



REPORT TO TOWN BOARD

FROM: Andrew J. Quarnstrom, Township Supervisor

DATE: September 5th, 2023

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget Amendment, Ordinance 2023-0901

A. Introduction: The purpose of this Ordinance is to amend the FY 2023/2024 budget to increase revenues and expenditures by \$750,000.00 in the Strides Low Barrier Shelter Fund. This budget amendment is attributed to the recent award of a grant from the City of Urbana's American Rescue Plan Funds to pay for salary and benefits for Strides staff.

B. Recommended Action: The Township Administration recommends approval of this Ordinance.

C. Summary:

The City of Champaign Township applied for and was awarded \$750,000.00 of American Rescue Plan Funds from the City of Urbana. The sole purpose of these funds is to pay salary and benefits for Strides staff. The \$750,000.00 equates to approximately 7 months of salary and benefit costs.

D. Background:

1. Strides Low Barrier Shelter: The City of Champaign Township in partnership with the City of Champaign as a funder opened the Strides Low Barrier Shelter on December 12, 2022. The current funding for the shelter, guaranteed for two years, extends through at least December of 2024. The original funding amount from the City of Champaign was \$3.1 million to operate the shelter.

2. American Rescue Plan Funds: The American Rescue Plan Act, or ARPA, was designed to turn the tides on the pandemic via a substantial infusion of resources. City, county, Tribal, territorial, and state governments are receiving much-needed funding as part of the third round of pandemic economic stimulus to lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery. The American Rescue Plan Act provides \$350 billion in emergency funding for state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to remedy the mismatch between rising costs and falling revenues. \$130.2 billion of this money is designated for local government, titled *Local Fiscal Recovery Funds*.

E. Alternatives:

1. Approve Ordinance 2023-0901, An Ordinance Amending the City of Champaign Township Budget and Appropriation for FY 2023/2024 in the amount of \$750,000.00.
2. Do not approve Ordinance 2023-0901, An Ordinance Amending the City of Champaign Township Budget and Appropriation for FY 2023/2024.

F. Discussion of Alternatives:

Alternative 1 approves Ordinance 2023-0901 and allows the Township to receive \$750,000.00 as a sub-grantee of the City of Urbana’s American Rescue Plan Funds.

a. Advantages

-Approving Ordinance 2023-0901 will provide \$750,000.00 of funding to cover 7 months of salary and benefits for the Strides Low Barrier Shelter.

b. Disadvantages

-No disadvantage to approving Ordinance 2023-0901.

Alternative 2 Do not approve Ordinance 2023-0901 and provide Township leadership with further direction.

a. Advantages

-None.

b. Disadvantages

- Not approving Ordinance 2023-0901 will prevent the Township from extending Strides Low Barrier Shelter operations for the 7 months the \$750,000.00 of American Rescue Plan Funds covers in salary and benefits for staff.

G. Community Input: Input can be given during the public comments section of the meeting at which this item is considered. Additionally, notice was given in the News Gazette and a public hearing on the amendment will be completed on September 5th, 2023.

H. Budget Impact: Should the Ordinance be approved the Township will receive \$750,000.00 in revenues from the City of Urbana, of which \$750,000.00 of budgeted expenditures will be used for salary and benefits of staff at the Strides Low Barrier Shelter.

I. Staffing Impact: Approximately 1 hour of staff time was needed to write this report. Additionally, about 3 hours of staff time per month will be needed for reporting and grant documentation.

Prepared by:

Andrew Quarnstrom
Township Supervisor