

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas, Inc. Food Program



Housing & Community
Services/Community
Investments Division

May 5, 2020



Background



- The novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has impacted the health, safety, and economic stability of Kansans, especially the senior population who are at highest risk of poor outcomes or death when they are exposed to COVID-19
- BCBSKS contacted Council Member Becky Tuttle with interest in providing a grant to the Wichita Housing Authority to address this high risk population



Background



- The grant will cover the cost of food distribution in all four senior public housing properties for eight weeks so the high-risk senior residents living there may reduce their risk of exposure while maintaining access to nutritious food



Analysis



- Wichita Housing Authority reached out to five different food distributors in the area to gauge interest in supply and delivery of the food boxes
- Only one vendor with proper capacity, MEI Foods, expressed interest in program implementation
- Grant funding provided to the City of Wichita from BCBSKS, in the amount of \$37,562.40, will be sufficient to provide approximately 180 seniors bi-weekly food boxes for the duration of the eight-week program



Analysis



- MEI Foods will supply and provide contactless delivery of the boxes of food at a rate of \$52.17 per box
- The box will contain 2-3 lbs. of ground beef, 5 lbs. of potatoes, 8 oranges, 4-8 apples, 3 onions, 2-3 bags/boxes of pasta, beans or rice, and 6-10 cans of vegetables with some canned meat



Financial Considerations



- There is no impact to the General Fund.



Recommendation



- It is recommended that the City Council authorize the Memorandum of Agreement with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas, Inc. for the receipt of grant funds and approve contract with MEI Foods for the provision of food boxes and authorize the necessary signatures.



