

CARES Act ESG Funding Allocation for HumanKind Ministries, Inc. Isolation Shelter



Housing & Community
Services/Community
Investments Division

February 1, 2022



Background



- The City of Wichita is recognized as an entitlement city by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and receives Federal funding for community development activities.
- Specific entitlement funding sources include the Community Development Block Grant program, the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program.



Background



- The ESG program provides funding to improve and operate homeless shelters, rapidly re-house families and individuals experiencing homelessness, and prevent families and individuals from becoming homeless.
- The City has received \$3,301,120 in ESG funding authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).



Background



- ESG funding authorized by the CARES Act must be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) among individuals and families who are homeless; and to support additional homeless assistance and homelessness prevention activities to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19
- In early January 2022 the need for isolation of COVID-19 positive individuals experiencing homelessness became critical as cases exceeded the capacity of Sedgwick County's FEMA isolation program



Background



- Discussions originally centered around re-deploying the United Way hotel isolation program which was funded with ESG CARES funds
- Barriers to this option included
 - Lack of hotels with appropriate ventilation systems willing to take COVID positive individuals
 - Lack of staff to provide required services and meals
 - Lack of transportation
 - Explosion in the number of positive cases



Background



- Three meetings of the Continuum of Care agencies
 - One including the Sedgwick County Health Director Adrienne Byrne
- Needed a shelter to operate as a 24 hour shelter for COVID-19 positive individuals experiencing homelessness
- HumanKind Ministries, Inc. (HumanKind) was the only provider willing to structure a program to meet this need using community space at The Inn separate from its emergency winter shelter.



Analysis



- Humankind has requested ESG funding in the amount of \$50,000 to support operation of a COVID-19 isolation shelter for homeless individuals
- The shelter opened January 14 and has the capacity to serve up to 30 individuals at any given time
- The shelter is open 24 hours per day, seven days per week, with operational support



Analysis



- Shelter clients are required to provide evidence of a positive COVID-19 test in order to enter the facility.
- Services are not provided to individuals with repeat positive tests within 30 days, or for quarantine purposes, including close contacts or cold and flu symptoms.
- Individuals served must be 18 years of age or older and must be capable of living independently.



Financial Considerations



- There is no impact to the General Fund
- Unused ESG CARES funds from the Landlord Incentive Program will be reallocated to this program
- The City must expend 80 percent of awarded ESG-CV funding by March 31, 2022, or it is subject to recapture by HUD



Recommendation



- It is recommended that the City Council approve the funding allocation and authorize the funding agreement and necessary signatures.



