

Mesa Housing Services Governing Board Report

Date: May 20, 2021

To: Housing Services Governing Board

Through: Natalie Lewis, Deputy City Manager

From: Ruth Giese, Community Services Director
Mary Brandon, Community Services Deputy Director

Subject: Emergency Homeless Vouchers Under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Housing Services Governing Board to approve and authorize the acceptance, expenditure, and distribution of grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the American Rescue Act Plan of 2021, Emergency Homeless Voucher Program (EHV) in the initial amount of \$982,416, plus related fees.

Background

The City of Mesa Housing Services serving as the Mesa Housing Authority (MHA) administers various housing programs that serve over 1,800 households including the Housing Choice Voucher Program, Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program, Mainstream Program, and Family Unification Program. HUD dictates each program's rules through federal regulations based on federal statutory authority. The City's local policies for administration are outlined in the City of Mesa Housing Administrative Plan.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 has directed HUD to proportionally allocate additional housing vouchers to Public Housing Authorities that received an award for Emergency Homeless Vouchers. The City, as the MHA, has been awarded 108 Emergency Homeless Vouchers, effective July 1, 2021.

Discussion

MHA was awarded 108 Emergency Homeless Vouchers in the initial total amount of \$982,416, plus related fees. The vouchers will assist individuals or families experiencing homelessness, at risk of homelessness, fleeing or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, or who are recently homeless. The starting effective date of the vouchers is July 1, 2021.

The individuals or families will be referred to MHA through a local homeless or victim services provider.

Alternatives

The alternative is to not accept the Emergency Homeless Vouchers, which will result in a negative impact with HUD and the loss of an opportunity to assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness, at risk of homelessness, fleeing or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, or who are recently homeless.

Fiscal Impact

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

Attachments

Emergency Homeless Voucher award letter from HUD