

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Memorandum of Understanding with Enrichment Services Program, Inc. for Utility Assistance Program Administration Services
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested to authorize an MOU with Enrichment Services Program, Inc. to administer CCG's Utility Assistance Program funded by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
INITIATED BY:	Community Reinvestment Department

Recommendation: Approval is requested to authorize an MOU with Enrichment Services Program, Inc. to administer CCG's Utility Assistance Program funded by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Background: The Columbus Consolidated Government (CCG) has allocated \$1,500,000 to assist low-income households that pay a higher proportion of household income for utility expenses. This assistance targets the costs of electricity, natural gas, and water to residential dwellings.

The primary objective of the City of Columbus American Rescue Plan (ARP) Utility Assistance Program is to extend support to vulnerable low-income households by addressing their immediate home energy needs in response to the challenges posed by the continued effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Annually, Enrichment Services Program, Inc. administers a low-income housing energy assistance program (LIHEAP) to City of Columbus residents. The LIHEAP program concluded on July 31, 2023. CCG wishes to partner with Enrichment Services Program, Inc to extend and expand the utility assistance program to ensure utility assistance continuity. With that, the city would like to partner with Enrichment Services Program, Inc. to provide administration of the grant program with an administration cost of \$100,000 and \$1,400,000 in direct client benefit.

Analysis: Enrichment Services Program, Inc. will assist CCG with the administration of the Utility Assistance Program utilizing American Rescue Plan funding.

Financial Considerations: The City has allocated \$1.5 Million from the American Rescue Plan for the grant program.

Legal Considerations: The City Attorney will review all agreements to form before execution.

Recommendation/Action: Approve the authorization of an MOU with Enrichment Services Program, Inc. to administer CCG's Utility Assistance Program funded through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH ENRICHMENT SERVICES PROGRAM, INC. TO ADMINISTER THE COLUMBUS CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDED THROUGH THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021.

WHEREAS, the City has created and developed a utility assistance program with funds received pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021; and,

WHEREAS, the City has allocated \$1,500,000 in American Rescue Plan funds to this utility assistance program; and,

WHEREAS, the City wishes to engage in programmatic administration of the allocated funds by partnering with Enrichment Services Program, Inc. to assist with administering the utility assistance grant program.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

The City Manager is authorized to execute the attached memorandum of understanding and appropriate related documents relative to administering the city’s utility assistance program funded by the American Rescue Plan.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held on the _____ day of August 2023 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of ten members of said Council.

Councilor Allen voting	_____.
Councilor Barnes voting	_____.
Councilor Begly voting	_____.
Councilor Cogle voting	_____.
Councilor Crabb voting	_____.
Councilor Davis voting	_____.
Councilor Garrett voting	_____.
Councilor Huff voting	_____.
Councilor Thomas voting	_____.
Councilor Tucker voting	_____.

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. “Skip” Henderson, III, Mayor