

TO: City Council
FROM: Austin Ramirez, Economic Development Manager
DATE: September 20, 2022
SUBJECT: Service Provider Agreement with the Thurston EDC for Thurston Strong Phase II

1) Recommended Action:

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign a Service Provider Agreement with Thurston EDC for Thurston Strong Phase II.

2) Background:

At the October 26, 2021 City Council worksession, \$350,000 of federal American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds was allocated to support Thurston Strong Phase II. In the time since, Thurston Strong has deployed approximately \$10 Million in recovery assistance and continues to reinforce sectors most in-need of stabilization funding and technical assistance. City and EDC staff have identified several priority needs in Tumwater reflected in the scope of services, including \$205,000 for childcare operator grants and \$80,000 for startup training scholarships for eligible businesses and entrepreneurs. Overhead for accounting and audit control (\$15,000) is also included in the total amount. Consistent with the original Thurston Strong program, these resources focus on helping entrepreneurs, businesses, and organizations adversely impacted by the pandemic.

City, EDC, and Community Foundation staff continue to discuss how the remaining \$50,000 can best support Tumwater based or focused nonprofit agencies that provide economic development related services. Although Thurston Strong has provided prior nonprofit grant funding, the demand continues to exceed supply.

3) Policy Support:

Economic Development Plan Goal #2 – Retain and support existing businesses

Economic Development Plan Goal #8 – Encourage economic development that strengthens the Tumwater community

Strategic Goal and Priorities – Work with partner organizations and jurisdictions to implement our goals to be a more inclusive community

4) Alternatives:

- ☐ Modify the funding amount, vendor or pursue a different course of action.
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5) Fiscal Notes:

ARPA funds are available through 2025.

6) Attachments:

A. Thurston EDC Service Provider Agreement with Scope of Services.