

RESOLUTION NO. 023-019

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARLIN, TEXAS, APPROVING OF THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH MICRO-GRANT PROGRAM POLICIES AND THE ADOPTION OF A POLICY PERMITTING THE CITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE MICRO-GRANT APPLICATIONS THAT EXCEED THE MAXIMUM MICRO-GRANT AMOUNTS ALLOWED UNDER THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH MICRO-GRANT PROGRAM POLICIES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, OPEN MEETINGS, AND EFFECTIVE DATE CLAUSES.

WHEREAS, the City of Marlin has created a program that allows it the opportunity to share a small a portion of its Build Back Better funds obtained under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) program with local established community non-profit organizations, local businesses, and first-time home buyers looking to purchase their home in Marlin, this program is referred to as the Community Outreach Micro-Grant Program;

WHEREAS, community micro-grants are awarded through an open application process to which qualified local community charitable organizations and businesses, and future home owners, may submit an application for a micro-grant to request funding from the micro-grant program, that helps support and grow our community, funding resources for this program will be dispensed in accordance to federal ARPA guidelines;

WHEREAS, the City adheres to the Community Outreach Micro-Grant Program Policies that provide guidelines for the review of micro-grant applications to ensure fairness and equality to all applicants submitting applications for the award of micro-grants;

WHEREAS, community micro-grants range from a minimum of \$250.00 to a maximum of \$2,500.00, recipients may potentially receive up to four (4) quarterly awards for a maximum amount of \$2,500.00, there is no promise or guarantee of a specific micro-grant amount. The policies adhered to by the City governing the review of micro-grant applications provides that there are maximum dollar amounts placed on community micro-grant awards and caps on the amount of micro-grant awards that may be awarded under the program;

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that local organizations that serve or provide a legitimate public interest and provide a tangible benefit to the community, and other qualified applicants, may have a hardship and need in which case such an applicant may submit an application for a micro-grant that exceeds the maximum grant amount or the caps established by existing policies, and that such maximum micro-grant amount limits and cap requirements may be relaxed or waived upon City Council approval; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to formally approve and ratify the existing policies and the City Council further desires to approve amendments to existing policies to allow for qualified applicants to show a hardship and need that would permit approval of an application for a micro-grant even if the approval of the micro-grant award would exceed the maximum amount or cap amounts permitted by the existing policies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF MARLIN, TEXAS, that:

Section 1. Findings. The foregoing recitals are hereby found to be true and correct and are hereby adopted by the City Council and made a part hereof for all purposes as findings of fact.

Section 2. Approval of Community Outreach Micro-Grant Program Policies. The City Council for the City of Marlin approves of the Community Outreach Micro-Grant Program Policies which is attached to this Resolution as **Exhibit "A"**. The City Council approves of amending the Policy and additional terms and provisions to permit and authorize the City Council to approve of a waiver of the maximum amounts set for a micro-grant award and the cap placed on the amount of micro-grant awards an applicant may receive upon a showing of sufficient hardship and need as provided and set forth in the Community Outreach Micro-Grant Program Policies attached to this Resolution as **Exhibit "A"**.

Section 3. Severability. If any provision, section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Resolution, or the application of same to any person or set of circumstances is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, void, or invalid, the validity of the remaining portions of this Resolution or its application to other persons or sets of circumstances shall not be affected thereby. Therefore, all provisions of this Resolution are declared to be severable for that purpose.

Section 4. Open Meetings. It is hereby officially found and determined that the meeting at which this Resolution is passed was open to the public as required and that public notice of the time, place, and purpose of said meeting was given as required by the Open Meetings Act, *Chapt. 551, Tex. Gov't. Code*.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect upon its passage and publication in accordance with the provisions of the Tex. Loc. Gov't. Code.

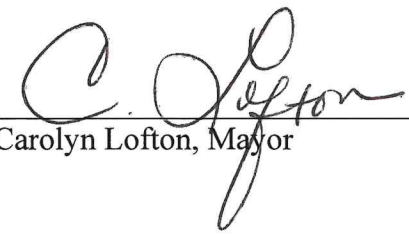
PASSED AND APPROVED on the 9 day of May, 2023.

