



Legislation Text

File #: 1811-2020, **Version:** 1

This ordinance authorizes Columbus City Council to enter into a grant agreement with the YWCA in support of the Equity Now Coalition.

The Equity Now Coalition's work began on March 18, 2020 when President/CEO of the Columbus Urban League (CUL), Stephanie Hightower convened a COVID-19 virtual meeting on March 18, 2020 with the immediate goal of sharing information to mitigate the pandemic's disparate impact on Black and other People of Color (POC). The weekly COVID-19 Alliance meetings began on March 26, 2020. The urgent necessity for these virtual meetings was further exacerbated by the public 8 minute and 46 second execution of George Floyd on May 25, 2020. Mr. Floyd's murder-amidst the growing number of COVID-19 diagnoses and its' disproportionate racial impact-resurfaced the unbroken chain of police brutality/fatality that has been waged on Black and other POCs since before this country's inception. Mr. Floyd's death, against the backdrop of the pandemic, set the stage for protests in every state in our nation and across the globe. These unprecedented times present a perhaps fleeting opportunity to make great strides toward equitable race and gender outcomes in the City of Columbus.

This funding will allow the Equity Now Coalition to further develop racially-equitable responses to the COVID-19 pandemic for the Black and other People of Color communities in Columbus. The ENC will provide capacity building to-and collaboration amongst-existing human service programs and services and work together to achieve race and gender outcomes for the community in general.

Fiscal Impact: Funding is available within the CARES Act fund.

Emergency action is requested in order to avoid any delay in providing the resources necessary to the Equity Now Coalition to develop racially-equitable responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To authorize Columbus City Council to enter into a grant agreement with the YWCA in support of the Equity Now Coalition; to authorize a transfer of appropriations within and an expenditure from the CARES Act fund; and to declare an emergency. (\$153,594.00)

WHEREAS, the Equity Now Coalition is a coalition of more than 160 participants dedicated to developing racially-equitable responses to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic presents a perhaps fleeting opportunity to make great strides toward equitable race and gender outcomes in the City of Columbus; and

WHEREAS, this funding will allow the Equity Now Coalition to further develop racially-equitable responses to the COVID-19 pandemic for the Black and other People of Color communities in Columbus; and

WHEREAS, expenditure of CARES Act funding to support the Equity Now Coalition is necessary to address the need to craft racially-equitable responses to the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, such expenditure of funds has not been previously accounted for in the 2020 Budget; and,

WHEREAS, an emergency exists in that it is immediately necessary to authorize a grant agreement with the YWCA to avoid any delay in providing the resources necessary to the Equity Now Coalition to develop racially-equitable responses

to the COVID-19 pandemic; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:

SECTION 1. That Columbus City Council is hereby authorized to enter into a grant agreement with the YWCA in support of the Equity Now Coalition.

SECTION 2. That the City Auditor is hereby authorized and directed to transfer appropriations within the CARES Act fund per the accounting codes in the attachment to this ordinance.

SECTION 3. That per the action authorized in Section 1 of this ordinance, the expenditure of \$153,594.00, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby authorized per the accounting codes in the attachment to this ordinance.

SECTION 4. That the funds necessary to carry out the purpose of this ordinance are hereby deemed appropriated, and the City Auditor shall establish such accounting codes as necessary.

SECTION 5. That for reasons stated in the preamble hereto, which is hereby made a part hereof, this ordinance is hereby declared an emergency measure and shall take effect and be enforced from and after its passage and approval by the Mayor, or ten days after passage if the Mayor neither approves nor vetoes the same.