



Housing Commission Agenda Report

February 16, 2023
Item 5

SUBJECT UPDATE REGARDING THE HOUSING AND HUMAN SERVICES GRANT (HHSO) REVIEW PROCESS FOR FY 2023/24

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for the Commission's information only; no action is required.

ATTACHMENTS

1. FY 2023/24 HHSO Applications Received Through ZoomGrants
2. Agenda Report from the February 1, 2023 Human Services Commission Meeting
3. Copies of Housing-Related FY 2023/24 HHSO Applications (8)

BACKGROUND

In November 2009, the Housing Commission reviewed and provided comments regarding the draft application packet and process for the first year of the new Housing and Human Services Grant (HHSO) program which started in fiscal year 2010/11. At that time, the Commission expressed a strong interest in retaining a key role in any recommendations regarding the use of federal HOME funds and City Lower Income Housing Funds (LIHF).

A virtual Zoom application workshop for the twelfth year of HHSO (FY 2023/24) was held on December 7, 2022, in collaboration with staff from the cities of Livermore and Dublin. The Zoom meeting was mandatory and attended by representatives from a variety of agencies which provide housing and services to lower income residents. HHSO applications were due Friday, January 20, 2023. As shown in Attachment 1, a total of 30 applications were received from 22 different agencies for an aggregate request of \$1,355,639.

At its meeting on February 1, 2023, the Human Services Commission (HSC) discussed the evaluation process for the HHSO applications. A copy of the staff report from the meeting is included as Attachment 2 (the minutes from the meeting are not yet available). At the meeting, the HSC agreed to follow a review process similar to that which was used last year. Accordingly, the majority of the applications listed in Attachment 1 will be reviewed at the HSC's Special Meeting on March 15 with the goal of developing a recommendation to the City Council for funding. This plan maintains the Housing Commission's role as the reviewing body for any proposed use of HOME or LIHF funds.

Application Review Process

In 2010, the cities of Pleasanton, Livermore, and Dublin purchased ZoomGrants, an online grant application software program that allows organizations to complete each city's Housing and Human Services Grant (HHSO) applications via the internet. The program was introduced in December 2010 at the grant workshops held prior to the FY 2011/12 allocation process.

This year applicants for HHSG funds have once again used ZoomGrants to submit their applications. Agencies also use the software throughout the fiscal year to submit invoices and semi-annual reports on grant progress. As the reviewing body with responsibility for reviewing the majority of HHSG applications, the HSC has utilized ZoomGrants for more than ten years now to review HHSG applications online and is currently in the process of reviewing and evaluating FY 2023/24 funding applications. Because the Housing Commission will be reviewing a small subset of the total number of applications staff has provided hard copies of the applications as Attachment 3.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this report is to provide the Housing Commission (HC) with an update of the HHSG applications that were received and an explanation of how the HC will be involved in the specific allocation of HOME and LIHF funds. As shown in Attachment 1, staff has identified eight (8) of the 30 applications that are likely to be considered for HOME and/or LIHF funding based either on specific requests or past history:

App #	Agency / Project	Possible Source(s):	
		HOME	LIHF
1	Abode Services / Tri-Valley Rapid Rehousing Program: \$150,000 a) Tenant-Based Rental Assistance b) Case Management Services	\$97,022	\$52,978
5	Centro Legal de la Raza / Fair and Secure Housing Project		\$46,628
9	CityServe of the Tri-Valley / Homeless Intervention and Crisis Stabilization Program		\$80,000
10	Community Resources for Independent Living (CRIL) / Housing & Independent Living Skills		\$16,000
11	ECHO Housing / Housing Counseling Services		\$40,000
12	Goodness Village / Tiny Homes Community		\$57,720
13	Habitat for Humanity / Housing Rehabilitation Program	\$45,000	\$35,000
29	Tri-Valley REACH / Seismic Retrofit Tanager		\$40,000
		\$142,022	\$368,326
	TOTAL	\$510,348	

Copies of the eight (8) full applications are included as Attachment 3 in order to provide the Commission with additional time for preliminary review prior to the March meeting.

Abode Services / Tri-Valley Rapid Rehousing Program

Abode Services' Tri-Valley Rapid Rehousing Program project provides tenant-based rental assistance, which is eligible under the HOME program. As indicated in the table, Abode has requested \$97,022 for tenant-based rent subsidies (which the City has traditionally funded through HOME). The remaining funding requested (\$52,978) would be for case management and related housing services and would be eligible for funding through the LIHF as in the past.

Centro Legal de la Raza / Fair and Secure Housing Project

Centro Legal de la Raza (Centro Legal) is a legal services agency protecting and advancing the rights of low-income renters through bilingual legal representation, education, and advocacy. Centro Legal is requesting \$46,628 in funding to provide legal consultations, representation, outreach, and tenant education services to low-income Pleasanton tenants facing housing instability, eviction, and potential displacement. Centro Legal provides pre-eviction consultation in addition to eviction representation. This program builds on the existing Alameda County Housing Secure (ACHS) program, which is a county-wide anti-displacement partnership to serve as an intervention in the displacement crisis occurring throughout Alameda County.

