



City of Columbus

Office of City Clerk
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Legislation Text

File #: 2431-2020, Version: 1

Background: This legislation authorizes the Director of Development to modify grant agreements, by adding additional funds, with various social service agencies throughout Central Ohio to allow those agencies to provide additional utility assistance grants to the residents they serve and households who have been negatively impacted by COVID-19.

The original agreements were authorized under ordinance 1805-2020 and totaled \$1,035,000.00. The total amount of these additional grants is \$250,000.00.

The social service agencies for which contract modifications are requested include:

Original Amount	Mod 1 Amount	Agency	Vendor No.	CC Expiration
\$ 55,000.00	\$55,000.00	Central Community House of Columbus Inc.	006068	4/22/22
\$ 35,000.00	\$50,000.00	St. Stephens Community House	006082	6/4/22
\$ 85,000.00	\$65,000.00	Mid-Ohio Board of Independent Living	004551	8/20/22
\$ 75,000.00	\$30,000.00	Community Refugee & Immigrant Services	005773	6/17/21
\$ 55,000.00	<u>\$50,000.00</u>	Gladden Community House	006075	5/15/21
	\$250,000.00			

The COVID 19 pandemic has caused significant job loss, unemployment, and reduction of income within Columbus and Franklin County. As a result, a significant number of households have been unable to pay their utility bills. While utility providers have suspended shutoffs due to non-payment, the accumulating cost will only further destabilize at risk households when the suspensions are lifted.

This funding will be used to provide utility assistance to qualified individuals and households as well as associated administrative costs for expenses starting March 1, 2020.

The services included in this contract cannot be provided by existing city employees because these services are beyond the City's current staffing capacity to provide.

Emergency Designation: Emergency action is requested so that the organizations can provide additional services without interruption.

Fiscal Impact: Funding is provided to the City of Columbus from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed by Congress and signed into law March 27, 2020 and available in the Department of Development's CARES Act budget (fund 2207, subfund 220702).

To authorize the Director of Development to modify grant agreements with various social service agencies, by adding additional funds, in a total amount up to \$250,000.00, to provide utility assistance grants to qualified individuals and households; to authorize an expenditure up to \$250,000.00 from the CARES Act Fund; and to declare an emergency. (\$250,000.00)

WHEREAS, the COVID 19 pandemic has resulted in significant job loss and unemployment within Columbus and Franklin County and a significant number of households have been unable to pay their utility bills. While utility providers have suspended shutoffs due to non-payment, the accumulating cost will only further destabilize at risk households; and

WHEREAS, expenditure of CARES Act funding will be used to provide utility assistance to qualified individuals and households as well as associated administrative costs for expenses starting March 1, 2020, necessary to address significant job loss and unemployment within Columbus and Franklin County resulting a significant number of households have been unable to pay their utility bills ; and

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

WHEREAS, an emergency exists in the usual daily operation of the Department of Development in that it is immediately necessary to authorize the Director to enter into a grant agreement modifications with various social service agencies so that the organizations can continue providing additional services without interruption, for the public health, safety and welfare; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

SECTION 1: That the Director of Development is hereby authorized to modify grant agreements with the social service agencies listed below, up to a total of \$250,000.00, to allow them to continue providing utility assistance grants.

Mod 1

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Agency</u>
\$55,000.00	Central Community House of Columbus Inc.
\$50,000.00	St. Stephens Community House
\$65,000.00	Mid-Ohio Board of Independent Living
\$30,000.00	Community Refugee & Immigrant Services
<u>\$50,000.00</u>	Gladden Community House
\$250,000.00	

SECTION 2. That for the purpose stated in Section 1, the expenditure of \$250,000.00 or so much thereof as may be needed, is hereby authorized in Fund 2207 (CARES Act), Dept Div 44-01 (Administration), in object class 03 (Services) per the accounting codes in the attachment to this ordinance.

SECTION 3. 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 4. That the City Auditor is authorized to make any accounting changes to revise the funding source for all contracts or contract modifications associated with this ordinance.

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