THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

City Council: September 13, 2022

Subject: Interlocal agreement with County of Buncombe to continue the Homeowner Grant Program for a second year

Staff Resource(s): Tony McDowell, CFO, Finance & Management Services Director

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the execution of an interlocal agreement between the City of Asheville and the County of Buncombe to continue the Homeowner Grant Program.

Background:
- In FY 2021-22, Buncombe County launched an economic public assistance program called the Homeowner Grant Program in which the City of Asheville and the Town of Woodfin also participated.
- The program is designed to assist homeowners of low and moderate income as defined by homeowners earning 80% of Area Median Income (AMI) or less to assist with the basic life necessities and welfare needs.
- At their meeting on September 6, 2022, the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution authorizing the execution of interlocal agreements with the City of Asheville and the Town of Woodfin to continue the Homeowner Grant Program for a second year.
- Grantees who apply for the program, meet the AMI criteria, and reside in the City limits, will receive a maximum grant award of $300 from Buncombe County and $200 from the City of Asheville.
- The County will be responsible for administering the program and paying any grants awarded, and thereafter invoice the City for its share of any grants awarded.

Council Goal(s):
- A Financially Resilient City

Committee(s):
- None

Pro(s):
- Supports homeownership for City households whose income is below 80% of AMI.

Con(s):
- None.

Fiscal Impact:
- Funding for this agreement ($150,000) is available in the Non-Departmental operating budget. The total cost in the current fiscal year will depend on the number of participants.
- For reference, City residents received payments from this program totaling $90,600 in FY 2021-22.

Suggested Motion:
- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the execution of an interlocal agreement between the City of Asheville and the County of Buncombe to continue the Homeowner Grant Program.

Attachment:
- Resolution
- Interlocal Agreement

RESOLUTION NO. 22-_____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE AND THE COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE FOR THE HOMEOWNER GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 160D-1311, the City of Asheville and Buncombe County (the "Parties") are "authorized to engage in, to accept federal and State grants and loans for, and to appropriate and expend funds for community development programs … for the restoration or preservation of older neighborhoods or properties" and programs "concerned with employment, economic development, crime prevention, child care, health, drug abuse, education, and welfare needs of persons of low and moderate income; and

WHEREAS, the City are authorized to execute and enter into this Interlocal Agreement pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 160A-461; and

WHEREAS, the Parties mutually wish to continue an economic public assistance program designed to assist homeowners of low and moderate income as defined by homeowners earning 80% of Area Median Income (AMI) or less to assist with the basic life necessities and welfare needs of persons of low and moderate income, and an Interlocal Agreement is attached hereto; and

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

That the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute the attached Interlocal Agreement for the purposes associated with operations of an economic public assistance program designed to assist homeowners of low and moderate income.

Read, approved and adopted this 13nd day of September, 2022.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney