

CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM

DEPARTMENT: Mayor and Council

AGENDA DATE: 10/22/2024

CONTACT PERSON NAME AND PHONE NUMBER:

Rep. Chris Canales, 915-212-0008

Rep. Josh Acevedo, 915-212-0002

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All Districts

STRATEGIC GOAL:

Goal 8 - Nurture & Promote a Healthy, Sustainable Community

SUBJECT:

APPROVE a resolution / ordinance / lease to do what? OR AUTHORIZE the City Manager to do what? Be descriptive of what we want Council to approve. Include \$ amount if applicable.

Discussion and action that the City of El Paso supports the application by UTEP and a coalition of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) including Project Regeneracion, Los Exes de la Bowie, La Mujer Obrera, St. Francis Neighborhood Association, Barrio Lincoln Park Association, Corbin-Sambrano Neighborhood Association, Glenwood Water Association, Val Verde Vecinos Neighborhood Association, the Colonia of Montana Vista, Texas Tech University, Amanecer People's Project, Eco El Paso, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension-El Paso, La Semilla Food Center, and Houston in Action - El Paso to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Fiscal Year 2024 Community Change grant program for Track I in the amount of \$20,000,000.00. The application does not require any matching funds from the City.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

Discussion of the what, why, where, when, and how to enable Council to have reasonably complete description of the contemplated action. This should include attachment of bid tabulation, or ordinance or resolution if appropriate. What are the benefits to the City of this action? What are the citizen concerns?

UTEP and community partners are requesting that the City of El Paso support the Application for Track I to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Community Change grant program in the amount of \$20,000,000.00. The application does not require any matching funds from the City.

The application will be submitted by UTEP and a coalition of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) rooted in neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by pollution that have chosen and will have an active role in implementing the projects described below. Eight of these environmental justice neighborhoods are located in South Central El Paso and include: Duranguito (Project Regeneracion), Segundo Barrio (Los Exes de la Bowie), Barrio Chamizal (La Mujer Obrera), St. Francis Xavier (St. Francis Neighborhood Association), Lincoln Park (Barrio Lincoln Park Association), Corbin-Sambrano (Corbin-Sambrano Neighborhood Association), S. Glenwood St. (Glenwood Water Association), and Val Verde (Val Verde Vecinos Neighborhood Association) and the colonia of Montana Vista (EACH) located in Far East El Paso (outside City limits). The application also includes Texas Tech University and CBOs that work across the city and county, including Amanecer People's Project, Eco El Paso, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension-El Paso, La Semilla Food Center, and Houston in Action - El Paso.

The proposed projects align with the City's climate action goals and will provide direct benefits to those most impacted by climate change and air pollution in our community. The projects will be implemented through a robust community engagement and training plan and will include:

- Green infrastructure and nature-based solutions that will reduce GHG emissions, reduce ambient temperatures, and more by:
 - Planting 2,000 trees on residential properties
 - Creating 4 cooling gardens (combination of open and green space, community gardens, and composting) and improving 1 existing cooling garden
 - Creating an eco-hub
 - Improving and restoring irrigation canals alongside homes
- Energy-efficient, healthy, resilient housing and buildings that will reduce GHG emissions, reduce ambient temperatures, reduce utility bills and improve health by:
 - Weatherizing at least 200 homes with new windows, cool roofs, and shade structures
 - Weatherizing and solarizing up to 20 affordable apartments
 - Installing ambient solar lights for at least 150 homes
- Pollution reduction interventions that will reduce air pollution indoors by distributing 750 home air purifiers

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

Has the Council previously considered this item or a closely related one?

Council has approved support for four other Community Change Grant applications.

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

How will this item be funded? Has the item been budgeted? If so, identify funding source by account numbers and description of account. Does it require a budget transfer?

N/A

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

DEPARTMENT HEAD:
