

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE January 5, 2023

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Background and Update on Upcoming Office of Community Care Agenda Items – ARPA Programs**

The Office of Community Care has several American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) agenda items forthcoming via the Office of Procurement in early 2023. Council dates and agenda item numbers are in process and a summary and background are provided below.

1) ARPA – Benefits Navigation: Authorize a one-year service contract in the amount of \$1,375,000, with a one-year renewal option in the amount of \$1,375,000 as detailed in the Fiscal Information section, for the administration of a Benefits Navigation program in the city of Dallas for the Office of Community Care – Benefits Data Trust, most advantageous proposer of four – Total amount not to exceed \$2,750,000 – Financing: Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (\$2,750,000) (subject to annual appropriations)

2) ARPA – Early Childhood and Out of School Time Providers Support: Authorize a one-year service contract in the amount of \$500,000, with a one year renewal option in the amount of \$500,000 as detailed in the Fiscal Information section, for the administration of a grant program for Early Childhood Providers and Afterschool/Out of School Time Providers (ECOST Providers) in the city of Dallas for the Office of Community Care – Dallas Afterschool, most advantageous proposer of four – Total amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 – Financing: Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (\$1,000,000) (subject to annual appropriations)

3) ARPA – Community Mental Health: Authorize (1) a one-year service contract in the amount of \$1,000,000, with a one year renewal option in the amount of \$1,000,000 with Harmony Community Development Corporation; and (2) a one-year service contract in the amount of \$200,000, with a one year renewal option in the amount of \$200,000 with Dallas County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center; and (3) a one-year service contract in the amount of \$120,000, with a one year renewal option in the amount of \$120,000 with Big Thought; and (4) a one-year service contract in the amount of \$55,000, with a one year renewal option in the amount of \$55,000 with Senior Citizens of Greater Dallas Inc., to provide mental health support to residents of Dallas that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic for the Office of Community Care – Total amount not to exceed \$2,750,000, most advantageous proposers of four – Financing: Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (\$2,750,000) (subject to annual appropriations)

DATE January 5, 2023

SUBJECT **Background and Update on Upcoming Office of Community Care
Agenda Items – ARPA Programs**

4) ARPA – Making Food Accessible: Authorize (1) a one-year service contract in the amount of \$1,150,000, with a one year renewal option in the amount of \$1,150,000 with Services of Hope & Financial Hope CCS; and (2) a one-year service contract in the amount of \$600,000, with a one year renewal option in the amount of \$600,000 with Catholic Charities of Dallas, Inc; and (3) a one-year service contract in the amount of \$150,000, with a one year renewal option in the amount of \$150,000 with Dallas Leadership Foundation, for the administration of food distribution and delivery programs to residents of Dallas that have been impacted and/or had their needs exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic for the Office of Community Care – Total amount not to exceed \$3,800,000, most advantageous proposers of six – Financing: Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (\$3,800,000) (subject to annual appropriations)

Background

On June 23, 2021, City Council authorized the acceptance of grant funds from the U.S. Department of Treasury for the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund to provide relief during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic by Resolution No. 21-1149.

On September 22, 2021, City Council authorized the final reading and adoption of the appropriation ordinance for the FY 2021-22 City of Dallas Operating, Capital, and Grant & Trust Budgets, which included the ARPA funds from the U.S. Department of Treasury for the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds by Resolution No. 21-1590.

ARPA - Benefits Navigation

This agreement will provide for the administration of a city-wide Benefits Navigation program in the City of Dallas, to support residents who have been directly and indirectly impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. The Office of Community Care has sought nonprofit organizations through an open application process. Benefits Data Trust was selected as the subrecipient and will build a single stop data-match enabled proactive benefits outreach, enrollment, and renewal program that helps ensure low- and moderate-income clients are able to maximize support and access all benefits for which they are eligible for focused on federal funding that is assigned and available.

Estimates show that annually about \$570 million in SNAP and Medicaid/CHIP funds go unclaimed in Dallas County, for which clients are eligible but just not receiving. This program will help Dallas residents maximize support and access all benefits for which they are eligible for, focused on federal funding that is assigned and available.

