



City Council

Date: January 28, 2019

To: Mesa City Council

Through: Natalie Lewis, Deputy City Manager
Ruth Giese, Community Services Director

From: Liz Morales, Housing and Community Development Director
Mary Brandon, Housing Supervisor

Subject: 2017 Mainstream Voucher and 2017 Family Unification Program

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to provide information for the Mesa City Council to approve and authorize the City Manager to accept, expend, and distribute grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) based on the 2017 Mainstream Voucher Program in the amount of \$161,858 and the 2017 Family Unification Program in the amount of \$208,665.

Background

The City of Mesa Housing Services (MHA) administers various housing programs that serve over 1,700 households including: Housing Choice Voucher Program, Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program, and the Mainstream Program. HUD dictates the program rules through federal regulations based on federal statutory authority and local policies are outlined in the City of Mesa Housing Administrative Plan.

HUD occasionally provides new funding opportunities for housing agencies to apply for. Recent HUD funding opportunities have been targeted to specific populations, including for non-elderly disabled individuals and families, as well as for families in child welfare systems.

Discussion

In June 2018, the MHA applied for the 2017 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Mainstream Voucher program and in September 2018, the MHA was awarded twenty-eight (28) vouchers in the total amount of \$161,858 annually. The Mainstream Vouchers will assist non-elderly persons experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness and can also assist persons

who are institutionalized or are at risk of being institutionalized. The MHA will work with support service providers in Maricopa County to provide supportive services. The starting effective date of the Mainstream Vouchers is March 1, 2019.

In July 2018, the MHA applied for the 2017 NOFA Family Unification Program (FUP) Vouchers and in December 2018, the MHA was awarded twenty-eight (28) vouchers in the amount of \$208,665 annually. The FUP Vouchers will assist families involved in the child welfare system who face unstable housing and homelessness, and youth ages 18 to 24 years of age who have left foster care and lack adequate shelter and who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The MHA will work with the Arizona Department of Child Services (DCS) to provide applicant referrals. The starting effective date for the FUP Vouchers is March 1, 2019.

Alternatives

The alternative is to not accept the federal grants, which will result in a negative impact with HUD and the loss of an opportunity to assist non-elderly disabled persons and families working with DCS.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact to the City. The funds are awarded by HUD and the funding fully supports the program.

Attachments

- Mainstream Voucher award letter from HUD
- Family Unification Program Voucher award letter from HUD