

Memorandum

To: City of Yakima City Council

From: Community Integration Committee

Date: December 13, 2022

Subject: In response to City Council request to provide recommendations Regarding Single Family Repair Program to Increase Diversity

The Community Integration Committee reviewed the program on June 13, 2022 and August 15, 2022 and November 14th. Recommendations discussed and voted on are as follows:

1. City program needs to explore new ways to increase diversity of program participation.
 - a. Not all families have computer access or are comfortable on-line. A paper option to apply and in-person assistance is still needed.
 - b. Consider partnering with religious organizations, community centers and other agencies to help share information and outreach on their programs.
 - c. Non-profits and community-based groups have more credibility and trust than city staff to the public and to those most qualified and needing home repairs.
 - d. Publish more information about the program in both English and Spanish
 - e. Advertise outside of the Yakima Herald and the El Sol
 - f. Participate in community fairs and events where they might have direct contact with residents in need.
 - g. Add a bilingual staff person to the program to do outreach and education
2. Broaden the group of families eligible to apply for the funding. Currently the funds are limited to families with residents 65 years and older or with disabled family members. Open up the program to families with children who own their home and are income eligible.
 - a. Consider lowering the income from 80% of the Median Family Income to 60% of the Median Family Income which would reduce the number of families eligible but assists families of lesser income.
 - b. Work with schools to help get the word out on the program. Or consider utility bill stuffer.
3. Develop an annual schedule for process of funding awards, which would make the program more predictable.