



## CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. 7.L.

**FOR COUNCIL:** April 22, 2024

**WARD IMPACTED:** City-Wide Impact

**SUBJECT:** Consideration and Action on an Ordinance Approving a Community Change Grant Partnership Agreement between the City of Bloomington and Home Sweet Home Ministries, as requested by the Administration Department.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** The proposed Ordinance be approved.

**STRATEGIC PLAN LINK:**

Goal 1. Financially Sound City Providing Quality Basic Services

**STRATEGIC PLAN SIGNIFICANCE:**

Objective 1e. Partnering with others for the most cost-effective service delivery

**BACKGROUND:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is currently offering up to \$2 billion dollars for its Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants program. The City is in the process of completing an application that will seek approximately \$18,690,000 to help fund the work known as the East Street Basin. This includes approximately 5,700 lineal feet of storm sewer and combined sewer pipes, roadway reconstruction, two detention basins, and a park area and sidewalk around the basins.

The City's proposed partner for the Change Grant is Home Sweet Home Ministries ("HSHM"). HSHM is a non-profit 501(c)(3) that provides congregate shelter to individuals and families. Under the proposed partnership agreement, HSHM would use funds to repair the roof of one of its shelters at 303 E. Oakland Ave. in Bloomington, Illinois. This building currently provides shelter to the homeless. Funds would also be used to add solar panels to that building, once the roof is repaired, and to its other building at 301 E. Oakland Ave., which is where HSHM operates a low-income food co-op and community center. Finally, HSHM would use the remaining funds to either: (1) improve and expand their congregate shelter space on their current property; or (2) develop a non-congregate shelter facility at a location within McLean County that is zoned and cited for said use. All details on the expansion/development will be finalized by the time of grant award.

The proposed partnership agreement reflects a collaborative effort between the City of Bloomington and Home Sweet Home Ministries to address not only critical infrastructure needs, but also to address the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness in our community. By leveraging our resources and expertise, we can maximize the impact of the Change Grant and make meaningful progress toward our shared goals.

As part of the grant and Partnership Agreement, the City would also provide three sub-awards as follows: (1) \$50,000 to the Ecology Action Center for educational signage in the park around the basin as well as native tree and solar power displays; (2) \$10,000 to the Library Foundation for story board(s) to be placed at the basin; and (3) \$250,000 to the

Salvation Army for the addition of fire suppression and other improvements at their shelter at 611 W. Washington Street in Bloomington, Illinois, for increased shelter capacity. Again, all details on the sub-awards will be completed by the time of grant award.

**COMMUNITY GROUPS/INTERESTED PERSONS CONTACTED:** Home Sweet Home Ministries; Chestnut Health Systems; the Bloomington Housing Authority; the Friends of the Constitution Trail; Salvation Army; Library Foundation

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** There is no financial impact associated with approval of the Partnership Agreement which is contingent upon receiving the requested grant funds.

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING IMPACT:** N/A

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IMPACT:** This request meets the following goals and objectives of the Bloomington Comprehensive Plan 2035: N/A

Respectfully submitted for consideration.

Prepared by: Jeff Jurgens, Deputy City Manager

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[ADM 3B Ordinance](#)

[ADM 3C Agreement](#)