



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

C-6

333 WEST OCEAN BOULEVARD • LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90802

June 15, 2004

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
City of Long Beach  
California

SUBJECT: Agreement With Veterans in Community Service, Inc. to Provide the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program at the Neighborhood Resource Center (Citywide)

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## DISCUSSION

The State of California offers free utility payment assistance for low-income residents through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Currently, the only agency the State contracts with to provide services for Long Beach residents is Veterans in Community Service, Inc. (VICS), which serves clients in its Whittier offices. The Whittier location made it difficult for low-income Long Beach residents to utilize the program, especially seniors and those who rely on public transportation.

In 2001, the City Council approved an agreement with VICS to provide field office space two days per month at the Neighborhood Resource Center (Center) to facilitate LIHEAP services for Long Beach residents. The Center is centrally located, easily accessible by public transportation, and is open to all Long Beach residents. The Department of Community Development, Neighborhood Services Bureau, is responsible for the management of the Center, located at 425 Atlantic Avenue. The current agreement with VICS will expire on August 31, 2004.

Since September 1, 2003, VICS has provided assistance to 496 Long Beach households at the Center. Per VICS, the average amount of financial assistance they have provided to each household is \$189.

The attached Program Plan outlines the free utility payment assistance provided by VICS to low-income residents, with priority given to those residents who have received a utility shut off notice. Funded by the State of California, Department of Community Services and Development, VICS staff will be responsible for scheduling appointments for LIHEAP services at the Center at no cost to the City or to the residents.

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The City will assist VICS staff in the marketing and outreach necessary to inform Long Beach residents of this free service, provide free office space at the Center, and make bilingual translators available during appointment times, as needed. In exchange, VICS staff will provide services two days per month and provide workshops and presentations to the Long Beach community about their services.

The term of the agreement will be from September 1, 2004 through August 31, 2005, with two one-year renewal options based on satisfactory performance and State funding availability.

This letter was reviewed by Assistant City Attorney Michael J. Mais on June 1, 2004 and Budget Manager Michael A. Killebrew on June 3, 2004.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

This matter is not time critical.

FISCAL IMPACT

The cost of these services will be borne by the State of California, Department of Community Services and Development. There will be no impact on the General Fund.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

Authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement with Veterans in Community Service, Inc. for use of the Neighborhood Resource Center to provide free utility payment assistance for one year with two one-year renewal options based on satisfactory performance and State funding availability.

Respectfully submitted,

  
MELANIE S. FALLON  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

MSF:mm  
Attachment

APPROVED:

  
GERALD R. MILLER  
CITY MANAGER