

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-0066

A Resolution expressing support for Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington's application for funding through the Washington Department of Commerce's Rapid Capital Housing Acquisition grant program via the Washington Housing Trust Fund and pledging future approval of matching funds and contract support to assist in the grant application.

WHEREAS, the Washington Department of Commerce ("Commerce"), through the Washington Housing Trust Fund, have issued a Notice of Funds Availability for a Rapid Capital Housing Acquisition ("RCHA") grant; and

WHEREAS, the RCHA grant provides funds for the acquisition or rental of real property for rapid conversion into enhanced emergency shelters, permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, permanent housing, youth housing, drop-in centers, or shelters for extremely low-income people, as well as individuals, families, unaccompanied youth, and young people experiencing sheltered or unsheltered homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recently adopted Resolution No. 2021-0061 (July 12, 2021), which strongly encouraged the City Administration to apply, as applicant or co-applicant, or to provide matching funds for a community applicant for a RCHA grant; and

WHEREAS, recently, Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington ("CCEW") have begun a property acquisition that is eligible for a RCHA grant, and have sought support for their project, as well as matching funds to fund housing for people who are experiencing homelessness, an existing situation which has been exacerbated by the public health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the existing housing crisis; and

WHEREAS, currently, CCEW is under contract to purchase a small local hotel which will provide transitional housing for up to 15 family households that are currently experiencing homelessness and will use this housing to transition those households into permanent housing solutions and is seeking a RCHA grant to fund that purchase; and

WHEREAS, the RCHA grant requires both local matching funds and a three-year operating support contract; and

WHEREAS, the intention of CCEW is to work with the City and other funders to sustainably fund this facility as emergency/transitional housing after the 3-year operating agreement expires, and that, even without such support, CCEW intends to redevelop the property and provide permanent, affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, provided that local matching funds are obtained, a three-year operating contract with the City is concluded, qualified staff can be hired, and that CCEW is awarded a RCHA grant, CCEW anticipates opening this new shelter for operations in October, 2021; and

WHEREAS, housing instability has been shown to drive a wide range of social and economic ills, such as increased crime and recidivism, lower educational attainment, poorer physical, mental, and social health outcomes, reduced social capital, and greater susceptibility to transmissible diseases, such as COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Housing chapter of the City’s Comprehensive Plan states that the City will “[s]upport and assist the public and private sectors to develop lower-income or subsidized housing for households that cannot compete in the market for housing by using federal, state, and local aid” (Policy H 1.10); and

WHEREAS, the Joint Administration-Council Strategic Plan directs that the City will take action to “[r]educe homelessness and protect vulnerable populations,” and the surest way to do so is to help community organizations like CCEW that is providing housing for people who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Spokane City Council supports the Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington’s Rapid Capital Housing Acquisition grant application for the purchase and operation of a small local hotel that will provide transitional housing for up to 15 family households currently experiencing homelessness.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the Spokane City Council pledges to provide matching funds for the project, within its regular process, and from whatever source(s) of funding is/are most appropriate to the goals of the project, should the project be selected for grant funding.

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Spokane City Council strongly supports a three-year operating agreement with Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington, to enable this project to move forward to provide housing for some of our most vulnerable people.

Passed by the City Council this 26th day of July, 2021.

DocuSigned by:
Jeri Hoff DS
City Clerk

Approved as to form:

DocuSigned by:
Mike Piccolo
Assistant City Attorney



Briefing Paper

Public Infrastructure, Environment and Sustainability

Division & Department:	City Council
Subject:	Resolution Support RCHA Grant Proposal
Date:	7/26/21
Contact (email & phone):	CP Beggs (bbeggs@spokanecity.org)
City Council Sponsor:	CP Beggs
Executive Sponsor:	
Committee(s) Impacted:	Urban Experience
Type of Agenda item:	<input type="checkbox"/> Consent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Strategic Initiative
Alignment:	
Strategic Initiative:	
Deadline:	Will be requesting to add this to the 7/26 Legislative Agenda for consideration
Outcome: (deliverables, delivery duties, milestones to meet)	
<u>Background/History:</u>	
<u>Executive Summary:</u> This resolution expresses support for an application from Catholic Charities for a Rapid Capital Housing Acquisition ("RCHA") grant to acquire a small local hotel that will provide transitional housing for up to 15 households. The grant requires matching funding, which Council resolves to provide if the application is accepted. The appropriate funding source for this project will be determined during a future process.	
<u>Budget Impact:</u>	
TOTAL COST:	
Approved in current year budget?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Annual/Reoccurring expenditure?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
If new, specify funding source:	
Other budget impacts: (revenue generating, match requirements, etc.)	
<u>Operations Impact:</u>	
Consistent with current operations/policy?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Requires change in current operations/policy?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Specify changes required:	
Known challenges/barriers:	