



Legislation Text

File #: 200904., **Version:** 2

GCRA and CWC Partnership (B)

The proposed Reinvestment Area Home Energy and Water Efficiency Initiative is a partnership between the Community Weatherization Coalition (CWC) of Alachua County and Gainesville Community Reinvestment Area (GCRA). The vision of this Initiative is to strengthen neighborhoods by maintaining the culture and population of the district neighborhoods through long term residency. The mission being to directly benefit community members by lowering their monthly utility bill and thus increasing the number of energy and water efficient homes in the District. Residents with inefficient appliances, poorly functioning air conditioning, and water leaks may spend hundreds to thousands of dollars in additional annual costs. In addition, areas of poor quality housing and a large numbers of inefficient homes can destabilize communities by leading to a high turnover rate for permanent residents.

The CWC currently provides free services to homeowners through the Home Energy Tune-up (Tier 1) and Upgrade (Tier 2) Programs. The Tune-up (Tier 1) Program offers a free kit that contains water and energy saving supplies, as well as education on conservation behaviors. These supplies include energy-efficient light bulbs, water-saving showerheads, and toilet tank displacement bags. The Upgrade (Tier 2) Program offers more permanent energy upgrade services such as installation of attic and underfloor insulation, water heater replacement, and window pane replacement. Both programs are designed to lower the residential energy cost burden-or the percent of a resident's annual household income that goes toward energy costs.

Through the partnership, the GCRA would provide funding for each low income participant or lessor (within the district) the CWC provides services to. The objective is to increase the number of energy and water efficient homes and expand the program to rental property owners (lessors). By helping residents save money on energy costs, the initiative supports the GCRA 10 Year Reinvestment Plan goals.

The Partnership was presented to the GCRA Advisory Board on June 15, 2021 (Legistar #200904). Members of the Board passed a motion that the Partnership be approved with the following revision: change the requirement that lessors must not raise the cost of rent for 12 months after the improvements to require that lessors must not raise the cost of rent more than 2% per year for three years after improvements (See Partnership Guidelines, Section 2: Lessor Eligibility, page 2).

The Reinvestment Plan supports the Initiative's vision through the Plan's "Community Enhancement and Housing Objective." The purpose of this objective is to directly benefit community members by maintaining the culture and population of neighborhoods.

This item is connected to Goal 3 *A Great Place to Live and Experience*.

The total estimated cost for one year to implement the initiative is \$70,132.00. Funding has been budgeted for and will be utilized from the GCRA Fund W022. As this is a pilot program GCRA and CWC have committed to reviewing the efficacy of the program, the annually appropriated dollar amount and any suggested changes will be brought back prior to the first year anniversary of the program.

City Commission to authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with Community Weatherization Coalition (CWC), subject to approval by the City Attorney as to form and legality.