

City of Culver City, California
City Council Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: 06/09/2008		Item Number: <u>C-4</u>	
AGENDA ITEM: Approval of the Submission of the Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Program Coordinator Grant to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).			
Contact Person/Dept.: Mona Karroum or Tevis Barnes		Phone Number: 310-253-5782	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒ No ☐		General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☒	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☐	Attachments: ☒
Public Notification: St. Joseph's Center (06/02/08) Master E-Mail Notification List (06/02/08)			
Department Approval: Sol Blumenfeld (5/22/08)		City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (by H. Baker) (06/02/08)	
Fiscal Impact Review: Jeff Muir (by M. Noller) (06/04/08)		City Manager Approval: Jerry B. Fulwood (06/04/08)	

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the City Council approve the submission of the Family Self Sufficiency Program Grant to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

BACKGROUND:

Family Self Sufficiency Program

The Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act (Act) of 1990, Section 554, enacted the Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Program which is implemented by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This act set forth a new direction for Public Housing Agencies/Authorities across the country. FSS is a voluntary program designed to enable families receiving Section 8 rental assistance to become economically independent from all forms of public assistance within a five (5) year time frame. Using housing as a stabilizing force, the FSS Program connects families to needed supportive services, such as educational and vocational training, transportation and childcare and other identified support services to enable the participants to focus on activities and experiences that enhance the participant's ability to succeed in the workplace. Additionally, the FSS Program carries a financial incentive in the form of the establishment of an escrow account which the family receives upon their graduation from the program.

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DISCUSSION:

Family Self Sufficiency Coordinator Grant

Without a significant increase in training, education, employment and support services, the situation for low-income households is expected to remain the same or decline. Understanding these economic and social realities, the Culver City Housing Agency (CCHA) is committed to providing programs and progressive options for empowering and improving the lives of those we serve. Based on this premise, the CCHA recommends the City Council approve the submission of the FSS Coordinator Grant application for \$64,909 to HUD to support the efforts of the FSS program.

The Revised Continuing Appropriations Resolution of 2008 allows funding for program coordinators under the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) FSS program under Section 23 of the United States Housing Act of 1937. Through the annual Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), HUD provides funding to public housing agencies (PHAs) that are operating Section 8 HCV FSS programs to enable those PHAs to employ program coordinators to support their Section 8 HCV FSS programs. For 2008, this NOFA announces the availability of approximately \$49,000,000 nationwide.

A funding maximum of \$66,000 is available for each full-time FSS coordinator position. Salaries are based on local comparables. Additionally, there is a limitation on Renewal Funding Increases. For renewal coordinator positions, PHAs will be limited to a one percent (1%) increase above the amount of the most recent award for the position.

Submission of the grant requires information on FSS program status and accomplishments as well as the funding amount requested. The application also includes a "logic model" which projects program goals and services for the coming year. Additionally, the CCHA will submit a narrative outlining current program status and recruitment efforts and a narrative expressing the CCHA's mission to affirmatively further fair housing.

Electronic application submission is mandatory unless an applicant requests, and is granted, a waiver to this requirement. The funds available under this NOFA are being awarded based on demonstrated performance. Applications are reviewed by the local field office and Grants Management Center (GMC) to determine whether or not they are technically adequate based on the NOFA requirements. Field offices will provide to the GMC information needed by the GMC to make its determination.

It is anticipated that award announcements will take place in the fall of 2008. Successful applicants will receive an award letter from HUD. Funding will be provided to successful applicants as an amendment to the Section 8 Annual Contribution

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Contract (ACC) of the applicant PHA. Unsuccessful applicants will receive a notification of rejection letter from the GMC that will state the basis for the decision.

Status- Culver City FSS Program

The FSS Program Coordinator is responsible for the following activities:

- Conducting intake interviews
- Assessing the skills, abilities, needs, resources of families
- Identifying realistic goals and developing tasks and milestones to accomplish goals
- Identifying and coordinating resources and services needed by the family
- Monitoring and documenting the family's progress to goals in the client's contract
- Coordinating/conducting recruitment of FSS participants
- Organizing economic-enrichment seminars such as preparing for homeownership, consumer credit counseling, and job interview skills
- Conducting a survey to determine the program success

Since 1999, the CCHA has applied for and been awarded funding by HUD for the FSS program. In the aggregate, these awards have totaled over \$457,000. For Calendar Year (CY) 2006 the CCHA was awarded \$63,630 and for CY 2007 the CCHA was awarded \$64,266. Please note that since 2005, HUD no longer functions under a Fiscal Year, but a Calendar Year.

Through the years, the CCHA has witnessed success with its FSS Program. A total of forty (40) households have participated, and of this number twelve (12) have graduated and completed their FSS COP. Some of these households have secured better employment and many have received degrees from institutions of higher learning. Additionally, thirty-four (34) households have generated escrow accounts, which is an indication of increase in wage earned income. These escrow accounts have totaled over \$94,143.87 with some being as high as \$27,780.40.

Through the submission of this grant to HUD, the CCHA hopes to be awarded approximately \$64,909 for CY 2008 (which reflects the HUD allowed one percent increase over the previous year's award). This amount covers one (1) full time position as an FSS Coordinator. On January 7, 2008 the Council approved a contract with St. Joseph's Center (SJC) to function as Culver City's FSS Coordinator.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

Since 1999, the CCHA has applied for and been awarded funding for the FSS Program. If awarded by HUD, the CCHA will secure \$64,909 in funding to support one (1) full time position to administer the FSS Program.

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In the unlikely event the grant is not awarded for Calendar Year 2009, staff will return to the City Council with potential options to fund this program from other sources or provide the City Council with an opportunity to consider disbanding the program

ATTACHMENT:

1. Family Self Sufficiency Grant Application

MOTION:

That the City Council:

1. Approve the submission of the Family Self Sufficiency Program Grant to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary documents, including any required budget transfer(s), should the grant be awarded.