



Department Source: Community Relations

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: February 17, 2020

Re: Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Supplier Agreement

## Executive Summary

Authorizing a supplier agreement with Missouri Department of Social Services Family Support Division for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program to assist utility customers in need with the energy portion of their utility bills.

## Discussion

Due to economic hardship and rising expenses from increased utility services usage from varying weather conditions, a percentage of Columbia utility customers experience difficulties paying utility bills. Central Missouri Community Action (CMCA) provides the largest amount of utility assistance in Columbia through the federally funded Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) via the Department of Social Services.

Utility customers with various needs rely heavily on this program to assist with maintaining a living environment. To qualify for program assistance, applicants must be at or below 125% of the federal poverty guidelines, US citizen or alien admitted for permanent residence, be the individual responsible for the utility account, and be subject for disconnection. The program, consisting of two components (Energy Assistance (EA) and the Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP)), covers the energy portion of utility bills and requires the customer to pay the non-energy portion.

In December 2019, Utility Customer Service received 364 LIHEAP pledges totaling \$60,881 that helped 331 utility customers. Without this program, many Columbia citizens would be heavily financially impacted when utility costs rise due to extreme weather during the summer and winter months. The utilization of this program offers citizens and the City additional resources to ensure that everyone thrives in this community.

## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: NA

Long-Term Impact: NA



## Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

### Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Social Equity, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

### Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

## Legislative History

Date	Action
N/A	

## Suggested Council Action

Authorize a supplier agreement with Missouri Department of Social Services Family Support Division for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.