

## **MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

**DATE:** January 5, 2023

**TO:** Mayor and Council

**FROM:** Roque Salinas, Director of Economic Development

**THROUGH:** Dr. Crystal Caldera, City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Presentation, Discussion and Possible Action on Continuing the Utility Assistance Program and enter into an Agreement with Ascension De Paul to serve as the administrator for Calendar Year 2023 or Until Funds are Depleted.

### **PURPOSE**

This ordinance authorizes the City Manager to continue with the agreement with Ascension De Paul for the Utility Assistance Program for the 2023 calendar year or until the funds are depleted from the American Rescue Plan authorized for this program.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The program will provide up to \$500 per household per calendar year. The program is in its second year and funds were set aside from the American Rescue Plan. If funds are depleted before the end of the calendar year, then the program will cease to operate.

### **SEE LEON VALLEY**

***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**

N/A

### **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 individuals.

City Council Discretion.

ATTEST :

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**SAUNDRA PASSAILAIGUE, TRMC**  
City Secretary