TO: Mayor and City Council

SUBJECT: 2020 Community Services Block Grant Remainder/Discretionary Application

INITIATED BY: Housing and Community Services Department

AGENDA: New Business

Recommendation: Approve the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020 Community Services Block Grant remainder/discretionary funding application in the amount of $14,787 and the anticipated grant award, and authorize the necessary signatures.

Background: The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) is a federal funding source provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Community Services Block Grant funding is designed to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities, by supporting projects that:

- Lessen poverty in communities
- Address the needs of low-income individuals including the homeless, migrants and the elderly
- Provide services and activities addressing employment, education, better use of available income, housing, nutrition, emergency services and/or health

In Kansas, CSBG funds are administered by the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC) and are awarded by formula to eight Community Action Programs (CAPs) throughout the state. The City of Wichita has been designated as a CAP for more than 30 years and receives this funding for Wichita and Sedgwick County. The Wichita Sedgwick County Community Action Partnership (WSCCAP) is a division of the Housing and Community Services Department and provides program management.

The Community Services Block Grant Review Committee is the oversight board for CSBG and as such is required to fully participate in the development, planning, implementation and evaluation of programs and operations supported by the grant award. These requirements are set forth in policies established by the KHRC.

The KHRC also has made available five percent of its federal award as CSBG discretionary funds. These funds are allocated through a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process. The Department prepares the City’s application for discretionary funds. In 2018, the City received an additional $40,000 under this process.

Analysis: The KHRC invites eligible applicants to submit proposals for COVID-19 economic relief by April 15. There is $14,787 available to each of the eight CSBG entities in the state of Kansas for this initiative. The period of availability for FFY 2020 remainder/discretionary funds extends through September 30, 2021.

Staff has prepared an application for $14,787 that would be used to provide clients that have the inability to pay rent and utilities. The need has been identified as one of the main causes of homelessness in the community. Through the provision of one-time financial assistance, WSCCAP immediately prevents
households from entering into homeless situations, and through case management, ensures that they will remain in stable, long-term housing.

Individuals receiving assistance through the Emergency Services program work with a member of a team on increasing housing stability through the support of case management. With a knowledge of community resources, the Emergency Services team provide immediate assistance to individuals facing homelessness and supporting them as they work toward long-term economic stability.

**Financial Considerations:** There is no impact to the General Fund as a result of this action.

**Legal Considerations:** The Law Department has approved the FFY 2020 Community Services Block Grant Remainder/Discretionary fund application as to form.

**Recommendation/Action:** It is recommended that the City Council approve the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020 Community Services Block Grant remainder/discretionary funding application in the amount of $14,787, and grant funding upon receipt, and authorize the necessary signatures.

**Attachment:** No attachments