



# City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Public Health and Human Services

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: November 18, 2024

Re: Love Columbia – Rental assistance and eviction relief

## Executive Summary

A resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign a funding agreement between Love Columbia, Corp. and the City of Columbia, MO for rental assistance and eviction relief.

## Discussion

The City of Columbia received \$25.2 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to address the public health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. On October 2, 2023, the City Council approved a resolution that instructed staff to negotiate agreements for Council consideration utilizing the ARPA funds. The resolution included funding for the City to address affordable housing through utility assistance by expanding program eligibility. After consideration, staff found expanding program eligibility for one year was not feasible. Additionally, staff expect to have adequate funding in FY24 for utility assistance with general funds.

The State of Missouri Housing and Development Commission issued a notice of funding availability for Housing Stability and Eviction Diversion funding. Love Columbia, Corp. requested \$600,000 and was awarded \$540,000 in this competitive process. Love Columbia, Corp. needs additional funds to prevent evictions and help ensure long-term housing stability for renters.

In lieu of expanding utility assistance, this agreement with Love Columbia for rental assistance and eviction relief addresses two of Council's priorities for ARPA funds, affordable housing and homelessness. Under this agreement, Love Columbia will provide assistance and eviction relief, case management, and legal services to City of Columbia residents, in accordance with the Missouri Housing Development Commission's Housing Stability and Eviction Diversion program. Additionally, Love Columbia will provide rental assistance payments to tenants who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The agreement is for \$350,000.

## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: This would issue \$350,000 in City ARPA funds.

Long-Term Impact: none.



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## Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

### Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Safe Community, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

### Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

## Legislative History

Date	Action
10/02/2023	R154-23 A Resolution Allocating \$25,284,624.00 in American Rescue Plan Funds and authorizing the City Manager to negotiate any agreements or other documents consistent with such allocations. <a href="#">R154-23</a>

## Suggested Council Action

Should Council agree with staff recommendations, an affirmative vote is in order.