



**CITY COUNCIL ACTION**

09/11/2023 23-273

Council Meeting Date: 09/11/2023

Item No: 23-273

Responsible Dept: City Manager

Requested Action: Order

Map/Lot: 040-073

**Title, Order**

Authorizing the Award of \$500,000 in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to Support Fresh Start Sober Living for Acquisition of Property Located at 100 Center Street

**Summary**

This Order will authorize the award of \$500,000 in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka ARPA funds) to Fresh Start Sober Living to acquire 100 Center Street. The purpose of the property is to provide high-quality recovery housing and support services for individuals with substance use disorder and to expand access to behavioral healthcare medication assistance treatment, which include 5 one-bedroom apartments, on-site medically assisted treatment and 2 two-bedroom units for social detox.

Fresh Start Sober Living supports individuals who are active in their recovery and are in need of support and housing to maintain their sobriety. Fresh Start currently operates 14 sober living homes, 12 of which are in Bangor and are home to 112 individuals in recovery.

As part of the application review process, Fresh Start provided financing data that indicated a partial award of funding in the amount of \$500,000 would allow this project to move forward. Further they worked with their financial institution to allow for the City to take a subordinate debt position to ensure the funding would support the project as outlined in the application process.

This award is in support of the following:

- Investment in affordable communal recovery housing
- Investment in substance use disorder treatment and recovery

**Committee Action**

Committee: Council Workshop  
Action: Recommend for passage

Meeting Date: 08/28/2023  
For: 5                      Against: 1

**Staff Comments & Approvals**

City Manager

City Solicitor

Finance Director

**Introduced for:** New Business



## CITY OF BANGOR ORDER

09/11/2023 23-273

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Date: 09/11/2023

Item No: 23-273

Assigned to Councilor: Yacoubagha

Authorizing the Award of \$500,000 in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to Support Fresh Start Sober Living for Acquisition of Property Located at 100 Center Street

WHEREAS, in conjunction with the Heart of Maine United Way, the City of Bangor conducted an open and public application process to determine distribution of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds; and

WHEREAS, the application from Fresh Start Sober Living for acquisition of property located at 100 Center Street ranked highly in the initial citizen panel review process; and

WHEREAS, the application from Fresh Start included investments in various forms of support for individuals in recovery including housing, medically assisted treatment, meeting space and social detox; and

WHEREAS, Fresh Start Sober Living has agreed to allow the City to take a subordinate mortgage position in the amount of the grant award to ensure the investment continues to serve the needs of those in recovery; and

WHEREAS, Fresh Start Sober Living has agreed to provide data as to the number of individuals served, those that remain in recovery among other relevant data related to those receiving service; and

WHEREAS, the City Council determined that this request supports access to affordable housing for and access to services for individuals in recovery;

Now Therefore Be it Ordered by the City Council of the City of Bangor that, \$500,000 in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund is awarded to Fresh Start Sober Living for acquisition of property located at 100 Center Street.



**CITY COUNCIL ACTION**

09/11/2023 23-274

Council Meeting Date: 09/11/2023

Item No: 23-274

Responsible Dept: City Manager

Requested Action: Order

Map/Lot: N/A

**Title, Order**

Authorizing the Award of \$50,000 in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to Support Literacy Volunteers of Bangor's Efforts to Create Greater Adult Self-Sufficiency and a Ready Workforce Initiative

**Summary**

This Order will authorize the award of \$50,000 in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka ARPA funds) to Literacy Volunteers of Bangor to support their initiative to create greater adult self-sufficiency and a ready workforce.

LVB offers an inexpensive solution that strengthens the education and workplace skills of adult students, primarily within Penobscot County. Approximately 37% of the students are Bangor residents, and nearly 30% of students identify as unemployed and seeking employment.

The work of LVB relies significantly on community volunteer tutors to fulfill their mission. The recruitment, training and matching students to volunteers, and support them requires significant staff coordination.

This award is in support of the following:

- One-time funding that will support operating costs of a non-profit to overcome the negative economic impacts experienced as a result of the pandemic.
- This award will provide funding to support LVB's work to enhance workplace skills within our region.

This item was recommended at a Council workshop on August 28, 2023.

