Board of Supervisors Memorandum

April 9, 2013

Contingency Fund Allocation for the Provision of Refugee Support Services; Specifically Transportation and Employment Training

Background

An effort to provide refugee support services, specifically in the areas of transportation and employment training, is being advanced by a community partnership between Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona (CCSSA), Pima County, the Click Family Foundation and the City of Tucson. Mr. Jim Click, via the Click Family Foundation, has made a challenge grant in the amount of $34,000 to CCSSA to provide these transportation and employment training services.

The City of Tucson is unable to provide any direct financial support to match a County contribution as requested in my January 15, 2013 letter to CCSSA (attached); but the City has indicated they are committed to the program by providing in-kind services in the areas of transit, housing and parks and recreation. I assume these in-kind contributions will be in the form of vouchers or other discounted fees for services that would be equal to any cash allocation made by the Board of Supervisors.

Recommendation

I recommend the Board of Supervisors make a one-time Contingency Fund allocation in the amount of $34,000 to Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona to match the Click Family Foundation grant for the provision of transportation services and employment training.

Respectfully submitted,

C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

CHH/mjk – Revised April 5, 2013

Attachments

JONATHAN ROTHSCHILD
MAYOR

CITY OF TUCSON
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

255 WEST ALAMEDA
P.O. BOX 27210
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85726-7210
PHONE: (520) 791-4201
FAX: (520) 791-5348

March 1, 2013

Supervisor Richard Elias
District 5/Pima County
130 W. Congress-11th Floor
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Richard:

The City of Tucson will continue to welcome and assist refugees seeking a new life in our community. Refugees often must overcome major language and cultural hurdles in a very short time to find work in the United States. Because of this, they are one of our most vulnerable populations.

Tucson will continue to support the international refugee community by providing in kind services in the areas of transit, housing, and parks and recreation.

It is gratifying to me that Pima County will continue to partner with the City to facilitate and aid refugees desiring to make Tucson their new home. I look forward to working with Pima County so that together we can improve the lives of refugees so they can become valuable members of our community.

Please don't hesitate to contact me as we move forward with this valuable work.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Rothschild
Mayor

Cc: Most Reverend Gerald F. Kicanas, Bishop of Tucson
Pima County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry
Catholic Community Services CEO Peg Harmon

COUNTY ADMINISTRATORS OFFICE
PIMA COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
130 W. CONGRESS, TUCSON, AZ 85701-1317
(520) 724-8661 FAX (520) 724-8171

C.H. HUCKELBERRY
County Administrator

January 15, 2013

Marguerite D. Harmon, CEO
Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona, Inc.
140 W. Speedway Boulevard, Suite 230
Tucson, Arizona 85705

Re: **Your January 9, 2013 Letter Requesting Funding for Refugees in Need**

Dear Ms. Harmon:

Thank you for your letter. I appreciate your efforts and those of the Community Response Group to aid refugees in the areas of employment, education, housing, transportation and healthcare.

I am pleased you have received a $34,000 grant from the Click Family Foundation for funding services in these areas, particularly for transportation and driver license training for employment-related needs.

Based on your request, the County will provide an equal amount, or $34,000, to provide refugee support, provided the other major partner referenced, the City of Tucson, makes an equal financial commitment to this worthwhile program.

Sincerely,

C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

CHH/dph

Attachment

c: The Honorable Chairman and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
Hank Atha, Deputy County Administrator for Community and Economic Development

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
SERVICES
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA, INC.

140 W. Speedway Blvd., Suite 230
Tucson, Arizona 85705

voice/TTY: (520) 623-0344
toll free: 1 (800) 234-0344
fax: (520) 770-8514
www.ccs-soaz.org

January 9, 2013

Mr. Chuck Huckelberry
County Manager
Pima County
130 W Congress
10th Floor
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Mr. Huckelberry,

The purpose of this letter is to both inform you of the work of a community group currently addressing issues for refugees and to make a request for financial support of services for refugees in need.

Refugees: Refugees are brought to Pima County and the City of Tucson through three agencies, International Rescue Committee, Lutheran Social Services and Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona. These three organizations are resettlement agencies that work through agreements with the Department of State and the State of Arizona to bring people to the United States who are victims of war, natural disaster or political and religious persecution. These individuals must meet very strict self-support requirements after they arrive and are often responsible for a number of dependents. People who move to our community are from a number of countries and have a wide range of skills and needs. The most recently resettled individuals are people with little education and language skills who have come from some of the most desperate situations in the world. The economic downturn in Pima County of the past several years has created ever increasing barriers to employment and a reduction in services needed by these individuals and families to be successful.

Community Response Group: In September of 2012 Bishop Kicanas, Mr. Jim Click. Mayor Rothschild and Supervisor Elias decided to convene a group of community leaders to address the most pressing needs for refugees. This group is wide ranging and includes representatives from housing, healthcare, public education, university, community college and adult education, the United Way, business members, the State of Arizona, Pima County, the City of Tucson, the faith community, mutual assistance associations for refugees and representatives from refugee communities. With the participation of individuals such as Superintendent Pedicone, Acting Chancellor Miles, Tony Penn, Mike Varney with Bishop, Mr. Click the Mayor and Supervisor Elias we identified issues in the areas of employment, education, housing, transportation, welcoming and healthcare.

Priority Areas: The two highest priority areas identified by the group are transportation and employment related support. The area of transportation is focused on employment related transportation with the employment needs identified as addressing issues like training, certifications and fingerprint clearance expenses. The group identified an amount of $64,000 as needed to meet current gaps.

Progress to Date: As a challenge to the community, Mr. Click has provided a grant of $34,000 from the Click Family Foundation to jump start some services in the priority areas of employment related transportation, driver's license training and employment related needs. These funds have been distributed equally to the three resettlement agencies. Additionally Mr. Click has challenged others in the business community to follow his example and hire qualified refugees for jobs in various industries because this is the single most effective action the community can take to be supportive to this group.

Request of Pima County: At this time I am requesting an equal amount of $34,000 from Pima County to support the cost of expenses such as caregiver certification for 35 individuals, short term employment training and fingerprint clearance expenses on an as needed basis. These funds will be distributed equally to the three agencies, International Rescue Committee, Lutheran Social Services and Catholic Community Services through CCS.

Nest Steps: This group of interested community members is scheduled to come together on February 14, 2013 to report on progress and to identify the next steps in this process to produce long term solutions to these issues. The financial support from Pima County will be a significant step in this direction.

Thank you for you for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or require further information.

Sincerely,

Marguerite D. Harmon

Marguerite D. Harmon, MS
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Elias, Valadez, Carroll, Miller, Bronson,

Board of Supervisors Memorandum

April 9, 2013

Contingency Fund Allocation for the Provision of Immigrant Support Services; Specifically Transportation and Employment Training

Background

An effort to provide immigration support services, specifically in the areas of transportation and employment training, is being advanced by a community partnership between Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona (CCSSA), Pima County, the Click Family Foundation and the City of Tucson. Mr. Jim Click, via the Click Family Foundation, has made a challenge grant in the amount of $34,000 to CCSSA to provide these transportation and employment training services.

The City of Tucson is unable to provide any direct financial support to match a County contribution as requested in my January 15, 2013 letter to CCSSA (attached); but the City has indicated they are committed to the program by providing in-kind services in the areas of transit, housing and parks and recreation. I assume these in-kind contributions will be in the form of vouchers or other discounted fees for services that would be equal to any cash allocation made by the Board of Supervisors.

Recommendation

I recommend the Board of Supervisors make a one-time Contingency Fund allocation in the amount of $34,000 to Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona to match the Click Family Foundation grant for the provision of transportation services and employment training.

Respectfully submitted,

C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

CHH/mjk – April 3, 2013

Attachments

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MAYOR

CITY OF TUCSON
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

255 WEST ALAMEDA
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Dear Richard:

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Tucson will continue to support the international refugee community by providing in kind services in the areas of transit, housing, and parks and recreation.

It is gratifying to me that Pima County will continue to partner with the City to facilitate and aid refugees desiring to make Tucson their new home. I look forward to working with Pima County so that together we can improve the lives of refugees so they can become valuable members of our community.

Please don't hesitate to contact me as we move forward with this valuable work.

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C.H. HUCKELBERRY
County Administrator

January 15, 2013

Marguerite D. Harmon, CEO
Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona, Inc.
140 W. Speedway Boulevard, Suite 230
Tucson, Arizona 85705

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Based on your request, the County will provide an equal amount, or $34,000, to provide refugee support, provided the other major partner referenced, the City of Tucson, makes an equal financial commitment to this worthwhile program.

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CHH/dph

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Hank Atha, Deputy County Administrator for Community and Economic Development

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Sincerely,

Marguerite D Harmon

Marguerite D. Harmon, MS
Chief Executive Officer

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