



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: MAY 7, 2019**
FROM: COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT **WARDS: ALL**
DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: RATIFICATION OF AN APPLICATION FOR AN INVEST HEALTH FIELD BUILDING GRANT, AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT AWARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$75,000 IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, FROM THE REINVESTMENT FUND, INC., TO FUND A RIVERSIDE WORKING GROUP TO EXPLORE HEALTHIER AND MORE EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES THROUGH BUILT ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS THAT FACILITATE AND CONNECT AFFORDABLE HOUSING WITH FOOD SYSTEMS AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

ISSUE:

Ratify an application for an Invest Health Field Building Grant; accept grant award in the amount of \$75,000, from the Reinvestment Fund, Inc.; and authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute and submit all necessary grant documents, including the grant agreement.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Ratify the application for the Invest Health Field Building Grant, submitted by staff in March 2019;
2. Authorize the acceptance of the Invest Health Field Building Grant award in the amount of \$75,000, from the Reinvestment Fund, Inc.;
3. Authorize an increase in estimated revenue in the amount of \$75,000 to account number 9896500-339000 and appropriate expenditures in the same amount to account number 9896500-440440; and
4. Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute the Invest Health Filed Building Grant Agreement, including making minor, non-substantive changes, and to sign all documents and instruments necessary to complete the transaction.

BACKGROUND:

Invest Health is a national initiative funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the

Reinvestment Fund, Inc., to transform how city leaders work together to develop new strategies for increasing and leveraging private and public investments to accelerate improvements in neighborhoods facing the biggest barriers to better health.

In April 2016, the City of Riverside was one of fifty mid-sized cities across the nation selected to participate in the initiative as an Invest Health City and received grant funds in the amount of \$60,000. The Invest Health Initiative and funding served as a catalyst to bring together a five-member Riverside team that included Cecilia Arias, Community Benefit Health Manager at Kaiser Permanente; Gayle Hoxter, Public Health Program Chief for Riverside County University Health System; Gurumantra Khalsa, Riverside Food Systems Alliance; Moritz Wohanka, Vice President of Finance at Altura Credit Union; and Joyce Jong, Economic Development Coordinator, City of Riverside. This cross-sector team articulated a vision to build healthier and more equitable communities through built environment projects that facilitate and connect housing with food systems and workforce development for communities experiencing disinvestment. Riverside selected three focus areas: 1) workforce training in urban agriculture to create jobs; 2) food system infrastructure; and 3) supportive housing and links to food insecurity.

Over an 18-month period between June 2016 and December 2017, the Riverside Invest Health team considered food systems strategies to address barriers to health including jobs, housing, education, community safety, and environmental conditions around localizing the food system. The Riverside Invest Health Team accomplished the following outcomes:

- *Brought together disparate sectors to align around a vision for better health, create innovative ideas, and unlock new sources of investment for GrowRIVERSIDE projects;*
- *Became informed of potential solutions practiced and modeled by other cities to inform health equity strategies for Riverside;*
- *Use of data to attract capital to fund GrowRIVERSIDE projects that improve health outcomes in low-income communities;*
- *Built strong, lasting relationships among team members that have extended beyond the length of the Invest Health program and informed Riverside's work in other communities; and*
- *Launched three significant food systems projects with funding from grant sources totaling more than \$3.7 million.*

DISCUSSION:

In March 2019, the City of Riverside was invited to submit a follow-up application to the Invest Health Field Building (IHFB) program. IHFB will engage ten Invest Health city teams for one year of individualized, site-specific support and peer learning opportunities. The IHFB program objectives include advancing policies and practices that position and align community investment systems to increase capital flows to equity-promoting built environment investments, and take steps that advance a pipeline of financeable built environment projects focused on increasing equity as part of a long-term strategy to improve overall community health.

The City submitted an application making the case that Riverside's high housing costs results in fewer available dollars in monthly budgets to eat healthy and contributes to food insecurity that

directly impacts low and moderate income households. The City's application proposed development of potential affordable housing strategies and policies to address cost burden, education and food security.

On April 17, 2019, the City's application was selected for the Invest Health Field Building grant in the amount of \$75,000. Grant funding will enable the City to work with cross-sector stakeholders to develop new tools needed in design, finance, and land use to assist Riverside in addressing the pressing issues of housing costs, land availability, and food insecurity.

Grant funds will specifically be utilized to fund travel and staff time for a working group that will explore the above development and health related questions. The Riverside Invest Health team has expanded to include additional partners with representatives from Habitat for Humanity Riverside, National Neighborhood Partnership Housing Services, Inc. (HPHS), among others, and staff from the Mayor's Office and the Community & Economic Development Department. A report and findings from this grant collaborative group will be presented to the City Council when completed.

FISCAL IMPACT:

An advance payment of \$75,000 to the City of Riverside will be deposited into revenue account 9896500-339000 and \$75,000 of grant related activities will be expended from account number 9896500-440440. Any unused funds at the end of the grant term will be returned to the Reinvestment Fund, Inc. No matching funds were required for this Grant application.

Prepared by:	David Welch, Community & Economic Development Director
Certified as to	
availability of funds:	Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer / City Treasurer
Approved by:	Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form:	Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachment:	Invest Health Field Building Grant Agreement
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