



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING**

#19-1053

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: November 19, 2019

TITLE: Motion to Award State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
Funds to United Way, in the Amount of \$250,000 – (**Commission
Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4**)

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission award State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity funds for rapid rehousing to United Way in the amount of \$250,000 and delegate authority to the City Manager to prepare in substantially the form attached, subject to approval of the City Attorney's Office; and authorize and empower the City Manager to execute in substantially the form attached.

Background

In January 2019 the City submitted legislative funding request for a Rapid Re-housing Program providing time limited financial support for homeless individuals and families in Fort Lauderdale. The request was approved in the State of Florida's Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget and is being facilitated through a grant in the amount of \$250,000 from Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. The grant does not require any matching funds.

Funds will be used to provide financial assistance and services for those individuals and families experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized. The project provides a variety of assistance, such as short-term or medium-term rental assistance, including utility deposit assistance, and appropriate support services with case management to help homeless individuals and families achieve self-sufficiency.

The Rapid Rehousing Program is consistent with the Florida Council on Homelessness recommendations for reducing homelessness in the State at well as the Federal Government's Opening Doors to prevent and end homelessness. The funding will not only support the homeless within Fort Lauderdale; it will also serve as an additional financial match that will aid in securing additional funding for homeless initiatives from the U.S. Housing and Community Development Department (HUD) and community partners. This project supports the Broward County Continuum of Care Plan to End Homelessness as one of the single most important interventions in the fight to end homelessness.

According to the 2019 Point in Time Homeless Count there were 1,453 homeless persons living in shelters and 1,350 homeless persons living on the street, unsheltered throughout Broward County. The majority of the unsheltered population lives on the streets are in Fort Lauderdale. This program will provide time limited housing solutions for homeless individuals/families residing in Fort Lauderdale through service providers, and leveraged partnerships.

United Way of Broward County is a recognized organization that supports the health, education, and financial stability of every person in our community. The funding will be used to address homelessness within the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Resource Impact

This action will result in a positive impact to the City in the amount of \$250,000, which was appropriated to the accounts below by the approval of the Consolidated Budget Amendment CAM 19-0833.

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Use:

ACCOUNT NUMBER	INDEX NAME (Program)	CHARACTER CODE/ SUB-OBJECT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
129- GHMLESS19 - 3199	Rapid Rehousing Assistance Grant	Services/ Materials/ Other Professional Services	\$0	\$0	\$250,000
APPROPRIATION TOTAL ►					\$250,000

Strategic Connections

This item is a *Commission Annual Action Plan* priority, included within the Top Priority agenda, advancing the Homelessness Response and Action Plan initiative.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024 Strategic Plan*, specifically advancing:

- Neighborhood Enhancement Focus area
- Goal 4: Build a thriving and inclusive community of neighborhoods.
- Objective: Work with partners to reduce homelessness by promoting independence and self-worth through advocacy, housing and comprehensive services.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Community*.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Grant Agreement

Exhibit 2 – City of Fort Lauderdale FY2020 Not For Profit Grant Participation Agreement

Prepared by: Hal G. Barnes, P.E., Neighbor Support Manager

Department Director: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager's Office