



Legislation Text

File #: 0898-2026, Version: 1

BACKGROUND:

This legislation authorizes the Director of the Department of Development to execute a grant agreement with Alvis, Inc. a not-for-profit social service agency that has been awarded for this first year of the department's Elevate!All program. Ordinance 0897-2026 contained 106 of the 109 not-for-profit social services agencies awarded for the Elevate!All program, this legislation represents one of the remaining agencies awarded and the additional agencies that have been awarded will be on subsequent pieces of legislation. The total amount awarded to the 109 agencies is \$9,925,000.00 this legislation represents \$75,000.00 of that amount. This legislation also authorizes the payment of eligible expenses prior to the issuance of the purchase order beginning January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 and authorizes the advancement of funding to each agency on a predetermined schedule.

The Elevate!All NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability) was advertised from May 8, 2025, through June 30, 2025, on the Department of Development webpage, the Human Service Chamber of Franklin County's webpage, distributed via various listservs and provided individually upon request. Non-profit organizations eligible to apply were those which provide services and/or support directly to Columbus and Franklin County households below the ALICE Threshold in one or more of the following focus areas: Financial Security, Housing Stability, Homelessness, Wealth Building, and Behavioral Health and Trauma. Potential Applicants were instructed to request up to 10% of their local organizational operating budget with a minimum request of \$25,000 and a maximum request of \$200,000.

The City received 189 proposals requesting over \$24 Million. Utilizing the first applicant-led peer review in the City's history, 360 reviewers read and ranked unique sets of applications ensuring that each application was reviewed twenty times. The rankings were processed through a complex statistical analysis to determine allocations commensurate with each application's performance in relation to each other. In total, 110 community agencies were recommended for the \$10,000,000.00 in available funding, one recipient declined the award. The awards are expected to be re-allocated for two additional year terms contingent upon each grantee's compliance with reporting and financial requirements as well as City Council approval.

Elevate!All is the next step in the Elevate! Initiative's effort to affect positive change for the residents of Columbus. The City believes that stronger infrastructure will lead to stronger programs. Without a solid foundation, even the best-designed programs can collapse under strain or fail to scale. To that end, Elevate!All will provide funding for the backbone of organizations: leadership, staffing, technology, strategic planning, financial systems, evaluation tools and more. The City hopes that awarded organizations will utilize these dollars to build their internal strength, thereby improving the long-term sustainability of their programs. This initiative will help ensure agencies have the adaptability and resilience to navigate future challenges, meet changing needs and continue to deliver high-impact services for years to come. By focusing on strengthening capacity, Elevate!All is investing in the long-term stability and success of local organizations, so they can keep serving our community - even as circumstances change or new challenges arise.

EMERGENCY DESIGNATION: An emergency exists in that it is immediately necessary to authorize the execution of the grant agreements and reimbursement/advancement of funds in order to ease the financial burden of these non-profit social service organizations that are providing services and support directly to Columbus and Franklin County households that focus on financial security, housing stability, homelessness, wealth building, behavioral health, and trauma services.

FISCAL IMPACT: Funding is available within the Hotel Motel Tax Fund 2026 budget (Fund 2231), in an amount up to \$75,000.00. And this piece is contingent upon the passage of Ordinance 0897-2026.

CONTRACT COMPLIANCE: number is 004275 and expires 12/10/2026.

To authorize the Director of Development to execute a grant agreement with Alvis, Inc. a not-for-profit, social service agency in an amount up to \$75,000.00 for the Elevate!All Program; to authorize the expenditure of funds prior to the establishment of the purchase order beginning January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026; to authorize the advancement of funds on a pre-determined schedule during the term of the agreement; to authorize the expenditure in an amount up to \$75,000.00 within the Hotel Motel Tax Fund; and declare an emergency. (\$75,000.00)

WHEREAS Elevate!All NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability) was made available to local not-for-profit organizations from May 8, 2025, to June 30, 2025, on the City's Website (Department of Development webpage), the Human Service Chamber of Franklin County's website, and distributed via various listservs and provided individually upon request; and

WHEREAS, the City received 189 applications, requesting \$24,000,000.00. One hundred and ten programs were selected for 2026, with one recipient declining their award, marking the inaugural year of the Department's Elevate!All program; and

WHEREAS, 106 of the awarded 109 organizations are included within ordinance 0897-2026 this legislation is for the award with Alvis, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the expenses prior to the issuance of the purchase order are authorized starting January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the expenditure in an amount up to \$75,000.00 is necessary within the Hotel Motel Tax Fund; and

WHEREAS, the grant agreement will include advance payments to the organizations on a pre-determined schedule; and

WHEREAS, an emergency exists in the usual and daily operation of the Department of Development in that it is immediately necessary for the Director in the Department of Development is authorized to execute grant agreements and authorize the reimbursement/advancement of funds with numerous not-for-profit social service agencies that are providing services and support directly to Columbus and Franklin County households that focus on financial security, housing stability, homelessness, wealth building, behavioral health, and trauma services, for the immediate preservation of the public health, peace, property, safety and welfare; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

SECTION 1. That the Director of Development is authorized to execute a grant agreement with Alvis, Inc., a not-for-profit social service agency in an amount up to \$75,000.00 for a portion of the Elevate!All program; to authorize the expenditures prior to the issuance of the purchase order beginning January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026; and to authorize the advancement of funds on a pre-determined schedule during the term of the grant agreement.

SECTION 2. That for the purpose as stated in Section 1, the expenditure in an amount up to \$75,000.00 or so much thereof as may be necessary is hereby authorized in Fund 2231 (Hotel Motel Tax Fund), Dept. 44-12 (Administration), in Object Class 05 (Other) per the accounting codes in the attachment to this ordinance.

SECTION 3. That payments are expressly contingent upon the availability of sufficient monies in the Hotel Motel Tax Fund (Fund 2231) to cover the obligation set forth in these agreements and in no case shall payments exceed available cash in this fund. In this event that there is not sufficient cash in the fund to cover the obligation set forth in this contract, the City Auditor shall have the authority to make all necessary adjustments at her discretion.

SECTION 4. That under the authority of Columbus City Code Chapter 111.14, the Department of Development is authorized to execute grant agreements for the purpose as stated in Section 1.

SECTION 5. That funds are hereby deemed appropriated and expenditures and transfers authorized to carry out the purposes of this ordinance and the City Auditor shall establish such accounting codes as necessary.

SECTION 6. 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 7. 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.