



Pinellas County

Staff Report

File #: 21-944D, Version: 1

Subject:

Community Development Block Grant - Coronavirus Response Specific Performance Agreement with Gulfcoast Legal Services, Inc., for legal aid services to respond to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Recommended Action:

Approval and execution by the County Administrator of the Specific Performance Agreement (Agreement) with Gulfcoast Legal Services, Inc, for legal aid services to respond to the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19).

- The County received \$1,481,969.00 in Community Development Block Grant - Coronavirus Response (CDBG-CV) funds for activities that mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on low- and moderate-income residents.
- The County executed Agreement CDCV19GLS on August 11, 2020, providing a maximum of \$53,530.00 in CARES Act funding to the agency.
- The agency received CARES Act funding from multiple sources and was unable to expend all the CARES Act funding received, which expired on or near December 30, 2020, including funding made available by the Agreement CDCV19GLS.
- The First Amendment to Agreement CDCV19GLS was executed on December 15, 2020, extending the term to June 30, 2021. The extension provided additional time for the completion of the project and the expenditure of the CARES Act funding.
- The Agreement CDCV19GLS expired on June 30, 2021.
- This new Agreement provides Gulfcoast Legal Services the remaining CDBG-CV funding and time needed for legal aid services to address eviction, foreclosure, consumer issues, and changes in financial stability to ensure stable housing for approximately 50 low- and moderate-income households.
- The Agreement is effective from July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 and is not to exceed \$20,980.25 during the term of the Agreement.

Strategic Plan:

Ensure Public Health, Safety, and Welfare

2.1 Provide planning, coordination, prevention, and protective services to ensure a safe and secure community

Foster Continual Economic Growth and Vitality

4.2 Invest in communities that need the most

Deliver First Class Services to the Public and Our Customers

5.1 Maximize partner relationships and public outreach

Summary:

One of the projects to be carried out under the Substantial Amendment to the County's Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) is the funding of Gulfcoast Legal Services to respond to COVID-19. This Agreement will provide funding for the provision of legal aid services to address eviction, foreclosure, consumer issues, and the changes in financial stability to ensure stable housing, benefitting 50 low- and moderate-income households.

The Agreement is effective for six (6) months, from July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

Background/Explanation

In accordance with the adopted Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan, it is necessary to enter into Agreements with qualified agencies to allow for certain activities stated in the Annual Action Plan to be contractually delegated and specify the obligation of the agencies receiving funds in meeting Federal, State and County requirements.

On March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136, was signed providing funds to respond to the growing effects of COVID-19. The County received \$1,481,969.00 in CDBG-CV funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.

The CDBG-CV Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and application cycle was posted on the Community Development website, emailed to nonprofit agencies and local municipalities, and a press release was issued by the Marketing and Communications Department. The press release was also posted on the County's COVID-19 website.

The competitive application process began on May 11, 2020, with applications being due May 22, 2020. Applications were reviewed for funding eligibility and scored by Community Development Division staff. Funding recommendations are based on staff ranking of eligible activities and eligible expenses.

The County received \$1,481,969.00 in CDBG-CV funds for activities that mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on low- and moderate-income residents.

The County executed Agreement CDCV19GLS on August 11, 2020, providing a maximum of \$53,530.00 in CARES Act funding to the agency.

The agency received CARES Act funding from multiple sources and was unable to expend all the CARES Act funding received, which expired on or near December 30, 2020, including funding made available by the Agreement CDCV19GLS.

The First Amendment to Agreement CDCV19GLS was executed on December 15, 2020, extending the term of the agreement to June 30, 2021. The extension provided additional time for the completion of the project and the expenditure of the CARES Act funding.

The Agreement CDCV19GLS expired on June 30, 2021.

This new Agreement provides Gulfcoast Legal Services the remaining CDBG-CV funding and time needed for legal aid services to address eviction, foreclosure, consumer issues, and changes in financial stability to ensure stable housing for approximately 50 low- and moderate-income

households.

The Agreement is effective from July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 and is not to exceed \$20,980.25 during the term of the Agreement.

Fiscal Impact:

The total amount of funding for this agreement is not to exceed \$20,980.25 during the term of the Agreement. Funding for this Agreement is included in the County's FY21 Estimate and the FY22 Tentative Budget for CDBG-CV funds.

Delegated Authority:

Authority for the County Administrator to sign this Agreement is granted under Code Section 2-62 (a) (1).

Staff Member Responsible:

Carol Stricklin, Director, Housing and Community Development

Partners:

Gulfcoast Legal Services, Inc.
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Attachments:

Specific Performance Agreement
First Amendment to Original Specific Performance Agreement, December 15, 2020
Original Specific Performance Agreement, August 11, 2020
Project Location Map
Funding Recommendations
Resolution 19-48
Resolution 20-68