



**City of Missoula, Montana
New Business Item**

Committee: Administration and Finance

Item: Community Development Block Grant COVID Funds (CDBG-CV)
Round 3 Allocation

Date: November 4, 2020

Sponsor(s): Montana James

Prepared by: Zoe Walters

Ward(s) Affected:

<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 4
<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 5
<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Wards	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A

Action Required:

Set a public hearing on Monday, December 7, 2020 on a resolution approving the amended Action Plan for program year 2020, and approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement with The Poverello Center.

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Recommended Motion(s):

I move the City Council: Set a public hearing on Monday, December 7, 2020 to consider a Resolution granting approval of the City of Missoula Amended Action Plan for Program Year 2020 and approving and authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement with The Poverello Center for the provision of Emergency Winter Shelter services funded by the Community Development Block Grant COVID-19 funds.

Timeline:

City Council New Business:	November 23, 2020
Committee discussion:	N/A
Council action (or sets hearing):	November 23, 2020
Public Hearing:	December 7, 2020
Deadline:	December 14, 2020

Background and Alternatives Explored:

The emergency winter shelter program is receiving \$50,000 each from the City and County. The round three Community Development Block Grant COVID funds (CDBG-CV) would commit an additional \$365,227. We also propose to commit \$85,670 in CDBG entitlement funds, which the City receives annually. All of these funds are one-time-only for this season only in response to the pandemic.

Because we already submitted our plans for our Program Year 2020 CDBG allocations in our 2020 Annual Action Plan, we are completing a Substantial Amendment to our Annual Action Plan. The Substantial Amendment will outline our plans for these round three CDBG-CV funds, including how the emergency winter shelter: 1) meets a national objective, 2) is an eligible activity, and 3) is necessary to prevent, prepare for, and/or respond to COVID-19.

National objective: Benefit to low and moderate income persons or households (24 CFR 570.208(a))

Eligible activity: New or quantifiably increased public service (24 CFR 570.201(e))

COVID tie-back: The emergency winter shelter program is needed as a direct result of COVID-19. Currently, the Poverello Center only sleeps 88 people with COVID restrictions. The new shelter will safely sleep an additional 150 people with COVID restrictions. Additionally, the shelter will provide indoor shelter 24/7 in response to the fact that many businesses previously utilized by unhoused/unsheltered populations for warming are no longer open for that purpose. The shelter will also provide critical hygiene facilities (bathrooms, showers, laundry) to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and keep Missoula's unsheltered populations as safe from the virus as possible.

Due to the nature of the allocation process, we are requesting a motion to set a public hearing on (11/18 or 12/7??) to consider a Resolution granting approval of the City of Missoula Amended Action Plan for Program Year 2020 and approving and authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement with The Poverello Center for the provision of Emergency Winter Shelter services funded by the Community Development Block Grant COVID-19 funds.

ABOUT EMERGENCY WINTER SHELTER

The City of Missoula, Missoula County and the Poverello Center are working together to provide an expanded emergency winter shelter program. The Johnson Street Community Center will be a new, temporary 24/7 shelter for this season. The Poverello Center's trained, professional staff will operate the shelter from Nov. 1, 2020 through next March 31, 2021. At its location at 1919 North Ave. W., it will serve one hot meal every day, with sack lunches available throughout the day. It will be staffed every day around the clock. Clients can stay at the Johnson Street shelter through daytime hours or access daytime services at the Poverello Center. This means that people using the shelter have a safe, warm place to stay during days and nights. The staff will do all they can to make the shelter a good neighbor.

The Missoula County commissioners, Missoula's Mayor and members of the Missoula City Council have heard from community members who feel it's everyone's responsibility to help those in need during our cold winters. And they agree. For the past two winters, City and County leaders have supported an emergency winter shelter program operated by the Poverello Center at its facility on West Broadway. It has operated in conjunction with a satellite shelter at the Salvation Army on Russell Street.

With COVID-19 social distancing protocols in place, these spaces will not sleep enough people to fill the need. COVID-19 has created challenges for all of us. While as a community we are doing our best to adapt, some of our neighbors are more at risk as we approach winter. We all need to have safe and warm places. Now, Missoula faces a short supply of shelter and essentially no rental vacancies. With COVID restrictions, the Poverello Center sleeps 88 people. The Johnson Street shelter will have the capacity to provide overnight shelter for 150. Beginning Nov. 1, the Poverello will move to its low-barrier policy at its West Broadway shelter. That allows people to stay based on their behaviors, not on a sobriety measure. The Poverello Center has more than 40 years of experience serving individuals experiencing homelessness, including those experiencing chronic homelessness with complex barriers to stable housing.

Financial Implications:

The Emergency Winter Shelter contract referenced here is funded entirely with federal grants and has no implications for the City Budget. The City has already dedicated \$50,000 of general funds to the project and those funds were contracted separately.

Links to external websites: N/A

