

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA



Agenda Date:	August 21, 2023
Action Required:	Approval of a Resolution to Reprogram Unspent HOME Funds from FY 2021-2022 and FY 2022-2023 to LEAP
Presenter:	Anthony Warn, Grants Analyst, Alexander Ikefuna, Director of Community Solutions
Staff Contacts:	Anthony Warn, Grants Analyst Taylor Harvey-Ryan, Grants Program Manager
Title:	Minor Amendment to HOME FY 2023-2024 Action Plan to reprogram unspent HOME Funds from prior years to support energy-efficiency home rehabilitations through the Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP), approximately \$111,749 (1 reading)

Background

The City of Charlottesville has been designated by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) as an 'Entitlement Community' and as such participates in the HOME Investment Partnerships program. Charlottesville is a participating member of the Thomas Jefferson Area HOME Consortium, in partnership with five neighboring counties: Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa & Nelson. This Consortium is managed through a Cooperation Agreement with the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) whose staff coordinate HOME activities across the six Consortium localities.

City Council approved HOME awards to the Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP) in both federal fiscal year 2021-2022, on February 1, 2021, and federal fiscal year 2022-23, on June 6, 2022. Due in part to significant implementation challenges brought on by the COVID pandemic, a portion of the award for each fiscal year remains unspent, totaling approximately \$111,749.90.

Discussion

TJPDC staff has recently notified the city that a balance of unspent HOME funds exists from prior years and that these funds need to be reprogrammed to support new HOME-eligible activities or be at risk of reclamation by HUD. Specifically, TJPDC staff confirms that LEAP has an unspent balance of \$18,271.77 from their PY 2021-2022 CDBG Assisted Home Performance program and \$93,478.13 from their PY 2022-2023 Assisted Home Performance program.

These HOME funds were initially awarded to LEAP to support energy-efficiency related home improvements, including roof repairs for income-qualified homeowners to support the installation of solar panels by Dominion Energy. (Dominion experienced significant challenges rolling out their solar panel program during the pandemic, which accounted for a significant portion of the delays

experienced by LEAP, as they could not initiate their solar rehabs without prior authorization from Dominion.

In recent weeks, TJPDC and OSC staff have engaged in conversations with LEAP about how to best utilize these unspent funds. LEAP has affirmed to TJPDC and city staff that they have identified several important projects that could be funded by these awards, including the previously planned roofing rehabilitations now that Dominion has begun rolling out their low-income homeowner solar panel installation program.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

This agenda item aligns directly with Council's vision for the City of Charlottesville to offer its residents **Economic Sustainability** and **Quality Housing Opportunities for All**.

Community Engagement

The initial funding awards to LEAP in each of the original program years were made in full compliance with the city's HUD-approved Citizen Participation Plan, through which a competitive application process was conducted. This process included a request for proposals for housing, economic development, public facilities and public service programs and a review by the city's CDBG/HOME Taskforce. Taskforce recommendations were made available for lengthy public comment periods, with notices published in the Daily Progress and its affiliated newspaper, after which they were presented for review to the city's Planning Commission at public hearings. Final approval of each funding award was given by City Council, again at public hearings and after two public readings.

Budgetary Impact

As the unspent HOME funds to be reprogrammed are funding allocations previously made available to the city from HUD and whereas no new local match funds are required to reprogram these funds, no impacts to the city's budget are anticipated.

Recommendation

Staff recommends Council approval of the resolution to reprogram unspent HOME funds from federal fiscal years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 to support new efforts by LEAP to implement energy efficiency related home repairs and rehabilitations, in the approximate amount of \$111,749.90.

Suggested motion:

"I move to APPROVE the resolution reprogramming unspent HOME funds from federal fiscal years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 to support new efforts by LEAP to implement energy efficiency related home repairs and rehabilitations for income-qualified homeowners, as presented here today before Council."

Alternatives

As Council approval is necessary to reprogram these funds, without which they may be subject to reclamation by HUD, no alternatives are presented.

Attachments

1. Council (2021-02-01) Appropriations FY21 HOME Res #A-21-017

2. Council (2022-06-06) Appropriations FY22 HOME Res #R-22-068
3. Council FY 23 Resolution of Approval for LEAP Reprogramming of Unspent HOME Funds 2023-08-21
4. Council FY23 HOME Resolution of Appropriation for LEAP Reprogramming of Unspent HOME Funds 2023-08-21