

ORDINANCE NO. 781-2020

Department of Community Development Executive Summary

2020 Emergency Shelter/Solutions Grant (ESG)

Purpose: The purpose of this legislation is to correct the funding source in Section 6 of Ordinance No. 176-2020, passed February 24, 2020 and amended by ordinance 447-2020 passed June 17, 2020, from Fund 19 SF 688 to Fund 19 SF 678.

Ordinance No. 176-2020, as amended, authorizes the Director of Community Development to enter into contract with non-profit agencies to provide shelter and related services to the homeless and to enter into contract with Cuyahoga County for the operation of homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing activities.

Amount and Sources:

\$ 1,858,769	PY 2020-21 Emergency Solutions Grant
<u>672,308</u>	PY 2020-21 CDBG
\$ 2,531,077	

Background: HUD restructured the Emergency Shelter Grant program as the Emergency Solutions Grant program. In addition to the previously eligible homeless shelter services, a substantial portion of the ESG funds is required by HUD to be used to support homeless prevention and rapid rehousing activities. These are coordinated through the Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Services.

Uses of Funds: Planned uses of funds include:

- Support for operating costs and services at emergency shelters.
- Operation of the Coordinated Intake System for homeless shelters that can assist persons seeking shelter to identify other housing options whenever possible.
- Rapid rehousing assistance for families in shelters to assist them in moving out as soon as possible through case management, linkage to mainstream services and benefits, housing placement services and short term rental assistance

Program Operations:

Non-profit shelter providers are selected through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process carried out in cooperation with the Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Services.

The Cleveland/Cuyahoga Office of Homeless Services is the primary administrator for homeless prevention and rapid rehousing activities, with ongoing responsibility for contracting, monthly payments and the extensive HUD data collection and reporting requirements of the program. The City's ESG funds will be supplemented by County and State ESG funds and local County revenues.

Matching Funds:

The ESG Program requires local matching funds for homeless shelter and services on a \$ for \$ basis. Cuyahoga County has been annually committing over \$4 million in Health and Human Services levy funds for homeless assistance, through the Office of Homeless Services.

Importance:

Current (PY 2019-20) agency shelter contracts expire by the end of December 2020.