THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: June 8, 2021

Subject: FY2020 Continuum of Care Planning and Homeless Management Information System Grants Awarded to the City of Asheville

Staff Resource(s): Nikki Reid, Interim Community and Economic Department Director
Paul D'Angelo, Community Development Program Director
Brian Huskey, Community Development Analyst - Homelessness Lead

Action Requested: Adoption of a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute agreements with the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development and accept grant funding awarded to the City of Asheville in 2020 for Continuum of Care Planning activities and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) operations.

Background:

- The City of Asheville serves as the Continuum of Care Lead Entity for the NC-501 Asheville-Buncombe Continuum of Care (CoC).
- Each CoC Lead Entity is responsible for coordinating the community activities required for Asheville to be eligible to receive CoC funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- The CoC Lead is also responsible for operating the community's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).
- The typical competitive process for awarding CoC awards known as the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), which includes local review, scoring, and ranking of CoC project funding applications, was disrupted in FY 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- HUD instead made allocations to each CoC through a non-competitive process for FY 2020 for all grantees whose projects expire during 2021.
- Through this 2020 non-competitive process, the City of Asheville has been awarded $43,016 for a CoC Planning Grant and $67,500 for a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Grant to support the city operations for these activities as the NC-501 Continuum of Care Lead Entity.
- A total of $1,706,734 of CoC renewal funding was also awarded directly to agencies in the community for ongoing Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Rehousing projects.
- While this funding does not pass through the City, it is referenced here to convey the total amount of federal monies directed to local agencies that provide housing services to this population and to illustrate a key component of the system of care for which the City is the lead entity.
- These funds are specifically intended for permanent housing programs.
- The regular Continuum of Care NOFA competitive funding process resumed in 2021 and is already underway.

Council Goals:

- Quality Affordable Housing

- An Equitable and Diverse Community

Committees:
- N/A

Pros:
- Provides funding to sustain existing Continuum of Care HMIS and required community planning activities and ensures the community's eligibility to receive this funding.

Cons:
- None

Fiscal Impact:
- $110,516 in HUD Continuum of Care grant funding to support the City's operations in its role as the NC-501 Asheville-Buncombe Continuum of Care Lead Entity.
- This grant funding is adopted as part of the annual budget process.

Suggested Motion(s):
- Motion to authorize the City Manager to execute agreements with the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development and accept grant funding awarded to the City of Asheville in FY 2020 for Continuum of Care Planning activities and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) operation.

Attachment(s):
- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 21- _____

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND ACCEPT GRANT FUNDING AWARDED TO THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE IN FY2020 FOR CONTINUUM OF CARE PLANNING ACTIVITIES AND HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS (HMIS) OPERATIONS.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded Continuum of Care (CoC) grants to project applicants in the FY2020 funding process that was amended to be non-competitive because of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville serves as the Lead Entity for the NC-501 Asheville-Buncombe Continuum of Care; and

WHEREAS, the statutory responsibilities of the CoC Lead include system-wide planning to end homelessness, regulatory compliance, and operations of the community's HOmeless Management Information System (HMIS);

WHEREAS, HUD has awarded a total of $1,817,250 in FY2020 to projects serving people experiencing homelessness in Asheville and Buncombe County; and

WHEREAS, of the total amount awarded by HUD for FY2020, a total of $110,516 has been awarded directly to the City of Asheville for system-wide planning and administration of the community's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS); and

WHEREAS, these awards are for $43,016 for Continuum of Care Planning Activities and $67,500 for administration of the community's HMIS;

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

City Council authorizes the City Manager to sign all necessary contract documents with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development for the FY2020 Continuum of Care awards made directly to the City of Asheville after approval by the City Attorney, and accept any funds awarded.

Read, approved and adopted this 8th day of June, 2021.

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CITY CLERK MAYOR

Approved As To Form:

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CITY ATTORNEY