CityServe of the Tri-Valley / Homeless Intervention and Crisis Stabilization Program

CityServe has applied for \$80,000 to provide 1) Crisis intervention: Street Outreach, 2) Crisis Stabilization: Case Management, and 3) Community Support in Pleasanton to individuals who are underserved individuals, primarily low income, homeless, or destitute. The CityServe team has been working and will continue to work closely with Pleasanton Police, City staff, and other service providers to identify people who are homeless and on the street. This program was funded last year using LIHF funds.

Community Resources for Independent Living (CRIL) / Housing & Independent Living Services

CRIL's Housing & Independent Living Services has been historically funded with LIHF funds. Its funding request of \$16,000 will provide extremely low-and very low-income Pleasanton residents who have a disability with housing search assistance, peer counseling, independent living skills & and travel training.

ECHO Housing / Housing Counseling Services

The application from ECHO Housing (ECHO) for \$40,000 represents a project that has been funded in previous fiscal years using LIHF funds. ECHO meets federal requirements for making available a range of housing counseling services including fair housing counseling and investigation, tenant/landlord counseling and mediation, rental assistance for delinquent rent and deposits, and general home-seeking information. These services are an important part of the continuum of housing services available for Pleasanton residents.

Goodness Village / Tiny Homes Community

Goodness Village is a "tiny homes community" providing permanent supportive housing program intentionally designed for people to successfully transition out of chronic homelessness. Currently, 7 of the 28 Goodness Village residents are Pleasanton residents. Goodness Village is requesting \$57,720 for 1 case manager position who provide mental health support and housing retention services to all program participants.

Housing Rehabilitation Program

As the City's Housing Rehabilitation Program (HRP) administrator, Habitat for Humanity is requesting \$80,000 to provide critical health and safety home repairs, paid for by grants or loans from the City, to Pleasanton homeowners who are cost-burdened and economically vulnerable. Repairs prioritize the improvement of indoor air quality, such as mold/mildew remediation, roof replacement, damaged siding, ceiling repairs, and window and door replacements. Other repairs include accessibility and safety

improvements that include installation of ramps, fences, and grab bars; plumbing; electrical work; insulation; abatement work; and exterior paint. This program has utilized City LIHF funds, federal HOME and CDBG funds. Any federal funds allocated to this program will be assessed once the federal funds allocations are provided to the City.

Tri-Valley REACH / Home Improvement Projects, Repairs & Maintenance

Tri-Valley REACH’s funding request of \$40,000 will be used specifically toward expenses for 6 Pleasanton property’s home repairs, improvements, and maintenance. These 6 Pleasanton homes currently provides housing for 16 Pleasanton adults with developmental disabilities.

Funding Recommendation

Based on this preliminary evaluation, staff is currently working on an analysis of the HHSG applications to develop a funding recommendation for consideration by the Human Services Commission (HSC) at its upcoming Special Meeting on March 15th. That recommendation will separate out those applications that are recommended for HOME or LIHF funding (most likely from the list above) for review by the Housing Commission (HC) on March 16th. At that, staff will provide detailed information on each project and a specific recommendation for funding (including information on current balances of HOME and LIHF funds). The HC’s recommendation regarding HOME and LIHF funds will be forwarded directly to the City Council for final action in April.

Summary

The preceding table includes more than \$142,000 in federal HOME funds and more than \$368,000 in LIHF funds. As in prior years, it is possible that projects will either not be fully funded or will be funded in part from other sources.

While specific figures have not yet been released by HUD, the City’s annual allocation of HOME funds for HOME-eligible projects for the current fiscal year 2022/23 is \$175,291. In FY 2022/23 the HC approved a total of \$340,000 in City LIHF funds to supplement the funding of “housing services” projects of the type listed below.

Agency / Project	LIHF
Abode Services / Tri-Valley Rapid Rehousing Program: a) Tenant-Based Rental Assistance b) Case Management Services	\$ 40,000
Centro Legal de la Raza / Tri-Valley Fair & Secure Housing	\$ 40,000
CityServe / Homeless Intervention & Crisis Stabilization	\$ 80,000
CRIL / Housing & Independent Living Services	\$ 15,000
ECHO Housing / Housing Counseling Services	\$ 40,000
Goodness Village / Tiny Homes Community	\$ 40,000
Habitat for Humanity / Housing Rehabilitation Program	\$ 35,000
Tri-Valley REACH / Housing Preventative Maintenance/Repair	\$ 50,000
Total	\$340,000

Staff believes that the current process for reviewing and allocating HHSG funds continues to meet the concerns of both the HC and the HSC for preserving the HC's role in reviewing HOME and LIHF funds as expressed by both commissions when the City's grant process was reorganized in 2009. Staff will have specific recommendations on funding amounts from each program at the March 16th meeting.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This report is for the Commission's information only. No specific action is required at this time, although the Commission is welcome to provide feedback regarding the HHSG review process. The March 16th agenda will include a detailed report regarding the proposed allocation of HOME and LIHF funds for the eight HHSG applications.