THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

City Council: July 27, 2021

Subject: Resolution authorizing the execution of an interlocal agreement between the City of Asheville and the County of Buncombe to establish a Homeowner Grant Program

Staff Resource(s): Tony McDowell, 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 establish a Homeowner Grant Program.

Background:
- At its July 13, 2021 meeting, the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners approved a Homeowner Grant Program and an interlocal agreement between the City of Asheville and Buncombe County authorizing City of Asheville participation in the program.
- As outlined in the agreement, residents who own residential property that they have lived in their primary residence for at least five years and who earn less than 80% of Area Median Income (AMI) as a household will be eligible to participate in the program.
- Grantees who apply for the program and meet these criteria, and who 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 quarterly for its share of any grants awarded.

Council Goal(s):
- A Financially Resilient City

Committee(s):
- None

Pro(s):
- Provides assistance with homeowner costs for City households whose income is below 80% of AMI.

Con(s):
- None.

Fiscal Impact:
- The fiscal impact of this new program will depend on the number of participants, and is thus unknown at this time.
- The Adopted FY 2021-22 General Fund budget includes $150,000 to fund the City's participation.
- If additional funding is needed, staff will request a budget amendment from unassigned fund balance later in the fiscal year.

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 establish a Homeowner Grant Program.

Attachment:
- Resolution
- Interlocal Agreement

RESOLUTION NO. 21-_____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE AND THE COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE TO ESTABLISH A 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 partner to develop 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 a draft 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 27nd day of July, 2021.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney