

Mesa Housing Services Governing Board Report

Date: May 8, 2025

To: Housing Services Governing Board

Through: Candace Cannistraro, Deputy City Manager
Ruth Giese, Community Services Director

From: Rosario Beltran, Community Services Deputy Director

Subject: VASH Program Inter-governmental Agreement renewal
Housing Services Family Self Sufficiency Program Grant

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is for the Housing Governing Board (HGB) to review and approve:

- Approve the renewals for the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to allow City of Mesa Housing Authority (MHA) Housing Choice Voucher Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing Program (VASH) participants to lease housing in the Town of Gilbert. An Individual IGA will be renewed and executed between MHA and the other jurisdiction. Staff are recommending that the Board adopt a resolution regarding the approval of the IGA renewal.
- The purpose is for the Mesa Housing Services Governing Board ("Board") to adopt a resolution for the annual Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program grant.

Background for IGA for VASH Program

MHA was awarded and administers 206 VASH vouchers. The VASH applicants are referred from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for housing assistance and are required to be engaged in casework with VA staff.

The IGA will allow VASH applicants/participants additional housing opportunities outside of Mesa in the Town of Gilbert. The MHA will continue to administer the VASH program including certifications and inspections. The jurisdictions will have no responsibility for compliance with VASH; the jurisdictions will only approve that the VASH participant may lease a unit in their jurisdiction.

Discussion

The IGA for the VASH program was reviewed previously by the Resident Advisory Board (RAB), and they recommend the renewals be approved by the HGB. HUD and the VA are in support of the IGAs. The recommended IGA to be entered into with each of the jurisdictions for VASH vouchers is attached to this report.

Background for FSS Program grant

The FSS Program supports the HUD strategic goal of increasing economic opportunity for HUD-assisted families. The FSS grant provides support to the salary of one FSS Program Coordinator who assists participating families receiving housing assistance through the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program. The FSS Program Coordinator develops local strategies to connect participating families to public and private resources to increase their earned income and financial empowerment, reduce or eliminate the need for welfare assistance, and make progress toward self-sufficiency.

Mesa Housing Services administers the Family Self-Sufficiency Program as an optional program to assist HCV participants work toward self-sufficiency. Housing Services applies for the FSS grant annually to continue funding the FSS Coordinator salary.