ATTEST:

CITY OF MARLIN, TEXAS



Maryann Waddle, City Secretary



Carolyn Lofton, Mayor



How We Build Back Better (ARPA)

Community Outreach Micro-Grant Program

The City of Marlin has created a program that allows it the opportunity to share a small portion (\$50,000) of its Build Back Better funds (ARPA) with our local established community non-profit organizations, local businesses, and first-time home buyers looking to purchase their home in Marlin. Our local community micro-grants are awarded through an open application process to which the applicant may be eligible for assistance directly from the city to our local community charitable organizations, and businesses must be previously established for at least 2 years or more prior to requesting funding from this micro-grant program, and future home owners that helps support and grow our community, funding resources for this program will be dispensed in accordance to federal guidelines (ARPA) in extreme emergency cases the city reserve the right to dispense emergency funding on a personal case by case review (*Housing Displacement due to Fire, Deemed Medical Emergency/ life or Death*).

Guidelines

Community micro-grants range from a minimum of \$250.00 to a maximum of \$2,500.00, recipients may potentially receive up to four (4) quarterly awards for a maximum amount of \$2,500.00. (Not Guaranteed). However, upon a showing of sufficient hardship and need, the City Council may approve of a waiver of the maximum amount and the cap placed on the amount of micro-grant awards an individual applicant may receive. Any applicant who submits an application requesting a micro-grant of more than \$2,500.00, or, if an applicant's application were approved that applicant would exceed the cap of four (4) quarterly awards, then the applicant must include in the application a request for a waiver of the maximum micro-grant amount or cap on the amount of awards. The applicant's application must provide a detailed explanation of the specific hardship and need. A request for a waiver must be approved by the City Council. The City Council, in its sole discretion, may vote to approve or deny any request for a waiver.

Eligible nonprofit organizations must operate on the local level (or be an affiliate/chapter of a larger organization that operates locally) and directly benefit the service area from which they are requesting funding. Personal application for the community micro-grant maybe considered on a case by case, depending on the severity of the conditions of the personal applicants.

The 2021 micro-grant cycle began Dec. 1, 2021 and the application deadline is Dec. 1, 2022, (Depending on availability of funding resources). The city may at any time stop the micro-grant program without notice.

Applications must be accompanied with a community-support campaign narrative shall be submitted at any time during this funding cycle. Please note that applications will only remain active in our system for 90 days, and at the end of this period they will be automatically rejected, and new applications will be accepted on a quarterly basis.

All recognized organization holding a current tax-exempt status as a public charity under Section 501(c)(3), or (19) of the Internal Revenue Code, listed on the IRS Master File and conducting activities within the United States that are applying for the City of Marlin Community Micro-grant program are subject to the submittal of the organizations' operational structure to include officers, board members, employees and or volunteers, it must submit official supporting documentation of articles of creation, bi-laws, and any other records that may be requested. The organization will be verified through public, civil and or criminal records checks prior to receiving any assistance through this program.

Eligibility Checklist

Organizations applying must meet one of following criteria:

A recognized organization holding a current tax-exempt status as a public charity under Section 501(c)(3), or (19) of the Internal Revenue Code, listed on the IRS Master File and conducting activities within the United States that are requesting funds exclusively for a public purpose (excluding nationally sponsored organizations, such as American Cancer Society, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, Children's Miracle Network and United Way), and must be able to present verified documentation.

A K-12 public or nonprofit school organization, charter school, community/junior college, state/private college or university; or a church or other faith-based organization with a proposed community project that benefits the community at large, such as food pantries, soup kitchens and clothing closets and after school tutoring and care programs, funding for temporary emergency displacement or medical emergency may be considered. Non-charities, including organizations recognized as 501(c)(4)s, like homeowner's associations, civic leagues, or volunteer fire companies, are excluded.

Selection Process

The city micro-grant review committee will review and verify all submitted applications, and official supporting documentation for authenticity before recommending the applicant application package to the city council for final micro-grant funding.

The city reserves the right not to award or to award an amount from \$250 up to \$2500 but not to exceed the maximum of \$2500 to an applying organization.

Organizations will be notified of any micro-grant decision via e-mail. All funding decisions are final.

If an organization is approved, grant checks will be received person to person on a specified date and time. In the event of being awarded a micro-grant, organization(s) consent to attending a scheduled event recognizing the awarded recipient.

All micro-grant applications are subject to review of the organization's reputation and activities and its agreement to comply with applicable terms and conditions. Submission of an application does not guarantee selection for funding. Funding exclusions include: organizations that deny service, membership or other involvement on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, veteran, or disability status. No current public officials of the city, or within the previous five years.

No current federal, state, or local government official or previous officials within the previous five years are deemed not eligible for this community micro-grant program!!!