

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Ordinance (1) authorizing an amendment to a sub-contract with the Dispute Resolution Center of Kitsap County, as lead fiscal agent for Resolution Washington, to accept an additional \$165,832 in grant funding from the Administrative Office of the Courts (under personal services agreement PSC22019), to support Eviction Resolution Services offered through the Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center's Eviction Resolution Pilot Program during state fiscal year 2022 to 2023; and (2) amending the 2021-2022 Operating Grants, Donations, and Special Reserves Fund to increase the appropriation by \$137,446.

Michael Kattermann, Director, 452-6191

Mike McCormick Huentelman, Assistant Director, 452-4089

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Community Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Ordinance authorizes an amendment to a sub-contract with the Dispute Resolution Center of Kitsap County, previously executed on or about September 13, 2021 pursuant to Ordinance No. 6601, to accept additional grant funding to support Eviction Resolution Services offered in connection with the Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center's Eviction Resolution Pilot Program for the time period between July 2022 and June 2023. This Ordinance also amends the 2021-2022 Operating Grants, Donations, and Special Reserves Fund to facilitate expenditures during this budget year.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 6683

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The mission of the Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center (BCRC) is "to increase the problem-solving capacity of Bellevue's community." This is accomplished by providing conflict resolution services that address community disputes between neighbors, businesses, and public entities. Services provided are confidential, voluntary, and free, available to people who live, work, or go to school in Bellevue, and are provided by staff and trained volunteers from the community.

The BCRC is a dispute resolution center formed under Chapter 7.75 of the Revised Code of Washington to provide equal access to justice; and it is an active, funded member of Resolution Washington, a consortium of 22 other dispute resolution centers. Volunteers are certified according to the standards of the Uniform Mediation Act.

In April 2021, the Washington State legislature passed E2SSB 5160. A part of this legislation mandates that dispute resolution centers across the state provide the Eviction Resolution Pilot Program (ERPP) to negotiate repayment plans between landlords and tenants as a prerequisite (or alternative) to landlords filing unlawful detainer suits against tenants. Upon completion of good faith negotiations, landlords and tenants are provided with a Certificate of Participation.

Through the ERPP, trained conciliators provide Eviction Resolution Services (ERS) to help with:

- Free conflict coaching to help landlords and tenants resolve eviction-related issues.
- Conciliating financial disputes that put tenants at risk of losing their rental housing.
- Facilitating negotiations between tenants and landlords, to develop reasonable arrangements for unpaid rent.
- Coordinating rental assistance (when available).
- Sharing referral and resource information.
- Providing a Certificate of Participation once negotiation has ended to both landlord and tenant.

The BCRC will not:

- Assist those tenants or landlords outside Bellevue or Kirkland
- Offer legal advice or representation
- Offer rental assistance directly

On September 13, 2021, pursuant to Ordinance No. 6601, the City Council approved an agreement where the BCRC would serve as a sub-contractor under “Personal Services Agreement PSC22019,” and agreement executed between the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and Resolution Washington. The Dispute Resolution Center of Kitsap County is the fiscal agent for Resolution Washington. This subcontract allows the BCRC to provide ERS under the ERPP to landlords and tenants in the cities of Bellevue and Kirkland.

Under the initial agreement, the BCRC would receive a grant amount of \$123,405 for each funding cycle: 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. The proposed amendment would increase the available funding for 2022-2023 by \$165,832 for a total amount of \$289,237.

The funding source is from an allocation of funding from the federal COVID Aid Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), administered by the AOC, covering fiscal years July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Bellevue City Code 4.28.200 requires Council approval to execute grant contracts that exceed \$90,000.

The acceptance of this amended grant amount is consistent with the following policies:

Neighborhood Element of the Comprehensive Plan:

N-7. Support the capacity of local neighborhood communities to actively engage and respond to changing internal neighborhood needs and external stresses.

N-11. Enable neighborhood-tailored solutions to localized issues while ensuring that they meet Citywide responsibilities.

Fiscal Impact

This action will increase the available funding for 2022-2023 by \$165,832 for a total amount of \$289,237. This action will also allow \$137,446 of this increased amount to be expended this year, with the remainder being appropriated during the 2023-2024 budget cycle.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Ordinance (1) authorizing an amendment to a sub-contract with the Dispute Resolution Center of Kitsap County, as lead fiscal agent for Resolution Washington, to accept an additional \$165,832 in grant funding from the Administrative Office of the Courts (under personal services agreement PSC22019), to support Eviction Resolution Services offered through the Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center's Eviction Resolution Pilot Program during state fiscal year 2022 to 2023; and (2) amending the 2021-2022 Operating Grants, Donations, and Special Reserves Fund to increase the appropriation by \$137,446.
2. Do not adopt the Ordinance and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. First Amendment to ERPP Sub-Contract
Proposed Ordinance No. 6683

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

ERPP Sub-Contract
Ordinance No. 6601