

Brenda Broeske

Subject: FW: Public Comment on CDBG Agreement Amendment

From: Nikki A. Gerhard <Nikki.Gerhard@Appleton.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 5:15 PM
To: Jessica Menn <jessica@jessicamenn.com>
Subject: RE: Public Comment on CDBG Agreement Amendment

Good Evening Jessica,

Thank you for your comments regarding the City's proposed Third Substantial Amendment as it relates to CDBG CARES Act funding.

Your below email will be provided to the Community and Economic Development Committee for discussion tomorrow evening (Wednesday, January 27, 2021), and included with the minutes from the meeting.

Best,

Nikki

Nikki A. Gerhard

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From: Jessica Menn <jessica@jessicamenn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 4:02 PM
To: Nikki A. Gerhard <Nikki.Gerhard@Appleton.org>
Subject: Public Comment on CDBG Agreement Amendment

Hi Nikki,

I'm writing to provide public comment regarding the "Request to approve Third Substantial Amendment to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2020 Annual Action Plan (AAP) awarding an additional \$343,268 of CDBG Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES Act) funding to community partner organizations" that will be voted on by the Community and Economic Development Committee on 01/27/2021.

I looked through the entire agenda packet and I didn't see anything that indicated that the specific group of homeless people the proposed partnership with ADVOCAP would target have ended up in their situation due to coronavirus or have been thrown into specific hardship due to coronavirus. The grant money is supposed to go

“to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus”. Using it for this specific group seems like a bit of a stretch.

It seems like it would be more in keeping with the spirit of the grant to use it to target newly homeless families and individuals who became homeless due to the economic impact of our society’s coronavirus response, or to target individuals and families who are at risk of losing their homes due to economic loss caused by coronavirus.

I’m also a little concerned that, as stated in the Memorandum of Understanding, Appleton and ADVOCAP “intend for this MOU to provide the foundation and structure for any future agreement”. The city will be paying ADVOCAP almost \$300,000. That may not be a big deal right now when the money is coming from federal grant money, but once that runs out, city taxpayers will be the ones having to pay for it. I would like to see a little more robust discussion surrounding that before the city starts an entire new program.

Thanks,

Jessica Anderson
Appleton, WI

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