

Item 24-0052: Request to approve the Preliminary 2024-2025PY (Program Year) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Community Partner Allocations (Non-Public Services)

Item 24-0053: Request to approve the reallocation of 2023-2024PY (Program Year) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding in the amount of \$28,981.24 among the 2024-2025PY Public Services applicants

Community & Economic Development Committee

Wed, Jan 24, 2024 6:30PM

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 02:46

All right. So, our first action item 24-0051 is a public hearing on the Community Development Block Grant Notice of Funding available and community needs for the 2024 program year which goes from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025 and reallocating a portion of 2023 funding that was relinquished by a sub recipient. And that goes with our two action items 24-0052 and 24-0053. This is a public hearing. Is there anyone who wishes to speak? This is a public hearing. Is there anyone who wishes to speak? This is a public hearing. Is there anyone who wishes to speak?

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 03:39

Hearing no one I now declare that public hearing closed, and we will move on to our action items 24-0052 the request to approve the preliminary 2024 2025 program year Community Development Block Grant community partner allocations for nonpublic services as specified in the attached staff memo. Can I get a motion?

Alderson Israel Del Toro (District 4) 04:03

Move to approve.

Alderson Vaya Jones (District 10) 04:06

Second.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 04:07

All right, so that was Alder Del Toro and Alder Jones with the second. All right, who is going to tell us about this? Alright, Olivia.

Alderson Vaya Jones (District 10) 04:18

So, per the Appleton CDBG policy, the Appleton CDBG Advisory Board creates funding recommendations for external CDBG out—applicants and then CEDC is responsible for voting on the department allocations. And so, at the—as you may remember, when we brought forward the city department allocations, we began our funding process—allocation process—in September with an award estimate of \$576,000—or \$76,000—sorry, \$576,900 budgeted for the 2024 program year based on previous allocations from HUD is how we arrived at that number. And then, moving through that process previously, CEDC approved allocations to four city programs for a total of \$276,550. And then, once that was done in our public—we received all of our external applications. The applications were reviewed by staff and then sent—and once the eligibility of each application was confirmed, they were sent to the advisory board for recommendation and scoring.

Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 05:35

And so, the advisory board was responsible for reallocating the remaining \$300,350. And of that available funding, none of that would be available to be allocated to public service because a previously approved project (the police department and health department Community Resource Navigator) would take up the entire public service allowable amount for the 2024 program year. So, the Advisory Board was just considering non-public service applications. So, they reviewed the applications and scored them and provided us with their scores and reviews, from which we then aggregated their scores and created our own funding recommendations for the advisory board to discuss, and then on January 15, the Advisory Board met and had a discussion on their—what how they felt about the applications and their funding recommendations.

Alderson Vaya Jones (District 10) 06:36

All right. Thank you. Are there any questions from committee members? Alder Jones,

Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 06:36

So, their preliminary funding recommendations are in the chart in the memo. And their recommendations were for Habitat for Humanity to receive \$132,000, Rebuilding Together to receive \$67,000, Pillars to receive \$56,000, WWBIC to—WWBIC to receive \$14,725 and Salvation Army to receive \$30,625 for a total amount of \$300,350 going to our external applicants. So now we're just asking for you to vote on the CDBG advisory board recommendations.

Alderson Vaya Jones (District 10) 06:43

So, they're assigning values when they're doing their evaluations and their review? What is the process for deciding how much based on what's requested and then what's given?

Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 07:34

Uh yeah, so they submit the requested amount, and then there's not like a specific process necessarily for making the funding recommendations. It was kind of based on previous allocations to these organizations, their capacity for carrying out the project. So, we created staff recommendations, like I said, based on that history, and based on—based on the requested amount, but like being realistic as well to the fact that we only had \$300,350 to allocate, and we had over \$517,000 of requests. So, there's—yeah, not a not a specific process, but trying to align kind of the approximate request and the recommendations.

Deputy Director David Kress (Community and Economic Development) 08:23

I would just add to that, that as a part of the application process there was a question that applicants were asked to respond to regarding potential for partial award. And so, they either checked "yes," they'd be willing to accept a partial award or, no, they would not. So that that played into the arithmetic here. To some extent, certain projects or programs have service scalability, where if they received a partial award, they could still execute on—one fewer home improvement, for example, as opposed to it sort of being an all or nothing project or program.

