THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: October 24, 2023

Subject: Approval of Code Purple Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 Funding

Staff Resource(s): Nikki Reid, Community and Economic Development Director
Emily Ball, Homeless Strategy Division Manager

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an interlocal agreement with Buncombe County to administer their matching Code Purple funding and to execute a funding agreement with Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry in the amount of $100,000 to provide Code Purple emergency shelter this winter.

Background:

- Code Purple is a longstanding community initiative begun by shelter providers to provide additional capacity with fewer requirements during extreme weather conditions to ensure safety and survival for people experiencing homelessness.
- In FY 2023-24, the City of Asheville has budgeted $50,000 to support Code Purple operations.
- Buncombe County has requested that the City administer their matching budgeted funds for Code Purple and has initiated an interlocal agreement to that effect.
- City staff convened community partners to facilitate a planning process for the coming Code Purple season in partnership with the Homeless Coalition and the Homeless Initiative Advisory Committee (HIAC).
- Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry (ABCCM) and Salvation Army will provide a combined 91 Code Purple beds, with overflow capacity available if needed.
- City staff published the opportunity to submit funding requests for City and County Code Purple funds and received one request from ABCCM in the amount of $100,000.
- Salvation Army will be able to absorb Code Purple costs in their regular operating budget and therefore is not seeking public funds.
- The Funding Allocations Work Group reviewed ABCCM's request and recommended full funding to HIAC.
- At their October 12, 2023 meeting, HIAC approved ABCCM's funding request.
- Code Purple shelter will be available beginning October 15, 2023 through April 30, 2024 when the temperature is 32 or below, or 33-40 with precipitation.
- Code Purple events will be called by the Homeless Coalition.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- Funding opportunity was published on the City's website, announced at HIAC and in the Code Purple planning meetings, and distributed to community partners through the HIAC distribution list.

Council Goal(s):

- Quality Affordable Housing
- Connected and Engaged Community

Committee(s):

- Housing & Community Development Committee - October 17, 2023 - 3-0 approval to move to City Council
- Homeless Initiative Advisory Committee - unanimously voted to approve ABCCM's funding request at its October 12, 2023 meeting.

Pro(s):

- Provides essential, life-saving emergency shelter for people experiencing homelessness during extreme weather

- Facilitates funding partnership with Buncombe County and minimizes administrative burden on shelter provider

Con(s):
- None noted

Fiscal Impact:
- The revenue associated with this agreement was budgeted in the FY 2023-24 Adopted Budget.
- Funding for Code Purple sheltering is available in the Community & Economic Development operating budget.

Suggested Motion:
- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an interlocal agreement with Buncombe County to administer their matching Code Purple funding and to execute a funding agreement with Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry in the amount of $100,000 to provide Code Purple emergency shelter this winter.

Attachment(s):
- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 23-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH BUNCOMBE COUNTY TO ADMINISTER THEIR MATCHING CODE PURPLE FUNDING AND TO EXECUTE A FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH ASHEVILLE BUNCOMBE COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN MINISTRY TO PROVIDE CODE PURPLE EMERGENCY SHELTER THIS WINTER.

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has authority pursuant to NCGS §160A-17.1, to accept grants from other governments for performing any function which the city is authorized by general law to provide or perform; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville and Buncombe County collaborate on homelessness strategies; and

WHEREAS, the community's Code Purple Emergency Shelter initiative is essential for survival of people experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville and Buncombe County mutually wish to provide funding for Code Purple and each has budgeted $50,000.00 for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville serves as the administrator of Code Purple funding agreements on behalf of Buncombe County; and

WHEREAS, the Homeless Initiative Advisory Committee is the current leadership body on homelessness in Asheville and Buncombe County and is recommending full funding for Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry to provide Code Purple shelter this year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

The City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into an interlocal agreement with Buncombe County to administer their matching Code Purple funding and to execute a funding agreement with Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry in the amount of $100,000 to provide Code Purple emergency shelter this winter.

Read, approved and adopted this the 24th day of October, 2023.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney