



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#21-0317

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

FROM: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: April 6, 2021

TITLE: Public Hearing Amending the Housing and Community Development 2019-2020 Amended Annual Action Plan in Response to the Community Development Block Grant Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) - **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the City Commission convene a public hearing to receive public input and approve a third substantial amendment to the 2019-2020 Amended Annual Action Plan. The third amendment will allow the City to re-appropriate \$500,000 from Public Service Housing Re-Entry and Support Services to Public Service Educational Enrichment Services.

Background

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) became law on March 27, 2020. This legislation responded to the COVID-19 outbreak and its impact on the economy, public health, state and local governments, individuals, and businesses. Through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), CARES Act grant funds were allocated to local governments to prepare and respond to the impacts of COVID-19. In a letter dated September 11, 2020, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) notified the City of an allotment of CDBG CARES Act funds.

Broward County is offering \$25 million in assistance for renters whose households suffered a loss or reduction of income due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All Broward County residents are eligible to apply, including residents of Fort Lauderdale. For described reason, staff determined that based on the availability of countywide rent resources, the \$500,000 previously allocated to Public Service Housing Re-Entry and Support Services within the City's 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan could be reprioritized to support the educational needs of Fort Lauderdale students that were directly impacted or intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 outbreak has had a negative impact on the learning outcomes of children in Fort Lauderdale. Data from the Broward County school district classifies 7,000 children in Fort Lauderdale as failing. Described data can be directly attributed to limited in-person classroom instruction because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The funds will be used to provide supplemental learning opportunities to re-engage students who have regressed, so they may continue grade-level course work at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. Specifically, funds will be used to support the City of Fort Lauderdale's Summer Enrichment Program and will provide academic instruction by certified teachers and educators to facilitate a learning environment that will focus on core educational components.

Funds will academically enrich the traditional Parks and Recreation summer camps through educational staffing, curriculum, enhanced broadband connectivity, and launch a specialized afternoon program in collaboration with Broward County Public Schools (BCPS). Available to students enrolled in the BCPS morning summer school (half day only), the City's afternoon program will offer extended learning and recreational opportunities on school-sites for our most academically vulnerable and economically disadvantaged students. The use of school-sites is an effective use of publicly funded facilities and enables the City to reach pre-pandemic summer enrollment levels while adhering to social distancing protocols.

The City of Fort Lauderdale's Summer Enrichment Program seeks to address the compounding impact of summer learning loss on top of the steep academic declines caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Redesigning and expanding summer programs will position the City of Fort Lauderdale to support the educational and recreational needs of children at a time of unprecedented learning risk.

Resource Impact

There will be no fiscal impact associated with this action. The grant program funds were previously appropriated.

Strategic Connections

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: Create a continuum of education services and support.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale Vision Plan 2035: We are Here*.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Public Notice for Comment Period

Exhibit 2 – 2019-2020 Amended Annual Action Plan (3rd Amendment)

Prepared by Rachel Williams, Housing and Community Development Manager

Charter Officer: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager