Meeting Date: 07/11/06

ACTION	TYPE OF ITEM
☐ Approved Recommendation	☒ Info/Consent
☐ Ord. No(s). _____	☐ Report
☐ Res. No(s). _____	☐ Public Hearing (Info/consent)
☐ Other _____	☐ Other _____

Prepared By: Arturo Casillas, Housing Programs Manager Agenda Item No. I-4

Reviewed By: City Manager Holmberg City Attorney Finance Other *(Specify)*

DATE: June 19, 2006

TO: Housing Authority Commission

FROM: for Sal D. Gonzalez
Housing Director

SUBJECT: Appropriation for Housing Authority Resident Initiatives Program

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners approve an appropriation in the amount of $29,294 from the Housing Authority Public Housing Operating Reserve Fund to the Housing Authority Resident Initiatives Program.

DISCUSSION:

The Housing Authority is committed to provide self-sufficiency programs for public housing residents. These programs in recent years have been largely funded through HUD Resident Opportunities for Self Sufficiency (ROSS) grants. The grants are for three years, and overlap in implementation timelines. Through this competitive grant program, the Housing Authority received funding annually from HUD for fiscal years 2001, 2002, and 2003. In 2004 HUD changed its criteria for funding the ROSS grants and did not approve the Oxnard Housing Authority proposal.

The primary issue for HUD was the level of the grant funds that was allocated for staffing. HUD limited funds for staffing to 25% of the grant funds. Since the grants carry a three year timeline, this represented an amount of $20,833 per year that HUD would make available for a coordinator for staffing for the program. That amount is insufficient to pay for a coordinator position, in additional to Resident Services Assistants which have also historically been funded in this grant. HUD in effect requires significant local match to fund staffing. Staff changed the grant design for 2005, and received new funding from HUD. Also, in response to the shift at HUD in how it views this grant, one staff person was reassigned to a new grant, the Public Housing Family Self

Sufficiency (FSS) grant. While significant funding for the Resident Initiatives Program is also provided by the Housing Authority's Capital Fund, a gap in funding for the program occurred due to the interruption in funding of the ROSS grant in 2004.

The proposed action will provide funding that will bridge the gap in staffing resources for the Housing Authority's Resident Initiatives Program. The Capital Fund is not a viable source for increased funding for the program, since in recent years it has been reduced by HUD each year, and is obligated to pay for projects approved in the Five Year Plan.

The proposed action will provide salary and benefits for two positions in the Resident Initiatives Program. They are the Resident Initiatives Coordinator and the Technology Media Assistant positions. The latter position is occupied by a resident of public housing, who has been employed by the Housing Authority since 1994. The proposed action covers the last seven pay periods of the current fiscal year ending June 30, 2006. It represents $4,542 per pay period, minus $2,500 allocated in a ROSS grant, for a total of $29,294.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact on the City General Fund. The Housing Authority Public Housing Operating Reserves are at approximately 23% of operating budget and will be minimally impacted by this action.