



Memorandum

To: Members of the City Council

From: Laura Englehart, Director of Economic Development
Theodore Darden IV, Neighborhood and Housing Specialist, Economic Development Dept.
Anna Mates, Planner, Planning Department
Brendan Zak, Neighborhood Development Specialist, Building and Housing Department

cc: Mayor David E. Weiss
Jeri Chaikin, Chief Administrative Officer
William M. Ondrey Gruber, Director of Law
Joyce Braverman, Director of Planning
Kyle Krewson, Director of Building and Housing

Date: November 21, 2022

Re: **2023 Cuyahoga County Supplemental Grant (CDSG); Application for Home Repair Grant Program Funding**

Summary

Staff is requesting Council to authorize a grant application to, and to accept a grant from, the Cuyahoga County Department of Development's 2023 Supplemental Grant Program to supplement and expand the City's Home Repair Grant Programs. The Economic Development and Planning Departments will submit a grant application for \$50,000.

Background and Discussion

The Cuyahoga County Department of Development has allocated \$1.5M for the CDSG program and will award 30 grants of up to \$50,000. The CDSG program is a competitive grant that makes awards to help strengthen cities, encourage regional collaboration, and improve the quality of life for County residents. All 59 municipalities and 501(c)(3) community development corporations in the County are eligible to apply. Grant projects must meet a community development need related to the health or welfare of the community. Last year, the Planning Department applied for and received \$50,000 towards the Southern Moreland Neighborhood Traffic Calming Project.

In 2022, the City allocated \$50,000 for violation-based, income-restricted home repair grants through the Exterior Maintenance Grant, the Senior Exterior Maintenance Grant, Senior Safety Grant, and the Free Paint Program. The City also allocated an additional \$50,000 for the Moreland Model Block Program. The programs, through a partnership with the Home Repair Resource Center, allow the City to assist residents with much needed home improvements, satisfy Systematic Exterior Maintenance Inspection violations, and allow senior citizens to make safety upgrades to their homes. With maximum grants up to \$2,500 per project, these programs are projected to assist approximately 40 homeowners in the City in 2022.

Home repair programs were paused in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, when the City only spent \$10,874 on home repair resources. In 2021, as the programs were re-introduced, the City invested \$38,766 in direct grants for home repair. Through September 2022, the City's violation-based housing repair programs have encumbered or expended approximately \$40,000 for home repair financial assistance. Additionally, there are more than 15 outstanding applications through HRRC requesting an additional estimated \$30,000 – a potential shortfall of approximately \$16,000. There will be excess funding available in the Moreland Model Block Program that can be used to ensure all eligible home repair grant applications in 2022 can proceed. A \$50,000 CDSG grant will allow the City to supplement and expand existing programs, helping us to assist many more Shaker homeowners with needed home repair grant dollars.

Neighborhood and Economic Development Committee

The Neighborhood and Economic Development Committee considered and recommended approval of this application at its meeting on November 9, 2022. Here is a summary of the discussion:

- A Committee member asked if there were other successful applications in prior years for home repair, and staff confirmed that other communities have been awarded similar grants for home repair in recent years through this program.
- Staff clarified that \$50,000 is the largest grant award through this program.
- Committee members discussed the specifics of the City's home repair programs. Staff are not recommending new programs with these potential new dollars, but instead propose to add to existing programs. Current City grant policies, including not being able to receive a grant two years in a row, are still in effect. The City has recently started allowing residents to obtain only two contractor quotes instead of three due to the current difficulty of getting quotes from contractors.
- Staff is accepting feedback from residents who have used a City grant program through a written survey to gauge the effectiveness and formulate potential improvements to the City's home repair programs.
- The Committee unanimously recommended to Council to authorize a grant application to, and accept a grant from, Cuyahoga County Department of Development's 2023 Supplemental Grant Program (CDSG) to supplement the City's home Repair Grant Programs.

Finance Committee

- The Committee unanimously recommended to Council to authorize a grant application to, and accept a grant from, Cuyahoga County Department of Development's 2023 Supplemental Grant Program (CDSG) to supplement the City's home Repair Grant Programs.

Next Steps

- If City Council authorizes Staff to apply for the 2023 CDSG grant, Staff would then submit an application to the Cuyahoga County Department of Development.
- CDSG Grant applications are due December 16, 2022.

Recommendation

Staff requests that Council authorize a grant application to, and accept a grant from, Cuyahoga County Department of Development's 2023 Supplemental Grant Program (CDSG) to supplement the City's Home Repair Grant Programs. This request will be in the amount of \$50,000. While no local match is required, the Economic Development Department's 2023 budget request includes \$50,000 for these home repair grant programs, which can be used as a match. We request that this legislation be passed under suspension of the rules on first reading and as an emergency in order for staff to meet the application deadline of December 16, 2022.

ORDINANCE NO.

BY:

Authorizing the application for and acceptance of a grant from the Cuyahoga County Department of Development 2023 Supplemental Grant Program in the amount of up to \$50,000 to supplement the City's Home Repair Grant Programs, and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County has a 2023 Community Development Supplemental Grant ("CDSG") program with grants available for distribution to municipalities in the county, and such funds may be used to meet urgent community needs, and each municipality may submit one application for a maximum grant of \$50,000; and

WHEREAS, the City's Director of Economic Development has recommended that the City apply to Cuyahoga County for CDSG funds, through the 2023 Cuyahoga County Supplemental Grant Program, for a \$50,000 grant for costs associated with supplementing the City's Home Repair Grant Programs, and this grant does not require any matching funds from the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Shaker Heights, State of Ohio:

Section 1. The City is authorized to apply for and accept a grant from the Cuyahoga County Department of Development 2023 Supplemental Grant Program in the amount of up to \$50,000 to supplement the City's Home Repair Grant Programs.

Section 2. The Mayor is authorized and directed to enter into such agreements as may be necessary in conjunction with said grant. Such agreements shall be approved by the Director of Law.

Section 3. This ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare for the reason that it is necessary in the current operation of the City and further, to meet the application deadline of December 16, 2022, and, therefore, this ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its enactment and approval by the Mayor.

Enacted

Approved this ____ day of _____, 2022.

DAVID E. WEISS, MAYOR

Attest:

JERI E. CHAIKIN
Clerk of Council
coun22/1128CDSGgrant