ARPA ECOSTS Providers Support Program

This agreement will provide for the administration of a city-wide grant program for Early Childhood Providers and Afterschool/Out of School Time Providers (ECOST Providers) in the City of Dallas, who have been directly and indirectly impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. The Office of Community Care has sought nonprofit organizations through

DATE January 5, 2023

SUBJECT **Background and Update on Upcoming Office of Community Care
Agenda Items – ARPA Programs**

an open application process. Dallas Afterschool was selected as the subrecipient and will administer a city-wide grant program for childcare programs that serve city of Dallas residents, and can be used for, but is not limited to rent, utilities, staff salaries and benefits, and program supplies.

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit providers of childcare services particularly hard. The comparatively low wages of childcare services staff make it difficult to maintain staffing in a competitive environment, while programs are limited in the ability to increase salaries or other costs without increasing the costs to families and clients. This program will provide support, training, professional development, resources, and other needs local childcare centers through a grants program.

ARPA - Community Mental Health

This agreement will provide for the administration of city-wide mental health support programs to residents of Dallas as mental health needs in the city have been impacted and/or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This support includes direct services such as individual and group counseling, educational programming, awareness campaigns, program outreach, and lay person trainings. Harmony Community Development Corporation, Dallas County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center, and Big Thought were selected as subrecipients for these services. Additionally, the Senior Source was selected to administer a portion of this program that will specifically support mental health services and counseling for older adults and isolated seniors in the city of Dallas. Target populations include low- and moderate-income residents and/or Dallas residents living Qualified Census Tracts. The Office of Community Care has sought nonprofit organizations through an open application process.

The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic downturn have negatively impacted the mental health of local communities and has created new and exacerbated existing barriers to accessing care and support. Studies have found that 45% of adults in the United States have reported that their mental health has been negatively impacted from stress caused by the COVID-19 virus and pandemic. Research shows that social isolation and loneliness are linked to poor mental health. Additionally, for the many Dallas residents who have lost their jobs, job loss can be associated with anxiety, depression, distress and low self-esteem. Among the most impacted and highest risk include seniors, households

with children and adolescents, and individuals who have lost their jobs or are otherwise income insecure.

ARPA – Making Food Accessible

This agreement will provide for the administration of city-wide food distribution and delivery programs to residents of Dallas that have been impacted and/or had their needs exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. These programs will enable access to

DATE January 5, 2023
SUBJECT **Background and Update on Upcoming Office of Community Care
Agenda Items – ARPA Programs**

food for target populations through contactless grocery pickup, distribution programs, and home delivery for vulnerable populations. Target populations include low- and moderate-income residents and/or Dallas residents living Qualified Census Tracts. The Office of Community Care has sought nonprofit organizations through an open application process. Services of Hope CCS was selected to provide food distribution and delivery programs, while Catholic Charities Dallas, Inc. and Dallas Leadership Foundation will each provide food distribution services.

Approximately 20% of Dallas County faces food insecurity and nearly 38% of the population in the city of Dallas live in a food desert. The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic downturn have exacerbated these disparities, creating increased demand for local food pantry distribution sites among Dallas residents impacted financially by and during the pandemic. Many residents of Dallas are experiencing or have experienced job loss, reduced or lost pay, added expenses and other issues making it difficult to afford healthy and nutritious foods. Additionally, individuals who may be diagnosed with COVID-19 or quarantined due to exposure, may find themselves too sick or otherwise unable to travel purchase food.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Office of Community Care Director, Jessica Galleshaw, at jessica.galleshaw@dallas.gov.



M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira
Assistant City Manager

c:	T.C. Broadnax, City Manager Chris Caso, City Attorney Mark Swann, City Auditor Biliera Johnson, City Secretary Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert, Deputy City Manager Jon Fortune, Deputy City Manager	Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager Dr. Robert Perez, Assistant City Manager Carl Simpson, Assistant City Manager Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer Genesis D. Gavino, Chief of Staff to the City Manager Directors and Assistant Directors
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