Alderson Vaya Jones (District 10) 08:35

Thank you.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 09:00

Thank you. Any other questions? Comments? All right, hearing none, we'll go ahead and vote. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 09:10

Aye.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 09:11

All right, that's four zero.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 09:14

Moving on. Action Item 24-00—

Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 09:17

It's 5-0.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 09:21

Thank you. I didn't count myself.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 09:27

All right. 24-0053 request to approve the reallocation of 2023 2024 program year Community Development Block Grant funding in the amount of \$29,981.24 among the 24—2024 2025 Program Year public service applicants as specified in the attached memo. Is this Olivia again?

Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 09:54

Yes.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 09:54

All right. Can we get a motion first?

Alderson Israel Del Toro (District 4) 09:59

Move to approve.

Alderson Joss Thyssen (District 8) 09:59

Second.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 10:00

Alright, so that was Thyssen and Del Toro.

Alderson Israel Del Toro (District 4) 10:04

Thank you.

Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 10:06

Okay, so the city of Appleton routinely grants out a portion of our CDBG funding to external sub recipients and for independent projects. But for the 2023 program year, we had a sub recipient who received an allocation and then had staffing changes and was unable to fulfill the role that—the staff role that that project was serving. And so, they have remitted their funding back to us for the amount of \$28,981.24. And because this was originally allocated as public service funding, we'd like to keep it in that public service category. And we also felt that this would give availability of public service dollars for applicants from 2024. Even though like the funding is from 2023, the applicants from 2024 could still use it because the year that it was allocated for is 2023. So, it's still acceptable to reallocate the 2023 dollars for these applicants.

Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 11:13

So, the reason we don't have the 2024 available, again, is because the Appleton health department and police department are funding a Community Resource Navigator position with those dollars. But we still had strong 2024 public service allo—applications. So, again, the advisory board received these applications, scored them, and then made their funding recommendations, and then we also made our funding recommendations.

Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 11:44

An important note for this is that award—external CDBG awards should be for at least \$10,000. Because the amount is \$28,981.24, we, when we made our staff recommendation, we recommended only splitting between two projects. And that was a point of conversation that came up in the advisory board as a question for that. But because of the \$10,000 award requirement and then our assessment and organizat—on organizational capacity alignment with city goals, we recommended two programs be approved, and the Advisory Board, their preliminary recommendations follow that which would be to award 11 —to award Leaven \$15,000 for their project and to award building for kids \$13,981.24 for the remaining portion of the available allocation of 2023 Public Service CDBG award.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 12:47

Thank you. Are there any questions or comments? Alder Del Toro?

Aldersperson Israel Del Toro (District 4) 12:54

Can you tell us a little bit about the organization, the BABES, what makes them unique and perhaps why they were not recommended for funded?

Olivia Galyon (Community Development Specialist) 13:02

Um, yeah, so there was a couple of things with that. So, part of the reason was because they have somewhat limited experience with federal dollars, so it was just an organizational capacity and risk thing. Part of it was the program that they were seeking to fund is an existing program that has a low utilization rate. They—it's a for a respite care provider. And they currently have that program, and they only have about 40% utilization of the available care slots. So, we felt that an expansion of this program didn't—what would maybe not be the best way to use that funding. So that was another piece there. And then again, like I said, because we could only split between two, it was kind of just came to that issue. And what Dave brought up earlier as well with the capacity to scale down the program as well, we felt that that would be a challenge as well, since they were funding a staff position through their request, and it would be very difficult to fund only part of a staff position rather than to add to programming. So that was another piece of that as well.

Aldersperson Israel Del Toro (District 4) 14:17

Thank you.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 14:19

Any other questions? I will just say, I know this is a lot of work for Olivia and for everybody else on the team, and we appreciate how much goes into this and the diligence and care you take with the recommendations and working with the board on this. Thanks very much. All right. We'll go ahead and vote. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 14:43

Aye.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 14:44
That passes five zero.