



**City of Racine, Wisconsin**  
**BRIEFING MEMORADUM**

**AGENDA DATE:** December 19, 2022

**SUBJECT:**

Communication sponsored by Mayor Mason to discuss the ARPA GROW Racine Mini-Grants: Meeting Unmet Community Needs

**PREPARED BY:**

Vicky Selkove, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Community Partnerships

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

In accordance with previous Council actions and approved American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding allocations, Mayor Mason and the Department of City Development plan to launch in early 2023 the GROW Racine Mini-Grant program to meet unmet community needs and provide grants of \$10,000-\$25,000 to eligible local nonprofit organizations.

**BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS:**

On November 16, 2021, as part of the approved 2022 Operating Budget and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation plan, the Racine Common Council approved \$800,000 for Meeting Underserved Community Needs. The funding was envisioned as being more flexible than the current federal CDBG dollars the City receives. In 2022, more than half of that funding was allocated to projects aimed at reducing youth violence. Approximately \$350,000 now will be available to create the ARPA GROW Racine Mini-Grant opportunity, providing local nonprofit organizations with one-time, flexible funding aimed at meeting unmet community needs in 2023.

**Proposal:**

In January, launch applications for GROW Racine Mini-Grants of \$10,000-\$25,000, with eligibility, application details, and timeline detailed in the attached FAQ.

**Timeline and Process:**

The grant opportunity, online application form, and FAQ will be announced and publicized by mid-January 2023. Applicants will have approximately 3 weeks to submit the simple online application. Staff will review and make recommendations for approval by the CDBG Advisory Board and Common Council in late February. Staff will then swiftly execute agreements with selected agencies and distribute funding with the goal of distributing all funding to selected organizations by the end of March 2023.

**BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

Approximately \$350,000 is available for grants of \$10,000-\$25,000 per project.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

N/A