

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 Award for General Administration 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 East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA) for General Administration 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

Dubuque's portion of the application highlighted the need to address remaining impacts from the flooding experienced in downtown Dubuque and continued vulnerability to future flooding.

The grant funds will help with home maintenance and renovations to decrease environmental health and safety issues from flooding such as dampness and mold growth, electrical hazards, and structural issues. A comprehensive “Bee Branch Healthy Homes Resiliency Program” was outlined to help Dubuque residents meet unmet structural needs and empower individuals to be part of the creation of more resilient housing through onsite storm water management principles and sustainable, healthy homes behaviors.

More specifically, Dubuque’s portion of the application detailed the following components:

Single & Multi-Unit, Rental and Owner-Occupied Residential Rehabilitations: The proposed program includes \$8.4 million for the repair of 320 housing units, including owner-occupied homes, single-unit rentals, and small, multi-family residential units, all within the targeted Bee Branch Watershed areas. The Program’s repair projects are expected to generate significant work for local contractors and vendors. The City’s contribution to this component of the project will be \$400,000 in already budgeted Lead and Healthy Homes Program funds.

RECOMMENDATION

ECIA serves as the only Council of Government (COG) in our region and IEDA recommends their sole source of experience be considered in the administrative services needed for the Bee Branch Healthy Homes Resiliency Program. Therefore it is our recommendation that the City of Dubuque contracts with ECIA to provide administrative services for this National Disaster Resilience Grant.

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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ECIA proposed \$582,648.60 for contract to administer General Administration services to Bee Branch Healthy Homes recipients.

REQUESTED ACTION

We respectfully request City Council approve the award of contract of General Administration services to the ECIA.

Cc: Teri Goodmann, Assistant City Manager
Crenna Brumwell, City Attorney
Resiliency Development Team
Memo prepared by Sharon Gaul, Resiliency Coordinator

