



Human Services Commission

Department of Public Health and Human Services

FY2021 Social Services Funding Process and Contract Recommendations

Report to the Columbia City Council

December 21, 2020

Background

For over 50 years, the City of Columbia has recognized that in addition to physical infrastructure and public safety, it must also make an investment in our community's social infrastructure. To this end, the City has both provided and purchased social services to ensure that adequate levels of these services are available to low-income residents of the City.

The social services provided and purchased by the City address some of our community's most challenging issues, many of which are rooted in poverty and inequity.



Because the City does not have the capacity to provide all of the social services needed to address the causes and effect of poverty and inequality in our community, the Human Services Commission (HSC) and the Department of Public Health and Human Services are charged by the Columbia City Council to make annual recommendations for the purchase of social services, through professional services agreements with community-based providers, utilizing the City's social services funding.

The aspirational goal of the social services purchased by the City is to...

Ensure our basic needs are met and we all have the opportunity to achieve our full potential.

Social Services Funding Process

The social services contracted by the City are identified and prioritized through a data driven process, which incorporates an ongoing assessment of community needs and resources. In order to target limited resources, the City's social services funding is allocated to address the priority issue areas of basic needs and opportunity, as identified by the HSC and staff and approved by the City Council. Requests for proposals (RFP) and the resulting purchase of service contracts are issued by these issue areas in a staggered, two year cycle.

RFPs are issued annually in July and proposals are reviewed by the HSC and staff in September and October. During this period, the commission also conducts site visits of all applicant organizations in order to observe the proposed programming in the environment in which it will be delivered. The capacity of applicant organizations and proposals are evaluated by the commission using a [standardized rating instrument \(pdf\)](#). The performance of previously contracted providers and services, and their impact, is also considered.

The HSC and staff hold a work session in October in order to discuss the proposals, followed by a second work session in November, in which contract recommendations are developed and then made public. These recommendations are then presented to the City Council in December.

For detailed information about the City's social services funding process, please visit the [City of Columbia Social Services Funding web page](#).

FY2021 Social Services Contract Recommendations

On July 20, 2020, staff issued a RFP for social services to address issues related to opportunity. In response, six (6) responsive proposals were submitted. Based on the review and rating of the proposals and the capacity of the applicant organizations, the HSC and staff are recommending the City establish six (6) new purchase of service contracts with six (6) organizations totaling \$328,707.00, as follows:

Opportunity			
ORGANIZATION		PROGRAM NAME	TOTAL AMOUNT
1	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Missouri	Community Based Mentoring	\$30,000.00
2	Central Missouri Community Action	Financial Opportunity Center	\$31,047.00
3	CHA Low-Income Services	Moving Ahead Program	\$58,660.00
4	Community Playground of Columbia, Inc. (dba: Fun City Youth Academy)	Fun City Youth Academy	\$80,000.00
5	Grade A Plus Incorporated	Grade A Plus Academic Support and Enrichment Program	\$34,000.00
6	Job Point	Job Works Employment Services	\$95,000.00

Conclusion

The Human Services Commission and staff are pleased to present these recommendations for the City Council's consideration. The commission and staff feel that these recommendations propose the best utilization of limited funds in addressing the most critical issues. While the City's investment in social services is not adequate to fully address the issues related to opportunity, it does substantially increase the availability of services in Columbia. Without funding from the City, many of these services would simply be unavailable to our community's most vulnerable residents.

The members of the HSC and staff would like to thank the City Council for its longstanding support of investing in the social infrastructure our community.