



Item Number: 13

# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

**DATE:** August 13, 2024

**TO:** Mark Washington, City Manager

**COMMITTEE:** Fiscal Committee

**LIAISON:** Molly Clarin, Chief Financial Officer

**FROM:** Connie M. Bohatch, Senior Managing Director of Community Services  
Community Development

**SUBJECT:** **Resolution authorizing execution of a \$77,000 Donated Funds Agreement with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) for a dedicated eligibility specialist for the Eviction Prevention Program**

Attached is a resolution authorizing execution of an agreement with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to provide dedicated staff support to the Grand Rapids Eviction Prevention Program (EPP). The agreement is in an amount not to exceed \$77,000 for the period of October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025. In this arrangement, known as a Donated Funds Agreement, MDHHS and the community equally share the position cost.

The Grand Rapids EPP began in January 2018 as a three-year pilot project in the 61<sup>st</sup> District Court. During this time, the Steelcase Foundation and Grand Rapids Community Foundation covered staffing and annual evaluation costs. This included providing funds to cover the local share of a “donated funds” position to have a dedicated Eligibility Specialist from the Kent County MDHHS office working cases at the 61<sup>st</sup> District Court.

Philanthropic funds are no longer available and MDHHS cannot use federal funds as a matching source. Since the Eligibility Specialist is critical to the success of the program, the City has provided the local match from General Operating Funds. As in past years, this was included in the Community Development Department FY 2025 budget.

The MDHHS Eligibility Specialist continues to provide needed services in assessing eligibility and accessing resources for persons facing eviction. Households are assisted with State Emergency Relief, the City’s Emergency Solutions Grants, and other community rental assistance resources. Referrals also are coordinated with 61<sup>st</sup> District Court Eviction Diversion Initiative staff. In 2023, 167 households received a total of \$462,609 in rental assistance through the EPP.

Your FISCAL COMMITTEE recommends adoption of the following resolution approving an agreement between the City of Grand Rapids and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for the Grand Rapids Eviction Prevention Program.

RESOLVED:

1. That a Donated Funds Agreement between the City and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) for the Grand Rapids Eviction Prevention Program in an amount not to exceed Seventy-Seven Thousand Dollars (\$77,000) is hereby approved; and
2. That the agreement period shall be from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025; and
3. That the Mayor is authorized to execute said agreement, related documents, and necessary modifications and extensions of time in a form approved by the City Attorney.

CORRECT IN FORM  
  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW