



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

ALASKA

MEMORANDUM TO COUNCIL

TO: Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Lynn Sterbenz, Grants & Projects Specialist

CC: Phillip A. Zavadil, City Manager; Aubrey Wegeleben, City Clerk; Stephanie Mandregan, Finance Director

DATE: May 9, 2023

RE: Resolution 23-09 To Apply to the Economic Development Administration (EDA), U.S. Department Of Commerce (DOC) FY 2023 EDA Disaster Supplemental Grant Program

SUMMARY: Awards made under the Economic Development Administration (EDA), U.S. Department Of Commerce (DOC) FY 2023 EDA Disaster Supplemental Grant Program will help communities and regions devise and implement long-term economic recovery strategies through a variety of non-construction and construction projects, as appropriate, to address economic challenges in areas where a Presidential declaration of a major disaster was issued under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. § 5121 *et seq.*) (Stafford Act) “as a result of Hurricanes Ian and Fiona, and of wildfires, flooding, and other natural disasters occurring in calendar years 2021 and 2022....” The State of Alaska had multiple federally declared natural disasters in both of these years.

EDA’s mission is to lead the Federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness and preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. Through this Disaster Supplemental NOFO, EDA will award investments in regions experiencing severe economic distress or other economic harm resulting from Hurricanes Ian and Fiona, and of wildfires, flooding, and other natural disasters occurring in calendar years 2021 and 2022.1 Under this announcement, EDA solicits applications under the authority of its Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program. The EAA program is intended to be flexible and responsive to the economic development needs and priorities of local and regional stakeholders, including those seeking assistance recovering from Federally declared disasters.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: Council has not taken previous action on this specific grant.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION: EAA funds can be awarded to assist a wide variety of activities related to disaster recovery, including economic recovery strategic planning grants, and public works construction assistance. It is a flexible resource that responds adaptively to pressing economic issues and is well-suited to help address challenges faced by regions recovering from

natural disasters. One example of project that EDA can support through this program is construction or upgrading of public infrastructure.

To be competitive, applications must clearly incorporate principles for enhancing the resilience of the relevant community/region or demonstrate the integration of resilience principles into the investment project itself. Resilience is an essential component of any strategy for mitigating the potential for future disaster-related losses and adverse economic impacts for communities. Therefore, inclusion of resilience principles in the project is a necessary step to improve the capacity of the region to recover more quickly from future disaster events. In terms of economic development, resilience is broadly defined as the ability of a community or region to anticipate, withstand, and bounce back from various disruptions to its economic base. These disruptions can be caused by a variety of things, including extreme weather events. Enhancing resilience, especially in light of the ongoing impacts of a changing climate, is a multi-dimensional effort emphasizing engagement and support from all aspects of the community, including economic development practitioners.

The City believes constructing a new and relocated Harbormaster Office to the uplands and away from it's current location adjacent to the breakwater where it sustains severe and repetitive damage from storm surge is a project that will fit this grant program well.

ALTERNATIVES: Council could choose to submit this project to another grant opportunity instead of this one, should one exist. The Council could choose not to submit this project to any grant funding opportunities.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: Typically, EDA requires 20% local match, which can be provided using in-kind as well as cash match. EDA may increase the investment rate up to a maximum of 100% on a case-by-case basis if the applicant can adequately demonstrate to EDA that an enhanced grant rate is justified by providing statistics and other appropriate information on the nature and level of economic distress in the region, including information regarding other disaster-related needs facing the region and the level of resources available to address those needs. The City intends to seek full 100% federal share based on the current disaster declarations of the region. If that is not successful, the City will provide the 20% match through in-kind services, equipment, personnel, and housing.

LEGAL: None.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION: Administration recommends approval of this resolution.

PROPOSED MOTION: I move to approve Resolution 23-09.

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution 23-09