

TO: Michael C Van Milligen, City Manager
FROM: Alvin Nash, Director Housing and Community Development
DATE: December 28, 2016
RE: National Disaster Resilience Grant (NDRG) Contract for Home Advocacy Services

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this memo is for City Council to accept a recommendation from the Housing and Community Development Department to award a contract to the Visiting Nurse Association for Home Advocacy services to operate the Bee Branch Healthy Homes Resiliency Program.

BACKGROUND

In March 2015, the City was part of an Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) Phase I application to the National Disaster Resilience Competition. IEDA was invited on to Phase II, the final round of the competition. The City worked with state partners and the Iowa Flood Center throughout the summer and fall to prepare the Phase II application.

The competition defined a resilient community as one that is able to resist and rapidly recover from disasters or other shocks with minimal outside assistance. Reducing current and future risk is essential to the long-term vitality, economic well-being, and security of all communities. By identifying future risk and vulnerabilities, resilient recovery planning can maximize preparedness, save lives, and bring benefits to a community long after recovery projects are complete.

In January 2016, the HUD National Disaster Resiliency Competition grant awarded the State of Iowa \$95.7 million. The City of Dubuque received \$31.5 million of this award in Disaster Resiliency funds for the Bee Branch Healthy Homes Resiliency Program and storm water infrastructure improvements. \$8.4 Million of the award will be used to repair damages to homes of low-and moderate income residents in the targeted area of the Bee Branch Watershed.

DISCUSSION

Home Advocacy Services will address individual homeowners' needs by providing education, awareness, tools, and resources needed to live in an urban watershed. Services to assess general resilience needs and challenges faced by residents and

businesses in the Bee Branch Watershed and one-on-one interaction with residents to complete a comprehensive assessment at the household level will be offered and conducted at each home. Assistance with education and referrals to increase understanding of what it means to live in a watershed, and what resources and services are available to support development, employment, education, health, and neighborhood revitalization will be part of the Home Advocacy Services portfolio. A variety of community resources will be used to improve housing, repair damages, and make homes more resilient to future flooding, all while empowering the residents to maintain their homes in a resilient manner.

Clear and compelling evidence shows that unsafe, unhealthy housing leads to wealth depletion, abandoned properties, housing instability, potential homelessness, and increased risk of housing-based illnesses. Evidence also shows that healthy and safe housing in the most distressed and impacted communities improves health, social, and economic outcomes for families -ultimately creating safer neighborhoods and healthy communities. This service will strive to inform, motivate, empower, and educate residents, homeowners, and businesses on how to break the links among unhealthy housing, unhealthy families, and unhealthy neighborhoods. Informed and engaged residents create a resilient community.

Recommendation

The Housing and Community Development Department received three qualified proposals for Home Advocacy services. A interview committee comprised of four city employees reviewed the proposals and narrowed the field to two candidates. Those two candidates were interviewed as to their approach to administer home advocacy services for the Bee Branch Healthy Homes Program. Based on the presentation during the interview and supporting references with prior experience in the field of advocacy and social case management, the interview committee recommends awarding contract for services to the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA).

BUDGET IMPACT

The total amount awarded for the Bee Branch Healthy Homes Resiliency Program is \$8,427,665 with an additional \$472,500 to help defray administrative costs to implement the project. The budget for the Resiliency Grant is as follows:

Bee Branch Healthy Homes	\$8,900,165
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Visiting Nurse Association propose \$411,946 for contract to administer Home Advocacy services to Bee Branch Healthy Homes recipients.

REQUESTED ACTION

We respectfully request City Council approve the award of contract of Home Advocacy services to the Visiting Nurse Association.

Cc: Teri Goodmann, Assistant City Manager
Crenna Brumwell, City Attorney
Mary Rose Corrigan, Public Health Specialist
Resiliency Development Team

Memo prepared by Sharon Gaul, Resiliency Coordinator