

**City of Culver City, California
Agenda Item Report**

Meeting Date: 11/22/2010		Item Number: <u>C-3</u>	
CITY COUNCIL 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.: Tevis Barnes, Mona Kennedy Community Development Department/Housing Division		Phone Number: (310) 253-5782	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒ No ☐		General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☒	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☒ Attachments: ☒	
Commission Action Required: Yes ☐ No ☒		Date: _____	
Public Notification: Meetings and Agendas – City Council (11/17/10); St. Joseph’s Center (11/17/10)			
Department Approval: Sol Blumenfeld (11/11/10)		City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (by H. Baker) (11/16/10)	
Chief Financial Officer Approval: Jeff Muir (by M. Noller) (11/16/10)		City Manager Approval: John M. Nachbar (11/17/10)	
<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> 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. <u>BACKGROUND:</u> 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

The purpose of this grant application is to fund the position for a Family Self Sufficiency Coordinator, which oversees the case management and supportive services coordination for FSS Program participants. Without a significant increase in training, education, employment and support services, the socio-economic status of 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 submission of the FSS Coordinator Grant application for \$66,214.00 to HUD to support the efforts of the FSS program.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2010 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.

A funding maximum of \$69,000 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. Culver City was granted \$65,558 in 2009, which allows for a maximum grant application for \$66,214.

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.

It is anticipated that award announcements will take place in January or February 2011. 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 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.

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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. These awards have approximately totaled over \$522,000. For Calendar Year (CY) 2008 the CCHA was awarded \$64,909 and for CY 2009 the CCHA was awarded \$65,558. Please note that since 2005, HUD no longer functions under a Fiscal Year, but a Calendar Year.

Through the submission of this grant to HUD, the CCHA hopes to be awarded approximately \$66,214.00 for 2010 (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 June 28, 2010 the City Council approved a contract with St. Joseph's Center (SJC) to function as the FSS Coordinator for the Culver City program. If awarded, the 2010 FSS grant will be earmarked to support the continuation of the contract with SJC.

Continuation of the FSS Coordinator position is contingent upon receipt of these funds. While it is not anticipated the City would not be successful in obtaining this year's grant allocation, in the case the City does not receive the grant, staff would return to the City Council with recommendations for the City Council's consideration.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

If awarded by HUD, the CCHA will secure \$66,214.00 in funding to support one (1) full time position to administer the FSS Program through St. Joseph's Center.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Family Self Sufficiency Grant

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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; and,
2. Authorize the City Attorney to review/prepare the necessary documents; and,
3. Authorize the City Manager to execute such documents on behalf of the City.