C OF C 125-174

Ordinance No. 905-2022 AS AMENDED

By Council Member Griffin and Mayor Bibb

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

Directing a portion of the City's Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund payment to the City's COVID-19 response by authorizing the Director of Finance to enter into one or more subrecipient agreements with Child Care Resource Center of Cuyahoga County, dba Starting Point, to assist with an Early Childhood Recovery Initiative-Signing and Retention program, to be encumbered beginning March 3, 2021, and ending December 31, 2024.

WHEREAS, Title IX, Subtitle M, Section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act, Pub. L. 117-2 [H.R. 1319], signed into law March 11, 2021 ("ARPA"), appropriated Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund ("Fund") payments from the U.S. Treasury Secretary to metropolitan cities, nonentitlement units of local government, and counties; and

WHEREAS, the ARPA continues many of the programs started by the CARES Act (2020) and Consolidated Appropriations Act (2021) by adding new phases, new allocations, and new guidance to address issues related to the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the ARPA's Fund methodology, the City has been allocated the amount of $511,721,590.00 ("Fund Payment") to "mitigate the fiscal effects stemming from the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)"; and

WHEREAS, in response to this economic crisis, the Department of the Treasury ("Treasury Department") is providing such relief to state, local, and Tribal governments to enable them to continue to support the public health response and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, the ARPA and its supporting guidance issued by the Treasury Department provide that the Fund Payment may only be used by the City to finance costs that (a) respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts; (b) respond to workers performing essential work; (c) provide government services to the extent of reduction in revenue; and (d) make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure (collectively, "Criteria"); and

WHEREAS, so long as the City duly directs its Fund Payment to finance those costs in compliance with the Criteria, the City may use the Fund Payment to offset the City's various fiscal effects from COVID-19 during the period beginning March 3, 2021, and ending December 31, 2024 ("Covered Period"); and

WHEREAS, the City received some or all of the Fund Payment directly from the Treasury Department under the authority of Ordinance No. 303-2021, passed by this Council on May 10, 2021, and which affirms said Fund Payment is to cover only those expenditures consistent with ARPA, including the Criteria, and applicable regulations, and such Fund Payment has been or will be deposited into an appropriate special revenue fund created and maintained by the City; and

WHEREAS, the Treasury Department has published an Interim Final Rule and a Final Rule with an effective date of April 1, 2022 (collectively, 31 CFR 35.1 et seq.), its regularly updated Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds' Frequently Asked Questions, and its Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds: Overview of the Final Rule (collectively, "Guidance"), further explaining the Criteria and the proper use of the Fund Payment during the Covered Period; and

WHEREAS, the Criteria and Guidance describe such eligible uses of the Fund Payment to include responding to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts, including providing assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofit organizations; and for services to disproportionately impacted communities; and

WHEREAS, this Council intends to take action and use the Fund Payment as described herein in a manner consistent with the Final Rule released by the Treasury Department on January 6, 2022, as authorized under said Department's Statement Regarding Compliance with the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Interim Final Rule and Final Rule; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance constitutes an emergency measure providing for the usual daily operation of a municipal department and constitutes an emergency measure providing for the immediate preservation of the public peace, property, health and safety in the timely authorization and the signing of the necessary agreements and documents to expend the Fund Payment; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That this Council hereby declares that its COVID-19 Response, defined herein, duly authorizes the Director of Finance to enter into one or more subrecipient agreements with Child Care Resource Center of Cuyahoga County, dba Starting Point ("Starting Point"), to transfer a portion of the City's Fund Payment for an Early Childhood Recovery Initiative- Signing and Retention program to provide sign-on bonuses for childhood educators entering or returning to the early childhood profession and retention bonuses for childhood educators currently working in a licensed child care program in the City. To be eligible for either bonus, the childhood educator's household must have experienced unemployment or increased food or housing insecurity, or are low or moderate income. This Council's decision that such expenditures are appropriate by virtue of charging to the City's Fund Payment is based on the consideration that such program is an eligible use to the extent that a portion of the City's Fund Payment is directed to Starting Point as an eligible subrecipient and that the program promotes health childhood environments for households impacted by the pandemic's negative economic impacts ("COVID-19 Response").

Section 2. That all agreements authorized by this ordinance shall be approved by the Director of Law and contain such terms and conditions as necessary to protect the public interest consistent with the purposes of this ordinance.

Section 3. That the cost of all agreements authorized by this ordinance shall not exceed $2,668,750 and shall be paid from the Fund Payment, Fund No. 01-001-

9997, Fund No. 15 SF 190, and from any other funds approved by the Director of Finance. (RQS 0114, RLA 2022-56)

Section 4. That the agreements authorized and to be paid from the Fund Payment shall be fully executed, with funds to be encumbered during the period beginning March 3, 2021, and ending December 31, 2024. Any such funds to be paid from the Fund Payment encumbered on or before December 31, 2024, shall be fully expended no later than December 31, 2026.

~~Section 5. That any contract or grant over $50,000 to be entered into under this ordinance shall require additional legislative authority.~~

Section 5. That the Director of Finance shall provide all members of Council a quarterly report from Starting Point concerning the effectiveness of this program, by ward if available.

Section 6. That this ordinance is declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

SM:nl
9-12-2022
FOR: Mayor Bibb

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READ FIRST TIME on SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 **REPORTS**
and referred to DIRECTORS of Finance, Law;
COMMITTEE on Finance Diversity Equity and Inclusion

CITY CLERK

READ SECOND TIME

CITY CLERK

READ THIRD TIME

PRESIDENT

CITY CLERK

APPROVED

MAYOR

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Published in the City Record _____

REPORT
after second Reading

PASSAGE RECOMMENDED BY
COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE, DIVERSITY, EQUITY and INCLUSION

FILED WITH COMMITTEE