed \$1,439,520 in ESG-CV2 funds and extends the term through September 30, 2023.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Economic Opportunity, Homelessness, and Affordable Housing

Previous Council Action:

January 27, 2021 - Council approved the agreement with Volunteers of America for Rapid Rehousing, Bridge Housing, and Street Outreach using ESG-CV funds.

December 16, 2020 - Council approved the allocation of funding for the ESG-CV2 to Volunteers of America for Restart programs.

Background:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocated several rounds of funding to assist communities with slowing or stopping the spread of

infectious diseases, such as COVID-19, among Low to Moderate Income (LMI) individuals and households. HUD originally set September 30, 2022 as the spending deadline for these allocations, but subsequently extended the deadline to September 30, 2023.

The program focus for ESG is to assist people to quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness. Allowable uses include: street outreach, increase and/or improve shelters, shelter operations, essential services to shelter guests, rapid rehousing of homeless individuals/families and homeless prevention.

Discussion:

Restart is a Volunteers of America (VOA) program that focuses on serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness who have serious mental health diagnoses, and may also have substance abuse disorders. The contract includes funding to the VOA Restart program for a Rapid Rehousing (RRH) program in addition to case managers, a housing navigator and outreach positions, to serve individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

From January 1, 2021 to October 1, 2022, the RRH program housed 40 individuals. The program provides case management, support services and rental payments for each client during program enrollment. The extension of the agreement will provide clients with additional months of housing support.

From January 1, 2021 to October 1, 2022, the Bridge Housing Pilot Program in coordination with the Veteran's Transitional Housing Program (VTHP) provided a temporary gateway to Restart's RRH and other placements for 95 clients including 45 Veterans. Clients were temporarily placed in the former Family Shelter at the Community Assistance Center (CAC) while they actively searched for housing with case management and housing navigation support. The Bridge Housing program is ending on November 18th, 2022 and each remaining participant will be permanently housed or placed in another appropriate program. However, the VTHP will continue in an alternate location.

From January 1, 2021 to October 1, 2022 the Street Outreach workers assisted 389 people experiencing unsheltered homelessness with community referrals and resources. The funds supported two Street Outreach positions through VOA's Restart program. Restart has remained active in their outreach efforts throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and continues to provide access to resources and housing. The Street Outreach workers will continue to provide outreach services through the remainder of the grant period.

From January 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022 the funds also supported a sub-grant with The Karma Box Project, which provided outreach services to 187 individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Financial Implications:

There is no impact to the General Fund. The funding is provided thorough HUD ESG-CV2 funds. The City amended the original amount in the agreement from \$1,739,520 to \$1,439,520 based on actual expenditures.

Legal Implications:

Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council approve the First Amendment to Agreement with Volunteers of America for Rapid Rehousing, Bridge Housing, and Street Outreach using ESG-CV funds for the period of January 1, 2021 - September 30, 2023, in an amount not to exceed \$1,439,520 with funding provided by the Emergency Solutions Grant, CARES (ESG-CV2) allocation, and authorize the Mayor to sign.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve staff recommendation.

Attachments:

Agreement approved by Council 1-27-21

First Amendment to VOA RRH, Bridge and SO Agreement 10-11-22