

April 9, 2024

Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation to authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute an agreement and any necessary documents including subsequent amendments, with the State of California Office of Planning and Research to accept and expend grant funding in the amount of \$500,000 for the Connecting Long Beach Neighbors (ConnectingLB) Program, with a term ending January 31, 2026; and,

Increase appropriations in the General Grants Fund Group in the City Manager Department by \$500,000, offset by State of California grant funds. (Districts 1, 6, 7)

DISCUSSION

City Council approval is requested to enter into an agreement to accept and expend grant funding for the Connecting Long Beach Neighbors (ConnectingLB) Program.

The ConnectingLB Program will support approximately 50 events that promote climate resiliency and social connectivity in West and Central Long Beach neighborhoods. The selected neighborhoods score in the top 25 percent of disadvantaged communities per CalEnviroScreen 4.0 and are identified in the Long Beach Climate Action Plan (LBCAP) as being vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The majority of the neighborhood events will be selected based on previous community engagement efforts related to the LBCAP and other planning processes and will include family and youth-oriented activities such as tree plantings, park restorations, bike and pedestrian events, climate action workshops, and Be S.A.F.E. and mobile recess activities. These events will be further refined based on the results of a neighborhood survey, which will be administered at the beginning of the grant performance period. The City Manager's Office of Climate Action and Sustainability will oversee the ConnectingLB Program with support from the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine (PRM), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and community-based organizations.

The California Office of Planning and Research awarded the City of Long Beach with grant funds as part of its Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program, which aims to create strong networks in and across neighborhoods that support one another as well as jointly tackle shared community challenges. The Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program prioritizes the following:

- Mediate community isolation and perceptions of loneliness;
- Increase volunteer participation at the local and community level;
- Improve social bonds and interactions; and,

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- Create a shared understanding of the importance of critical climate action and disaster mitigation priorities.

The ConnectingLB Program aligns with these priorities along with the priorities outlined in the LBCAP, PRM Strategic Plan, DHHS Strategic Plan, and Westside Promise initiative. Overall, the ConnectingLB Program will provide a space where residents can strengthen their social ties with each other, volunteer in their neighborhood, and connect with climate-related opportunities.

This matter was reviewed by Principal Deputy City Attorney Richard Anthony on March 20, 2024, and Budget Development Officer Jennifer Rodriguez on March 19, 2024.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action is requested on April 9, 2024, to execute an agreement with the State of California and appropriate grant funds to begin the performance period in spring 2024, which is a grant requirement.

FISCAL IMPACT

The City will receive reimbursement grant revenues in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 to offset program expenditures of the same amount. An appropriation increase in the amount of \$500,000 is requested in the General Grants Fund Group in the City Manager Department, offset by grant revenue. No match or in-kind service mandate is required. This recommendation has no staffing impact beyond the normal budgeted scope of duties and is consistent with the existing City Council priorities. There is no local job impact associated with this recommendation.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas B. Modica
City Manager