

Mesa Housing Services Governing Board Report

Date: September 8, 2022

To: Mesa City Council

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

From: Mary Brandon, Community Services Deputy Director
Rosario Beltran-Joshi, Housing Administrator

Subject: VASH Program Inter-governmental Agreement renewals
Family Self Sufficiency Program Action Plan approval
Housing Program updates
Emergency Rental/Utility Assistance updates

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 Agreements (IGAS) to allow City of Mesa Housing Authority (MHA) Housing Choice Voucher Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing Program (VASH) participants to lease housing in Town of Gilbert and Maricopa County Housing Authority. Individual IGA's would be renewed and executed between MHA and the other jurisdictions. Staff is recommending that the Board adopt a resolution regarding the approval of the IGAs renewal.
- Approve the update to the Housing Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Annual Action Plan. Staff is recommending that the Board adopt a resolution regarding the approval of the updated FSS Action Plan.
- Staff to provide Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCV) updates.
- Staff to provide Emergency Rental/Utility Assistance Program (ERAP) update.



Background for IGA for VASH Program

MHA was awarded and administers 191 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 IGAS will allow VASH applicants/participants additional housing opportunities outside of Mesa in Town of Gilbert and Maricopa County Islands in the East Valley. 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 each only approve that the VASH participant may lease a unit in their jurisdiction.

Discussion

The IGAs for the VASH program were 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 Action Plan

MHA housing participants can voluntarily apply for the FSS program that enables assisted families and individuals to increase their earned income and reduce their dependency on rental subsidies. After the eligible family is selected to participate in the FSS program, they enter into a FSS contract which includes an individual training and services plan (ITSP). The ITSP is a document that records the plan for the family with intermediate and long-term goals and the steps the family needs to take to achieve these goals.

Housing Authority's with a FSS program are required to complete and submit an annual FSS Action Plan. This year HUD revised the FSS Final Rule that was used to incorporate the updated FSS Action Plan.

Discussion

The FSS Action Plan was reviewed previously by the Resident Advisory Board (RAB) and they recommend the Action Plan to be approved by the HGB. The recommended FSS Action Plan is attached to this report.

