TO: Mayor and City Council

SUBJECT: ESG Funding Allocation for HumanKind Ministries, Inc.; Emergency Winter Shelter Services (District VI)

INITIATED BY: Housing and Community Services Department

AGENDA: New Business

Recommendation: Approve the ESG funding allocation in the amount of $60,000 and authorize the necessary signatures.

Background: On June 11, 2019, the City Council approved final funding allocations from the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan, which included anticipated expenditures for three entitlement grant programs: The Community Development Block Grant program, the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program. The Plan includes $238,128 in approved expenditures from the ESG program.

The ESG program provides funding to improve the number and quality of emergency shelters for the homeless, operate homeless shelters; rapidly re-house families and individuals experiencing homelessness, and prevent families and individuals from becoming homeless.

Analysis: The City has received a request from HumanKind Ministries, Inc. (HumanKind) for ESG funding in the amount of $60,000 in order to continue operation of the organization’s emergency winter shelter facilities during the month of April, 2020. The funding will allow Humankind to address shelter needs of the homeless during the COVID-19 public health crisis. The emergency winter shelter activity operated by HumanKind is a no-barrier shelter for adult individuals that operates daily during the harsh winter months, and normally closes on March 31 of each year. Separate facilities are offered for men and women, and all persons are admitted unless they are actively disruptive or violent. Under normal circumstances, the shelter facilities are staffed each day between 5:00 PM until 8:00 AM the next morning. In addition to shelter, HumanKind offers case management services to address mental health and substance abuse issues. Volunteers from other community organizations provide other services, such as medical care.

During the month of April, normal shelter activities will be modified in order to operate on a 24-hour basis. Meals and shower and laundry facilities will be offered, as part of an effort to keep individuals sheltered, limiting exposure. HumanKind will work with health clinics in order to serve individuals who become ill, and will offer isolation areas for those individuals. A total of 90 individuals can be served between the two facilities, with social distancing in place. The proposed budget includes staffing expenses, janitorial expenses, utilities, food, and supplies such as thermometers, masks, gowns, gloves, hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes.

Financial Considerations: There is no impact to the General Fund, as a result of this action. ESG funding anticipated to be received through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act will be utilized to cover the expense.
Legal Considerations: The Law Department has reviewed and approved the funding agreement as to form.

Recommendations/Actions: It is recommended that the City Council approve the ESG funding allocation in the amount of $60,000, and authorize the necessary signatures.

Attachment: Funding Agreement.