

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE February 5, 2021

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Agenda Item #10, February 10, 2021 – Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund, Inc. Financial Navigators Grant**

On February 10, 2021, City Council will consider the following Office of Community Care (OCC) Agenda Item:

Item #10: Authorize the **(1)** acceptance of a grant from the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund, Inc. for the 2020 Financial Navigators Grant in the amount of \$80,000.00 to support a financial navigators program to provide remote services to residents who seek financial guidance for the period August 1, 2020 through July 31, 2021; **(2)** receipt and deposit of funds in an amount not to exceed \$80,000.00 in the 2020 Financial Navigators Grant Fund; **(3)** establishment of appropriations in an amount not to exceed \$80,000.00 in the 2020 Financial Navigators Grant Fund; and **(4)** execution of grant agreement with the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund, Inc. and all terms, conditions, and documents required by the agreement - Not to exceed \$80,000.00 - Financing: Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund, Inc. Grant Funds

Cities for Financial Empowerment's (CFE's) Financial Navigators initiative helps residents deal with the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, providing remote assistance in navigating critical financial issues and making referrals to other social services and resources (<https://cfefund.org/project/financial-navigators/>). The City of Dallas has been selected to join with 30 other local governments across the country to launch the new program. CFE is providing technical support and funding to the City to support implementation of this program, which will serve as a critical component of the front-line emergency response efforts. Working with CFE, the City has developed a Financial Navigators Toolkit for use by the Financial Navigators through a CFE-developed system and will be ready to launch the service within two weeks of the contract execution.

This item authorizes a contract with Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund, Inc. (CFE) and acceptance of funds to implement financial navigation services. The project will enable the City to utilize additional temporary staff to supplement our current social services team and provide focused information and referral services for residents who have been financial impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic contractions. This supplemental resource will allow the City to utilize trained financial navigators to serve more clients and provide in-depth services to residents in need of varied financial supports by triaging financial issues, helping residents identify immediate action steps, and making referrals to other services.

The program has a goal of providing over 1,200 sessions during the program term. Financial Navigators will primarily serve clients through the City's social services and senior services phone lines, reaching residents across the City, as well as via referrals from nonprofit partners.

DATE February 5, 2021

SUBJECT **Agenda Item #10, February 10, 2021 – Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund, Inc.
Financial Navigators Grant**

Our online appointment system will also enable clients to schedule appointments with a Financial Navigator. Additionally, once the City's Financial Empowerment Center programming launches in the Spring, Financial Navigators can partner with pilot partners as a referral resource to reach clients in those targeted communities.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact myself or Jessica Galleshaw, Director of Office of Community Care.



Kimberly Bizer Tolbert
Chief of Staff

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager

Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Dr. Eric A. Johnson, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion
Directors and Assistant Directors