**Committee Action**

Committee: Council Workshop  
Action: Recommend for passage

Meeting Date: 08/28/2023  
For: 4                      Against: 2

**Staff Comments & Approvals**

City Manager

City Solicitor

Finance Director

**Introduced for:** New Business



## CITY OF BANGOR ORDER

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09/11/2023 23-274

Date: 09/11/2023

Item No: 23-274

Assigned to Councilor: Davitt

Authorizing the Award of \$50,000 in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to Support Literacy Volunteers of Bangor's Efforts to Create Greater Adult Self-Sufficiency and a Ready Workforce Initiative

WHEREAS, in conjunction with the Heart of Maine United Way, the City of Bangor conducted an open and public application process to determine distribution of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds; and

WHEREAS, the application from Literacy Volunteers of Bangor's application to create greater adult self-sufficiency and a ready workforce initiative ranked highly in the initial citizen panel review process; and

WHEREAS, the award will provide one-time funding that support the efforts of building up their community volunteer tutors to ensuring greater adult self-sufficiency and enhance our region's workforce readiness;

Now, Therefore, Be it Ordered by the City Council of the City of Bangor that, \$50,000 in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds are awarded to Literacy Volunteers of Bangor greater adult self-sufficiency and ready workforce initiative.



**CITY COUNCIL ACTION**

09/11/2023 23-275

Council Meeting Date: 09/11/2023

Item No: 23-275

Responsible Dept: City Manager

Requested Action: Order

Map/Lot: 040-073

**Title, Order**

Authorizing the Award of \$2,484,880 in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to Penobscot Community Health Center to Expand and Renovate Hope House Shelter

**Summary**

This Order will authorize the award of \$2,484,800 in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka ARPA funds) to Penobscot Community Health Center (PCHC) to expand and renovate the Hope House shelter.

Hope House operates as a low barrier shelter in a facility that was building in 1977. This project would expand the facility foot print and allow operations to return to their pre-pandemic capacity of 66 beds (an increase of 12 beds from the current post pandemic level). The renovations would also include replacement of an aged HVAC system for adequate heating and cooling, more bathroom and shower facilities, enlarged dining area, which increases the capacity of life safety access from 12 to 24, the addition of 4 flex beds, in case of quarantine or other individual needs, all of which would enhance the efficiency and safety of the operation for both the guests and staff.

The proposed award amount is less than the application, as PCHC can apply for \$200,000 in forgivable debt from Maine State Housing Authority and a \$90,000 request to purchase vans to support the various needs of our guests and staff, was referred to our Community Development Block Grant program for potential funding. Further, any expansion of the foot print of the facility will require an amendment to the City's Code of Ordinance that would designate allowable zoning districts for the operation of an emergency shelter, which was mostly recently reviewed at the Business & Economic Development Committee meeting of September 5, 2023.

This award is in support of the following:

- Investment in facilities to support disproportionately impacted communities affordable communal recovery housing
- Investment in access to substance use disorder treatment and recovery and mental health services
- Investment in public health measures in a congregate setting

**Committee Action**

Committee: Council Workshop  
Action: Recommend for passage

Meeting Date: 08/28/2023  
For: 4                      Against: 2

**Staff Comments & Approvals**

City Manager

City Solicitor

Finance Director

**Introduced for:** New Business



## CITY OF BANGOR ORDER

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09/11/2023 23-275

Date: 09/11/2023

Item No: 23-275

Assigned to Councilor: Pelletier

Authorizing the Award of \$2,484,880 in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to Penobscot Community Health Center to Expand and Renovate Hope House Shelter

WHEREAS, in conjunction with the Heart of Maine United Way, the City of Bangor conducted an open and public application process to determine distribution of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds; and

WHEREAS, the application from Penobscot Community Health Center (PCHC) to expand and renovate the Hope House shelter ranked highly in the initial citizen panel review process; and

WHEREAS, the application from PCHC would fully renovate and expand the foot print of the existing 1977 facility to better serve the needs of guests and staff; and

WHEREAS, PCHC will apply for funding for the balance of the project from Maine State Housing Authority and/or any other potential funding sources; and

WHEREAS, the City Council determined that this request supports disproportionately impact community members, enhances access to substance use treatment and recovery as well as mental health services and improves public health in a congregate setting;

Now Therefore Be it Ordered by the City Council of the City of Bangor that, \$2,484,880 in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund is awarded to Penobscot Community Health Center to expand and renovate the Hope House shelter.