

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE September 18, 2020

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Agenda Item #39, September 23, 2020 - CARES Act Funding for Making Food Accessible Program Contracts**

On June 24, 2020, the Dallas City Council allocated \$1M in CARES Act funding for food access programs. The City of Dallas is the 9<sup>th</sup> largest city in the U.S. and the third largest in Texas. While 20% of Dallas County faces food insecurity, specifically in the City of Dallas, nearly 38% of the population lives in a food desert. The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic downturn have exacerbated these disparities, creating increased demand for local food pantries and distribution sites. Many residents of our City are experiencing job loss, pay loss, 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 and purchase food.

The Office of Community Care (OCC) worked collaboratively with the Office of Innovation to develop a Request for Applications (RFA). The RFA sought organizations to implement two types of services, (1) Contactless grocery pickup for vulnerable populations, including food distribution, grocery pick/up and or delivery for clients, or similar services that enable access and/or (2) Delivery of fresh food to COVID-19 confirmed patients while in isolation. Specifically, the RFA sought programs targeting the following populations:

1. All services should target low income individuals via individual client eligibility, client population eligibility and/or service site or location
2. Individuals living in communities with high prevalence of COVID-19
3. Individuals living in identified food deserts
4. Individuals who are part of populations identified by the 2016/2017 Mayors Task Force on Poverty
5. Individuals living in communities of concentrated poverty, defined as 40% or more residents living in poverty
6. Individuals identified as higher risk by COVID Risk Impact Assessment
7. For # 2, individuals with COVID-19 diagnosis who are members of the above-identified targets and/or who are low income, experiencing transportation challenges (this can be due to COVID-19) and living in any Dallas zip code

OCC issued the RFA via Bonfire, conducting extensive outreach that included sending more than 365 invitations via Bonfire enhanced by an outreach list developed by OCC. The solicitation had a total of 47 document takers and 11 organizations submitted completed application packets. These applications were reviewed and scored by representatives from the Offices of Community Care, Innovation, and Planning and Urban Design. The City awarded funding to 5 nonprofit organizations in an amount totaling

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\$850,000.00. The Office of Innovation is managing a process to disburse the remaining funds to providers to support the piloting of a food delivery project and information on this project is forthcoming. Funded organizations include Citizens Development Center dba Achieve, CitySquare, First Presbyterian Church of Dallas, Texas dba the Stewpot, Services of Hope Entities, Inc., and The Visiting Nurses Association of Texas.

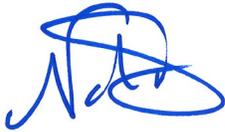
Date	Actions
August 6	RFA posted via Bonfire
August 6	Outreach – 365 invitations sent
August 19	RFA closed and submissions due
August 25	Application scoring completed
August 31	Notification of funding awards
August 31 – September 23	Contract negotiations; subrecipient training
September 23	City Council authorization of contracts

Agency	Ranking	Services	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
First Presbyterian Church of Dallas, Texas dba the Stewpot	1	Food distribution program for clients who are newly in need and experiencing food insecurity due to COVID	\$111,503.00	\$105,928.00
Citizens Development Center dba Achieve	2	Delivery of food boxes to multiple local agencies to distribute to eligible clients	\$100,000.00	\$90,000.00
The Visiting Nurses Association of Texas	3	Delivery of supplemental food boxes containing non-perishable groceries to hungry, homebound seniors	\$153,000.00	\$137,700.00
Services of Hope Entities, Inc.	4	Weekly food distribution and delivery to seniors and homebound families targeting 23 Dallas zip codes	\$496,080.00	\$388,903.00
CitySquare	5	Contactless grocery pick-up, including walk up and drive up options, for vulnerable populations	\$149,963.00	\$127,469.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$850,000.00</b>

Each organization will implement programming and services during the period of September 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020 targeting one or more of the identified target populations.

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



Nadia Chandler Hardy  
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 Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager  
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  
Laila Aleqresh, Chief Innovation Officer  
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion  
Directors and Assistant Directors