

Agenda Item Details

Meeting	May 11, 2021 - Bryan City Council Second Regular Meeting
Category	6. Statutory (Automatic Approval) Agenda - This agenda consists of items previously approved by Council action such as adoption of items that are part of an approved budget or capital improvement projects, first and only readings of ordinances, interlocal agreements, or action that is required by law or delegated to the City Manager. Items may be removed from the statutory agenda for separate consideration at the request of two Councilmembers.
Subject	C. Approval of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) CARES (CV-3) Public Service Agreement in the amount of \$229,388 with the Brazos Valley Food Bank for a pandemic related home delivery food program known as Going the Extra Mile (Project GotEM)
Type	Action (Statutory)
Preferred Date	May 11, 2021
Absolute Date	May 11, 2021
Fiscal Impact	Yes
Dollar Amount	229,388.00
Budgeted	No
Budget Source	Community Development Block Grant CARES (CV-3) funds
Goals	Service Quality of Life

Summary:

In December 2020, an additional allocation of \$603,226 in Community Development Block Grant - Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CDBG CARES CV-3) funds were received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and approved by City Council at the January 12, 2021 meeting. Of that \$603,226 amount, \$229,388 is proposed for a new program known as Going the Extra Mile (Project GotEM), to be administered by the Brazos Valley Food Bank (BVFB).

The newly developed Project GotEM Program will address a gap in food access for persons and families homebound due to the pandemic, with targeted populations including but not limited to persons with disabilities, elderly, and food insecure and income qualified individuals. The program is currently being provided in College Station by the Brazos Valley Food Bank, and proposed to be provided to Bryan residents as well. Persons and families will be qualified through a partnership between the Food Bank and local non-profits that are currently addressing other pandemic

related needs. Clients will be screened for appropriate eligibility by partnering agencies that will make referrals to Project GotEM by compiling documentation including place of residence, income and family household status, proof of income or affidavit of no income, and certification of no duplication of benefits.

Eligible clients will be provided a Project GotEM package, which includes 30 pounds of food (the equivalent of approximately 25 meals) for each week of enrollment in the program. Food menus will be a rotating variety of shelf stable food that can be used to prepare meals. Food will be distributed on a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly rotation, depending on need and availability of food. The Brazos Valley Food Bank is estimating Project GotEM will serve 220 unduplicated clients for the contract period. The program reduces barriers and provides additional needed food to supplement limited home delivery programs such as Meals on Wheels, which provides one hot meal a day (Monday through Friday) or Save our Streets Ministries (SOS), which delivers a hot meal to households served by after school programs. Brazos Valley Food Bank has established partners, such as the Brazos County Health District, to provide food for those who are quarantined and food insecure. Survey calls to food partnering agencies, including Bridge Ministries, Brazos Church Pantry, and 12 Can non-profits, indicate strained local food resources due to the pandemic.

Staff Analysis and Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of this agreement for Project GotEM with the Brazos Valley Food Bank. An extensive review was completed by the CDBG CARES Review Committee and forwarded to the City Manager for review. During the review process, the Committee found there are available resources to address other high priority COVID-related needs. An updated review of current resources to address rent and utility needs indicates there are likely sufficient funds now available through the following programs:

- Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) Texas Emergency Rent Relief Assistance program: \$157,045 allocated to the City by the State and sub-awarded to Project Unity;
- Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs: \$1.3 billion state-wide Texas Rent Relief program; and,
- Department of Treasury rent and utility program: \$6,925,863.90 has been allocated to Brazos County, to be administered through an interlocal agreement with Brazos Valley Council of Governments (BVCOG).

The Review Committee also recommended \$15,000 each from CV-3 funds to two agencies currently under contract with the City to bridge the gap for rent and utilities until other programs are readily accessible. The pandemic has had a significant health and financial impact on vulnerable populations, such as low and moderate income and the elderly and disabled, with loss of jobs, reduction of hours, limited access to viable resources, and mental and physical stress.

The Project GotEM program will extend into the 2021/2022 year to allow for optimum use of the funds.

Options:

1. Approve Public Service Agreement with the Brazos Valley Food Bank for the Going the Extra Mile (Project GotEM) Food Relief Program

2. Do not approve Public Service Agreement with the Brazos Valley Food Bank and provide direction to staff on funding other public service agency programs

Attachments:

1. Draft Public Service Agreement with Brazos Valley Food Bank (the signed version is available for viewing in the City Secretary's Office)

BVFB PProject GotEM Contract CDBG CV-3 funds.pdf (380 KB)