

Utility Assistance Program

Roque Salinas

Economic Development Director



BLUF Summary

Question:

The Council is being asked to consider a Resolution approving the continuation of the Utility Assistance Program through Ascension DePaul Services which will be used for utility assistance within the City Of Leon Valley and authorizing the City Manager to enter into a performance agreement with Ascension DePaul Services for the administration of the program.

The program funding would come from American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Options:

1. Approval
2. Denial
3. Approve with alternate conditions



Background

The Utility Assistance Program will provide economic relief to citizens who are unable to pay basic utility bills, including:

- Electrical Service
- Water
- Sewer
- Natural Gas
- Sanitation Services

Ascension DePaul Services

The Non-Profit Agency has been servicing the needs of the metropolitan area since 1958.

Part of their mission is to provide service people in need or who are vulnerable.

The Non-Profit Entity has a charity tracker program and the support staff available to administer the Utility Assistance Program.

Ascension DePaul Services has successfully partnered with the City of Leon Valley to manage the project for the 2022 calendar year.



S.E.E. Statement

Social Equity:

- Providing these services in order to create an available path for citizens who have suffered financial impact by the COVID-19 pandemic is equitable. This will help ensure that their financial security is not compromised due to the pandemic.

Economic Development:

- Economic and Community Development projects encourage collaborative engagement with residents.

Environmental Stewardship:

- N/A

Strategic Goals

Economic Development is a strategic goal outlined in Leon Valley's Strategic Plan.

The Utility Assistance Program is in line with the city's goal of economic development and assist in the assurance of responsible economic development of taxpayer dollars.

2022 Program Data

- In the first year the program only used \$17,586.62, including admin fees, of total funds or 35% of the grant funds.
- The program assisted 27 households and paid a total of 31 bills. The most requested bill and the largest on average were for CPS. The program assisted with 23 bills and paid on average \$621.23.

Utility Company	Funds Distributed	Admin Fees	Bills paid	Average payment to resident	Total payment
CPS	\$ 14,288.31	\$ 735.00	23	\$ 621.23	\$ 15,023.31
LV Water	\$ 441.61	\$ 52.50	3	\$ 147.20	\$ 494.11
SAWS	\$ 1,128.82	\$ 87.50	2	\$ 564.41	\$ 1,216.32
Tiger Sanitation	\$ 168.43	\$ 61.25	2	\$ 84.22	\$ 229.68
Water- Leon Valley	\$ 124.45	\$ 26.25	1	\$ 124.45	\$ 150.70
ineligible	\$ -	\$ 472.50	13	\$ -	\$ 472.50
Total	\$ 16,151.62	\$ 1,435.00	44	\$ 308.30	\$ 17,586.62

2022 Data



Recommendation

- Staff recommends the continuation of a Utility Assistance Program to be administered by a Non-Profit Entity, with one adjustment.
- The Staff recommends that the limit be lowered to \$500.00, in order for the program to reach more households.

Request - Fiscal Impact

Funds allotted to UAP: \$32,413.38

- Up to \$500 of utility assistance per household.
- Non-Profit Entity will access a nominal administrative fee. Stop-loss clause added to performance agreement.
- This will be the second year of the program. In the first year the program only used \$17,586.62, including admin fees, of total funds or 35% of the grant funds. The program has not had an impact on the city budget.

Utility Assistance Program

Roque Salinas

Economic Development Director

