



MEMORANDUM

“...meeting community needs...enhancing quality of life.”

TO: Community and Economic Development Committee

FROM: Nikki Gerhard, Community Development Specialist

DATE: September 14, 2022

RE: 2020 Community Development Block Grant CARES Act Funding (CDBG-CV3)

In January 2021, the City of Appleton sought approval of allocations to community partners interested in administering CDBG-CV funding for the purposes of performing street outreach efforts. These funds were authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) to respond to the growing effects of the public health crisis.

Due to instability with staffing of the originally contracted street outreach program, staff reassessed impending needs in the community. As a result of various conversations and meetings, staff makes the following recommendations, as they manage the short and long-term needs as a result of this public health crisis. These recommendations will be considered by CEDC on September 14th and Common Council on September 21st and will be incorporated into the CDBG 2020 Annual Action Plan as a substantial amendment.

1. Pillars, Inc: Winter Shelter Overflow Program (\$221,712)

Through an executed MOU, Pillars, Inc. will provide a Winter Shelter Overflow Program, as well as motel vouchers, to the those in the community who are experiencing homelessness. Pillars Street Outreach team will be actively engaged in the program, conducting daily check-ins, physical health observations, and mental health observations. This project aims to prevent individuals and families experiencing homelessness from sleeping in places not meant for human habitation while waiting to enter a local shelter during the cold winter months.

2. Pillars, Inc: Seven Days Service (\$65,895)

Pillars will better serve individuals experiencing homelessness when hours of operation are expanded to include Saturdays and Sundays. This project will allow Pillars Adult Shelter and Street Outreach clients a safe place to respite seven days per week, which may also reduce negative interactions with law enforcement. Trained advocates will be on staff to schedule intakes for the shelters, add clients to wait lists, refer to the winter Shelter Overflow Program (above), and engage with clients to make forward progress on their goals.

The following attachments are provided for additional information for this action item.

Attached Documents:

- 1.) September 16, 2020 CARES Act CDBG-CV3 award letter
- 2.) 2020PY Annual Action Plan Substantial Amendment request
- 3.) MOU between the City of Appleton and Pillars, Inc

If you have any questions, please contact me at 832-6469 or nikki.gerhard@appleton.org. Thank you!