



CITY OF IOWA CITY COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

April 6, 2021

Resolution Adopting the Social Justice and Racial Equity Grant Allocations for Fiscal Year 2021.

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Reviewed By: Geoff Fruin, City Manager
Sue Dulek, Assistant City Attorney

Fiscal Impact: \$74,824.00

Recommendations: Staff: No Recommendation

Commission: By a vote of 6-0, the Human Rights Commission recommends for the City Council to approve funding for Open Heartland, University of Iowa Labor Center, Sankofa Outreach Connection, Food Pantry at Iowa, Bike Library, and the Johnson County Affordable Housing Coalition.

Attachments: Approved Minutes HRC 2 23 2021
Resolution
Exhibit A

Executive Summary:

The Human Rights Commission recommends full funding for the top five scoring applicants: Open Heartland, University of Iowa Labor Center, Sankofa Outreach Connection, Food Pantry at Iowa, Bike Library, and partial funding for sixth highest ranked organization, Johnson County Affordable Housing Coalition, for the Social Justice and Racial Equity Grant for fiscal year 2021.

Background / Analysis:

In 2017, the City Council created the Social Justice and Racial Equity (SJRE) Grant to assist community-based organizations in building capacity to address social justice and racial equity needs. Seventy-five thousand dollars has been allocated yearly for the SJRE Grant since fiscal year 2019.

Social justice and racial equity are defined as both a process and a goal. "The goal is full and equal participation of all groups and individuals in a society that is mutually shaped to meet their needs, allow them to reach their full potential, and limit/decrease barriers. This definition includes a vision of society that is equitable, and where all members are physically and psychologically safe and secure."

The grant is available to for profit and non profit Iowa City based organizations to fund programs, activities, or services that help eliminate inequities in the community. The grant has six priority service areas: education, building communities, housing, criminal justice, health, and employment. Organizations whose programs, services, or activities address one or more of these priorities are

considered first for funding. Applications for the grant were available to apply for from December 1, 2020 to January 8, 2021.

The Human Rights Commission met on February 23 to review the twenty-nine funding requests. By a vote of 6-0 the Commission recommends to City Council to fund the below organizations. The total allocation is \$74, 824.00.

Open Heartland \$14,749.00: To serve the Latino immigrant youth community, preschool through high school, through enrollment in free out-of-school time Kid Power programs. The programs will include, youth development activities including nutrition and health education, drug and violence prevention, arts and music programming, physical fitness and wellness curriculum, financial literacy, and meaningful engagement of parent/caregivers in their children's education and development. The programs will be offered to all youth living in mobile home communities including Forestview, Hilltop, Lakeridge, Cole's, Regency, Modern Manor, and Breckenridge.

University of Iowa Labor Center \$20,000.00: Will provide 1) outreach and orientation workshops to connect members of underrepresented groups with high-quality job training opportunities, 2) two sessions of a new preparatory skills-based apprenticeship readiness course for local residents interested in qualifying for a registered apprenticeship, 3) direct connection of participants who complete the pre-apprentice program with eastern Iowa apprenticeship training coordinators, and 4) access to leadership development and peer support networks to ensure the success of women and people of color who enter registered apprentice programs as underrepresented persons. The goal of the network is a sustainable system for bridging significant gaps between high-quality apprenticeship opportunities and Iowa City residents who are underrepresented in skilled trades.

Sankofa Outreach Connection \$15,000.00: The Ethnic Studies Leadership Academy's goal is to empower young women of color in the Iowa City area through culturally responsive curriculum and exposure to higher educational opportunities. The Ethnic Studies Leadership Academy will work to strengthen, empower, and equip young women of color to understand the individual, institutional and structural impact of racism and sexism. Programming will include community service projects, after-school programming, college preparation and the summer enrichment institute will expose them to the value of Historically Black Colleges & Universities and Hispanic Serving Institutions. The young women will be exposed to ethnic studies and social justice curriculum which includes a combination of African American studies, Latino/a studies, Native American Studies and Women and Gender studies. The program will expand students current knowledge of people of color on a high school level while also equipping students with tools to create social change across digital platforms.

Food Pantry at Iowa \$6,075.00: Will purchase culturally relevant and diverse foods to have available for clients of the Food Pantry at the University of Iowa. The Food Pantry at Iowa will expand the pantry's ability to provide food for communities of color. The Food Pantry at Iowa pantry managers will continue to source culturally diverse products from local Iowa City African and Oriental Market, and Chong's Supermarket.

Bike Library \$4,000.00: Raise It Up Route Series which will honor historically significant locations, locations significant to the Black community today, and Black-owned businesses in Iowa City. The goal is to guide riders to each site with an audio guided tour and to educate riders on the history of systemic oppression in Iowa City, as well as the current inequities that continue to oppress. There will be four routes in the series, each with three to five sites woven into an approximately 10-mile bike ride. The educational audio component for each site/checkpoint will be narrated by Black

community leaders. The series of four bike routes can be ridden self guided or on rides offered 1-2 times each month guided by volunteers or special guest guides. There will be an accompanying playlist of Black artists, musicians, and poets that can be listened to while en-route via a speaker or after the ride while refueling at one of the Black-owned restaurants highlighted. There is a digital companion story map, which will highlight each site, provide directions and house the educational audio tour.

Johnson County Affordable Housing Coalition \$15,000.00: Will take inventory of specific housing needs and issues from BIPOC/low-income residents and provide advocacy training at the household level. This will be accomplished in two parts: 1) a household assessment: to take inventory of specific housing needs and issues from BIPOC/low-income residents and contribute to advocacy at the household level to develop the understanding of housing issues to inform future policies and work, and to provide direct services/information to survey participants. The assessment will implement a door-to-door intake approach. 2) Community advocacy training for community members: to increase BIPOC/low-income residents' capacity to engage with housing issues and advocacy so that community members from this group are prepared to take leadership and advocacy roles within community non-profits/government agencies/commissions and facilitate change.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

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Resolution

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