TO: Mayor and City Council

SUBJECT: CARES Act Funding Allocation; United Way of the Plains COVID-19 Vaccination Incentive Program for the Homeless

INITIATED BY: Housing and Community Services Department

AGENDA: New Business

Recommendation: Approve the funding allocation and authorize the funding agreement and the necessary signatures.

Background: Wichita is recognized as an entitlement city by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This designation is based on a federal formula, which considers total population, the number of persons below the poverty level, the number of overcrowded housing units, the age of housing and the population growth lag. Specific entitlement funding sources covered by the Consolidated Plan include the Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG) and the Emergency Solutions Grant program (ESG).

As a result of passage of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, (CARES Act), the City has received $3,301,120 in CARES Act ESG (ESG-CV) funding. ESG-CV funding must be utilized to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency, among individuals and families who are homeless or receiving homeless assistance; and to support additional homeless assistance and homelessness prevention activities.

Analysis: The City has received a funding request in the amount of $50,000 from United Way of the Plains (United Way) to support a program that would provide incentives for homeless individuals to be vaccinated for COVID-19. United Way proposes to collaborate with organizations operating homeless shelters and other homeless services providers in the Wichita area, in order to organize vaccination clinics and other opportunities for homeless individuals to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Funding to be provided will offset staffing and contract labor expenses involved in organizing the vaccine clinics, as well as expenses involved in obtaining general merchandise gift cards for program participants. Gift cards would be purchased from local retailers where participating homeless individuals could purchase food items, as well as personal care or hygiene products. United Way proposes to offer a $30 gift card to homeless individuals upon receiving the first of two COVID-19 vaccine doses and to provide a second $30 gift card upon receiving the second of two COVID-19 vaccine doses. Participants due or in need of a vaccine booster will receive a gift card in the amount of $30 upon receiving a booster dose.

Housing and Community Services staff recommends funding the requested amount. The program is projected to serve 225 homeless individuals in need of both the first and second vaccine doses, and 50 homeless individuals in need of the vaccine booster dose.

Financial Considerations: There is no impact to the General Fund. The City must expend 80 percent of awarded ESG-CV funding by March 31, 2022, or it is subject to recapture by HUD.

Legal Considerations: The funding agreement has been approved as to form by the Law Department.
**Recommendation/Actions:** It is recommended that the City Council approve the funding allocation and authorize the funding agreement and the necessary signatures.

**Attachments:**
Funding Agreement