



## CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

### AGENDA ITEM

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Report: **Acceptance of final round of Meals on Wheels COVID-19 Response Fund grant in support of the Elderly Nutrition Program.**

1. Motion accepting final round of Meals on Wheels COVID-19 Response Fund grant from Meals on Wheels America (MOWA) in the amount of \$35,000 for Elderly Nutrition Program services; and authorizing the Interim City Manager, or a designee to execute all agreements, certifications, and documents necessary to accept and implement funding.
2. Resolution of Appropriation to appropriate final round of Meals on Wheels COVID-19 Response Fund grant funds in the amount of \$35,000 from Meals On Wheels America (MOWA) for the purchase of equipment/supplies for the Elderly Nutrition Program.

### COUNCIL ACTION

**Item Type:** Consent Calendar

**Approved for** January 12, 2021 **calendar**

### ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

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**Submitted by:**

Onnig Bulanikian, Director of Community Services & Parks

**Prepared by:**

Tereza Aleksanian, Deputy Director of Community Services & Parks

Maggie Kavarian, Senior Community Services Supervisor

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**Reviewed by:**

Michele Flynn, Director of Finance

Michael J. Garcia, City Attorney

**Approved by:**

Roubik R. Golanian, P.E., Interim City Manager

## **RECOMMENDATION**

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It is respectfully recommended that the City Council approve:

1. Motion accepting final round of Meals on Wheels COVID-19 Response Fund grant funds from Meals on Wheels America (MOWA) in the amount of \$35,000 for Elderly Nutrition Program services; and authorizing the Interim City Manager, or a designee to execute all agreements, certifications, and documents necessary to accept and implement funding.
2. Resolution of Appropriation to appropriate final round of Meals on Wheels COVID-19 Response Fund grant funds in the amount of \$35,000 from Meals On Wheels America (MOWA) for the purchase of equipment/supplies for the Elderly Nutrition Program.

## **BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

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The Community Services & Parks Department (CSP) has been providing meal service to seniors 60 years and older in the Greater Glendale area since 1979 with grant funding administered from County of Los Angeles Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS) through the federal Older Americans Act. The Elderly Nutrition Program (ENP) provides an important opportunity for social contact and is the only meal many seniors receive in a day.

The ENP program is operated through the Senior Services Unit which provides comprehensive, long term services that include: Congregate Meals (C-1), Home Delivered Meals (C-2), Emergency Meals, Telephone Reassurance and Supportive Services. The primary goal of these services is to assist the elderly in maintaining their independence and live in their own home.

On March 16, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, LA County WDACS ordered the City of Glendale's (City) ENP program to close congregate meal site operations at all three community centers, 1) Adult Recreation Center, 2) Sparr Heights Community Center; and 3) Pacific Community Center, and begin to operate weekly frozen meal delivery service and daily staggered brown bag lunch pick-ups.

The "Safer at Home" Order shifted Senior Services Unit operations from onsite lunch service to weekly frozen meal delivery of 7 meals, bread, juice, or fruit or daily pick up of brown bag lunches of sandwich, salad, fruit, and milk for seniors without access to refrigeration/freezer/heating units.

The City's ENP program continues to operate out of the Adult Recreation Center's central kitchen, where staff prepare brown bag lunches (both hot and cold) and use the walk-in freezer and refrigerator to store up to 2,200 frozen meals and supplies that are to be

delivered each week. The ENP program purchased an additional four (4) standalone freezers in order to keep up with the demand in senior meal requests.

Before Safer at Home Orders were enacted, the ENP program would serve an average of 3,600 meals per month. By the end of December 2020, the monthly meals averaged 13,000 (frozen meals and brown bag lunches). Staff has enrolled an additional 326 clients in the meals program since March 2020. In total, the City of Glendale has served 878 unduplicated seniors to date.

CSP's Senior Services Unit is a member of Meals on Wheels America (MOWA) and in good standing. When the City was notified of available COVID-19 Response Fund grant funds for states with the highest percentages of high-risk, disproportionately-impacted older adults during the COVID-19 pandemic, staff applied for funds to help support the ENP operation.

CSP applied for the final round of MOWA COVID-19 Response Fund on October 27, 2020 and was awarded \$35,000 to be expended between December 1, 2020 and February 12, 2021. The requested funding will allow the ENP program to purchase the following items to continue operations and keep up with service demand:

- Two Steam Tables for the Adult Recreation Center and Sparr Heights Community Center to hold hot meals until pick up;
- Two Double Door Freezers for Adult Recreation Center to hold frozen meals until packing and delivery;
- Two Crescor Heating Cabinets for Adult Recreation Center and Sparr Heights Community Center to hold packed hot lunches for drive thru pick up and;
- Six Metro Mighty Light Insulated EPP Pan Carriers for Adult Recreation Center and Sparr Heights Community Center to hold packed hot lunches for drive thru pick up at numerous locations throughout the city.

The purchase of the additional equipment not only will allow operations to continue at current levels, but will include the option of hot meal service for brown bag pick up. Staff expressed that seniors were experiencing "frozen food fatigue" and requested a menu change option from LA County. The City was granted approval to begin hot meal brown bag service 2 times a week and to increase the number of service days after additional equipment is available. The ENP program anticipates serving hot meals brown bag service until the end of fiscal year June 30, 2021. Service will continue into FY2021-2022 if directed by LA County WDACS to continue modified service.

CSP was successful in securing previous MOWA grant funding and received awards in rounds one and two from Meals on Wheels COVID-Response Fund grant totaling \$90,000

which allowed the program to serve 24,000 additional meals. This is the final round of the MOWA COVID-19 Response Fund grant and the total awarded funds to Glendale equate to \$125,000.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

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Community Services & Parks Department was awarded additional grant funding for the Elderly Nutrition Program from Meals on Wheels America (MOWA) from their COVID-19 Response Fund grant program in the amount of \$35,000 to be expended between December 1, 2020 – February 12, 2021.

The grant award should be appropriated in the following accounts:

Revenue:

GL-34301-2160-CSP-0020-P0000-T0000-F0000-0000-0000- PL- CSP00521AG -LOCAL-0000-2160	\$35,000
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Expense:

GL-45150-2160-CSP-0020-P0000-T0000-F0000-0000-0000- PL-CSP00521AG-FURNITURE-0000-2160	\$35,000
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MOWA funding does not require a cash match.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

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Alternative 1: The City Council may approve a 1) Motion accepting final round of Meals on Wheels COVID-19 Response Fund grant from Meals on Wheels America (MOWA) in the amount of \$35,000 for Elderly Nutrition Program services; and authorizing the Interim City Manager, or a designee to execute all agreements, certifications, and documents necessary to accept and implement funding; and 2) Resolution of Appropriation to appropriate the \$35,000 for the purchase of equipment/supplies for the Elderly Nutrition Program.

Alternative 2: The City Council may consider any other alternative not proposed by staff.

## **CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE**

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N/A

## **EXHIBITS**

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N/A