THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: April 13, 2021

Subject: Dogwood Health Trust Grant - Code Purple Emergency Shelter

Staff Resource(s): Nikki Reid, Interim Community & Economic Development Director
Emily Ball, Community Development Analyst

Action(s) Requested: Adoption of a resolution to accept a grant from Dogwood Health Trust in the amount of $50,000 toward the City's $130,000 agreement with Western Carolina Rescue Ministries, Inc. to provide Code Purple Emergency Shelter

Background:

- Code Purple is a longstanding practice where homeless shelter providers exceed regular capacity and waive regular rules on nights when the temperature or windchill are at/below 32 degrees in order to ensure survival of people experiencing homelessness.
- Code Purple is a community-led initiative that has primarily been coordinated by agencies in the Homeless Coalition.
- COVID-19 has created many challenges for homeless service providers and therefore no emergency shelters were able to participate in Code Purple this winter at their facilities.
- Western Carolina Rescue Ministries, Inc. agreed to operate Code Purple in an off-site location.
- In order to meet these extraordinary circumstances, on December 1, 2020, the City of Asheville entered into an agreement with Western Carolina Rescue Ministries, Inc. to provide up to 50 Code Purple beds at First Congregational United Church of Christ (20 Oak Street) for the month of December.
- Funding for this first month of operations in the amount of $42,240 came from Coronavirus Relief Funding (CRF) previously approved by the City Council.
- To continue shelter operations, the City of Asheville entered into an agreement with Western Carolina Rescue Ministries, Inc. on January 1, 2021 for $80,000.
- Buncombe County agreed to provide $40,000 of funding to assist with those costs; the City funded the other $40,000 with previously budgeted affordable housing pay-go funding in the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP).
- On February 23, 2021, City Council authorized an amendment to the agreement with Western Carolina Rescue Ministries, Inc. to add $50,000 to continue shelter operations.
- On February 23, 2021, Dogwood Health Trust awarded the City of Asheville $50,000 towards the cost of Code Purple Emergency Shelter.
- This resolution will accept those funds for that purpose.

Council Goal(s):

- A Well-Planned and Livable Community
- A Connected and Engaged Community
- A Financially Resilient City

Committee(s):

- None

Pro(s):

- Continues the essential operation of Code Purple
- Addresses public health and safety
- Demonstrates community ownership and willingness to partner to address the needs of the homeless

Con(s): None

Fiscal Impact:

- As noted above, Code Purple Emergency Shelter costs have previously been funded through a combination of Coronavirus Relief Funding, Buncombe County funds, and City of Asheville CIP funds.
- Accepting these grant funds will offset the City's allocation of CIP funds for this contract.

Suggested Motion(s):

- Motion to adopt a resolution accepting a grant from Dogwood Health Trust in the amount of $50,000 toward the City's $130,000 agreement with Western Carolina Rescue Ministries, Inc. to provide Code Purple Emergency Shelter

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 21- _____

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT DOGWOOD HEALTH TRUST FUNDING FOR AN AGREEMENT WITH WESTERN CAROLINA RESCUE MINISTRIES, INC. TO PROVIDE CODE PURPLE EMERGENCY SHELTER

WHEREAS, people experiencing homelessness are particularly vulnerable to both COVID-19 complications and exposure to the elements; and

WHEREAS, traditional Code Purple emergency shelter options have been unavailable due to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has executed an agreement with Western Carolina Rescue Ministries, Inc. to provide Code Purple emergency shelter at an alternate location (First Congregational United Church of Christ) since December 2020; and

WHEREAS, Dogwood Health Trust has granted $50,000 toward the cost of the agreement with Western Carolina Rescue Ministries, Inc. to provide Code Purple emergency shelter;

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

City Council hereby accepts a grant from Dogwood Health Trust in the amount of $50,000 toward the City's $130,000 agreement with Western Carolina Rescue Ministries, Inc. to provide Code Purple Emergency Shelter and authorizes the City Manager to execute any documents necessary to give effect to this resolution. .

Read, approved, and adopted this 13th day of April, 2021.

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CITY CLERK MAYOR

Approved As To Form:

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CITY ATTORNEY