



City Council Report

Date: June 6, 2016
To: The Community and Cultural Development Committee
Through: Natalie Lewis, Deputy City Manager
Ruth Giese, Community Services Director
From: Elizabeth Morales, Housing and Community Development Director
Subject: FY 16/17 Human Services Funding

Strategic Initiatives



Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to present the Community and Cultural Development Committee with funding recommendations for additional Human Services Funding of \$110,000 for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

Background

On May 5, 2016 Council provided approval to adopt an additional \$50,000 for Human Services funding for Fiscal Year 16/17. Housing and Community Development received additional approval from Council on May 16, 2016 to approve additional \$50,000 with recommendations to be forthcoming to the Community and Cultural Development Committee.

In early May, the City of Mesa was made aware of a funding decision by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which resulted in the defunding of seven homeless providers. One of those providers, House of Refuge, is a non-profit agency located in Mesa. House of Refuge, which is located at the former Williams Air Force Base, provides 81 units to homeless families and was notified that the funding from HUD which consisted of 75% of its overall funding was cut retroactively to February 1, 2016. This decision has significant impact in serving the 54 families served by this funding. Families have been given non-renewal of lease notices but there is a need to identify new housing placements for these families or they may return to homelessness. In an effort to help alleviate this housing crisis, an additional \$60,000 has been identified by Housing and Community Development Division as unused

administrative funding in the Human Services program. In addition, Emergency Solutions Grant can be used to provide Rapid Rehousing for approximately 10 families.

As this is a regional issue, Maricopa Association of Governments, is heading the discussions and pulling together the various funding sources to assist with the transition of the families displaced by the loss of funding. Staff recommend that the funding be included in the regional plan, with the condition that Human Services funds be used for those families living in Mesa.

Discussion

Staff have prepared an attachment (Attachment A) which provides a recommendation for use of the funds. Council will need to provide direction to adopt the recommendations or provide an alternative plan.

Fiscal Impact

The City has already allocated \$720,000 of FY2016/17 Human Services funds to the project. The additional \$110,000 is a result of 1) approval by Council to fund additional \$50,000 to Human Services and 2) \$60,000 of unused Human Services funds that was unused for administrative activities.