



# City of Racine, Wisconsin Agenda Briefing Memorandum

**AGENDA DATE:**

March 7, 2023 - CDBG Advisory Committee

March 8, 2023 – Common Council

**SUBJECT:**

Communication sponsored by Mayor Mason to approve ARPA GROW Racine Mini-Grants: *Meeting Unmet Community Needs*.

**PREPARED BY:** Vicky Selkove, Manager of Strategic Initiatives & Community Partnerships

**REVIEWED BY:** Kathleen Fischer, Finance Director

**BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS:**

By previous Council actions and their approved American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding allocations, Mayor Mason initiated a one-time GROW Racine Mini-Grant program to meet unmet community needs by providing grants of \$10,000-\$25,000 to eligible local nonprofit organizations. Registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations with physical and/or service locations in the City who serve the City of Racine's residents and/or neighborhoods were eligible to apply for this funding.

Organizations were asked to submit innovative and creative proposals that could be implemented quickly and that would address an unmet community need. Prioritized unmet community needs were those that: 1) Reduced disparities; 2) Support and/or empower historically excluded City residents; and/or 3) Add or enhance amenities and/or bring improvements to residents or neighborhoods located within the City's Neighborhood Stabilization and Enhancement Districts.

The Mini-Grants application was made available on the [GROW Racine website](#) from January 6- 31, 2023, and this grant opportunity was promoted extensively. City staff prepared a detailed FAQ document about the grants, and conducted a virtual Q&A session to answer questions from interested organizations. A total of seventy (70) applications were submitted by the deadline. Initial eligibility screening was conducted by City staff. A diverse review team of nine members was convened (8 staff representing 6 City departments as well as a representative from the United Way of Racine County). The team spent considerable time reviewing and evaluating all eligible proposals.

The breakdown of applicants is detailed below:

Application Details	Number	Amount Requested
Applications Received	70	\$1,534,328.22
Ineligible Applications	14	\$295,000.00
Withdrawn Applications	1	\$15,000.00
Applications Not Recommended for Funding	26	\$535,900.22
<b>Applications Recommended for Conditional Funding</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$120,000.00</b>
<b>Applications Recommended for Funding</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>\$568,428.00</b>
<b>Total Mini-Grants Recommended for Funding</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>\$688,428.00</b>

(Additional information is available in the attachment.)

**BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

To award 29 GROW Racine Mini-Grants, the budgetary impact is \$688,428, there are sufficient ARPA funds available to award these grants.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

That the CDBG Advisory Committee approves awarding the GROW Racine Mini-Grants to selected nonprofit applicants to meet unmet community needs.