

**CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION**

Resolution authorizing execution of an agreement with Hopelink for \$127,000 to purchase food for the Bellevue Food Bank.

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This Resolution authorizes execution of an agreement in the amount of \$127,000 with Hopelink to purchase food for the Bellevue Food Bank to address the immediate impacts of the COVID-19 emergency.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Move to adopt Resolution No. 9813.

**BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

On March 27, 2020, the federal government passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act established the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) which allocated a total of \$150 billion to state and local governments to address unforeseen financial needs and risks created by the COVID-19 public health emergency. The City of Bellevue was allocated \$4,359,000 in CARES Act funds.

On August 3, 2020, Council authorized execution of an interagency agreement with the Washington State Department of Commerce to accept the CARES Act funds and increased the Human Services Fund appropriation by \$500,000 to address the most urgent human services needs resulting from the COVID-19 emergency. Specifically, Council allocated \$300,000 to address food insecurity and \$200,000 to emergency financial assistance for residents.

On August 18, 2020 the Bellevue Human Services Commission voted to approve grants to four non-profit agencies meeting the City's eligibility criteria that address food insecurity. Two of the grants exceed \$90,000.

The Commission approved a grant of \$160,000 to the Bellevue School District to purchase supplies to meet basic needs, including food and hygiene, that will be distributed at the District's Family Connection Centers (FCCs). FCCs have traditionally maintained small food pantries during the school year to supplement food needs for families but since the pandemic closed schools in March, the demand for food and for hygiene and cleaning supplies has increased enormously. Between March 16-

June 19<sup>th</sup>, the number of families coming to the FCCs for this kind of assistance increased from roughly 250/week to 600-650/week.

The Commission also approved a grant of \$127,000 to Hopelink to purchase food for the Bellevue Food Bank. The Bellevue Hopelink Food Bank distributed 66 percent more food in the second quarter of 2020 compared to the same quarter last year. Hopelink staff report that at the Bellevue site, they distribute 900 boxes of food each week and that the need far exceeds Hopelink's planned budget for the year. The funds will allow Hopelink to purchase large quantities of food, especially protein and fresh produce. Recently, Hopelink received a grant to purchase several large refrigerators so that it can buy items in bulk and keep them fresh.

Two other agencies will additionally receive funds to address food insecurity and meet other basic needs. The Commission awarded \$10,000 to The Salvation Army to purchase food for its free community meal program and hygiene supplies and \$3,000 to the Renewal Food Bank to purchase hygiene and cleaning supplies.

## **POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS**

### **Policy Impact**

BCC 4.28.200 requires Council approval to execute grant agreements in excess of \$90,000.

### **Fiscal Impact**

This agreement obligates the City to grant Hopelink \$127,000 to purchase food for the Bellevue Food Bank. The City will seek reimbursement of this amount in CARES Act funding from the Washington State Department of Commerce in accordance with the interagency agreement.

## **OPTIONS**

1. Adopt the Resolution authorizing execution of an agreement with Hopelink for \$127,000 to purchase food for the Bellevue Food Bank. The executed agreement shall be substantially in the form of the agreement in the Council Library.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternative direction to staff.

## **ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS**

Proposed Resolution No. 9813

## **AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

Agreement between the City of Bellevue and Hopelink