



Department Source: Public Health and Human Services

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: June 1, 2020

Re: Report- Dignity in Work

Executive Summary

Council discretionary funds in the amount of \$50,000 were appropriated in FY2019 for "Dignity in Work" program. Staff is seeking direction from council regarding the use of this funding for the COVID-19 pandemic or the original purpose.

Discussion

Late in FY2019, the Public Health and Human Services Department was informed that council discretionary funds in the amount of \$50,000 were appropriated in FY2019 for a "Dignity in Work" program requested by Councilperson Trapp. The City Manager and staff subsequently met with Councilperson Trapp to learn more about the proposed program. Councilperson Trapp indicated the Dignity in Work program would be a pilot program for a low barrier to entry day labor program targeted to individuals who are homeless/panhandling. Councilperson Trapp suggested that a request for proposals be issued seeking a community-based entity to administer the program. Councilperson Trapp also suggested that City staff facilitate the contracted entity partnering with City departments to hire the program participants as temporary day laborers. Due to limited capacity at the time, PHHS agreed to begin developing and coordinating the initiative in early 2020. The funding was encumbered and rolled into the FY2020 budget.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic response, PHHS lacks the capacity to develop and coordinate this initiative at this time. PHHS can coordinate with the Purchasing Division to issue an RFP; however, the responsibility of coordinating with City departments to hire the program participants as temporary staff would be that of the contracted entity. Under the circumstances created by the pandemic, this would appear to be prohibitively challenging.

Should the council wish to pursue an initiative to address homelessness, an option would be to utilize this council discretionary funding to offset the operational costs of the community-based organization implementing the rent/mortgage assistance funding being made available through the City Housing Division's current request for proposals for CARES Act CDBG funding. This would allow the entirety of the awarded CDBG funding to be made available for rent/mortgage assistance. Because the CARES Act CDBG funding is a one-time allocation and time limited, the use of the council discretionary funds for this purpose would be self-limiting and would not need to be replaced.



Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: n/a

Long-Term Impact: n/a

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

[Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

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

[Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Legislative History

Date	Action
09/17/2018	B175-18 Adopting the FY 2019 Annual Budget for the City of Columbia

Suggested Council Action

Provide direction to staff regarding the use of this funding for the COVID-19 pandemic or the Dignity in Work program.