



# City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Community Development - CDBG/Home

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: June 21, 2021

Re: CHA Low-Income Services, Inc. (CHALIS) City Reserves Funding Agreement

## Executive Summary

Attached for City Council consideration is a resolution authorizing a City reserves funding agreement between the City of Columbia and CHA Low-Income Services, Inc. (CHALIS) to support a Housing Ambassador. Council approved \$77,022.00 for the project as one of several Public Assistance recommendations discussed by the City Council on April 19, 2021 and included in Council Bill B164-21 at the May 17, 2021 City Council meeting appropriating the City reserves.

## Discussion

CHA Low-Income Services, Inc., or CHALIS, is a separate organization of the Housing Authority of the City of Columbia (CHA) which is governed by the same Board of Commissioners as CHA. After the City received an allocation of \$737,588 in Round 3 special Community Development Block Grant funds, known as CDBG-CV, CHALIS was among several organizations submitting proposals in response to a Request for Proposals issued in the fall by the Housing Programs Office. CHALIS requested \$77,022.00 in CDBG-CV funds for a Housing Ambassador. The Housing Ambassador will provide additional supportive services to Housing Choice Voucher recipients to assure more timely usage of the vouchers.

After reviewing all applications and conducting a public hearing on December 16, 2021 (minutes attached), the City's Housing and Development Commission (HCDC) did not recommend funding for this activity. There was a grand total of more than \$1.7 million sought by all organizations and proposed services, with only \$797,588 available to award (the total included \$737,588 in Round 3 CDBG-CV and \$60,000 in reprogrammed funds).

On April 19, 2021, City Council directed the use of \$1.3 million (subsequently amended to \$1.5 million) in City reserve funds to be allocated to Public Assistance, with the result that all organizations that submitted proposals for Round 3 CDBG-CV funding would receive their original requested amounts. Therefore CHALIS will receive \$77,588.00 in City funds to create a Housing Ambassador program that will assist housing voucher recipients to navigate the rental market, particularly in neighborhoods with low rates of poverty. The Housing Ambassador will be tasked with providing services to a minimum of 10 unique households per month, or 120 households per year.



## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: \$77,022.00 in FY 2021 City budget reserves.

Long-Term Impact:

## Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

### Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Social Equity, Secondary Impact: Economy, Tertiary Impact: Infrastructure

### Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Secondary Impact: Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Economic Development

## Legislative History

Date	Action
February 1, 2021	Public hearing Amendment #4 FY 2019 Annual Action Plan; approval of resolution adopting Plan (Authorized initial allocations of Round 3 CDBG-CV funding)
April 19, 2021	Report on Potential Uses of Reserve Funds
May 17, 2021	Bill Authorizing Appropriating Funds for Round 3 CDBG-CV Public Assistance Programs, etc.

## Suggested Council Action

Approval of the proposed resolution.