



Council Agenda Report

Item 6e

Department: Administration
Cost Center: 1010
For Agenda of: 5/21/2024
Placement: Consent
Estimated Time: N/A

FROM: Greg Hermann, Deputy City Manager
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SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF THE 2024-25 HUMAN SERVICES GRANT FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION

1. As recommended by the Human Relations Commission, approve the 2024-25 Human Services Grant funding allocations in the total amount of \$150,000; and
2. Authorize the Interim City Manager to execute agreements with each grant recipient, in a form approved by the City Attorney'.

POLICY CONTEXT

The Human Relations Commission's (HRC) purpose is to advise and make recommendations to City Council and the City Manager which promote and advance inclusion, mutual understanding, respect, and equitable treatment to all members of the community. The Human Relations Commission's recommendations to City Council help address social concerns and the needs of the community. The Human Services Grant (HSG) program provides financial support to non-profit organizations that promote the economic and social well-being of the residents of San Luis Obispo. The HSG grants are awarded at the discretion of the Council.

DISCUSSION

Background

The City's Human Services Grants (HSG), formerly known as Grants-in-Aid, was originally discussed and approved by City Council on November 14, 1973 through a study session providing authority and responsibility to HRC for funding and contract recommendations for Council consideration. The HSG was designed to provide support to non-profit organizations to address the social service and basic human needs of various communities. The HSG program is fully funded by the City's General Fund. The HSG had a Council approved change of name in 2022 to better reflect the objectives of the grant program. The HSG program provides financial support to non-profit organizations that promote the economic and social well-being of the community members of San Luis Obispo. Grants are made to local organizations, or to agencies that are based in neighboring communities, whose services contribute to the quality of life of City residents. The Human Relations Commission (HRC) advises the City Council on funding priorities and grant recommendations.

Funding Priorities

On November 16, 2021, the Council adopted the following as the primary funding priority for the HSG:

- ***Homelessness prevention, including affordable and alternative housing, support services and transitional housing.***

To allow maximum flexibility for funding recommendations dependent upon the received applications, the following priorities were also approved but were not ranked:

- ***Hunger and malnutrition prevention.***
- ***Supportive physical and mental health services for those in need.***
- ***Services for seniors, veterans and/or people with disabilities in need.***
- ***Supportive, developmental, and care services for children and youth in need.***
- ***Services encouraging diversity, equity, and inclusivity in marginalized.***

HSG Application Process

In January 22, 2024, the HRC formally launched its annual HSG process by advertising the availability of grant funds and information regarding the upcoming HSG timeline to the general public, past applicants and agencies and groups from underserved and underrepresented communities through the City's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). HSG applications were due on March 1, 2024. The City received grant applications from 37 agencies requesting funding for programs totaling \$495,243. Attachment A includes a complete list of the applications, including a summary of each application, submitted to the City for HSG funding, and the HRC's recommended funding amounts.

HRC Review Process

On March 12 and 19, 2024, the HSG Grant Review Subcommittee comprised of Vice Chair Kasprzak, Commissioner DeTurris, and Commissioner Carlotti met to review grant applications and make preliminary funding recommendations. The subcommittee members considered the funding priorities set by Council, the location of the target population to be served, and the incurred expenses proposed to be offset by HSG dollars to guide their funding recommendations. On April 3, 2024, the HSG Grant Review Subcommittee presented preliminary grant recommendations to the full HRC during a noticed public hearing. During the discussion, the subcommittee engaged with other Commissioners to adjust the preliminary recommendations and the Commission voted to approve the funding recommendations reflected in Attachment A. HRC found that the projects recommended for funding further Council's adopted goals to address community needs and promote the economic and social well-being of San Luis Obispo community members.

Grants Contracts

Upon Council approval of HSG funding recommendations, the City will enter into a contract with each organization that has been awarded grant funding. The HRC and the City staff will review grant project reports throughout the year. Organizations awarded grant funding are required to provide a mid-year and year-end report describing administrative functions, metrics and outcomes, and use of funds related to the application for each grant program. Reports are reviewed by staff and the HRC for completeness and compliance. The form of the contract will be reviewed by the City Attorney's office.

Public Engagement

The public, and more specifically non-profit service organizations, were engaged throughout the HSG award process. Non-profit service organizations received communication of available funding, an informational session provided in English and Spanish available in the Office of DEI website, technical assistance during the application period, a detailed grant web application outlining funding criteria, and how to access support from staff. This item is on the consent agenda for the May 21, 2024 City Council meeting and will follow all required posting and notification. The public can submit comments on this item at or before the meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The California Environmental Quality Act does not apply to the recommended action in this report, because the action does not constitute a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15378.

FISCAL IMPACT

Budgeted: Yes

Budget Year: 2024-25

Funding Identified: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Sources	Total Budget Available	Current Funding Request	Remaining Balance	Annual Ongoing Cost
General Fund	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$0	\$0
State				
Federal				
Fees				
Other:				
Total	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$0	\$0

As adopted in the 2023-2025 Financial Plan, the allocated 2024-2025 budget for the HSG program was \$150,000. HSG projects will be implemented for a period of one year starting at the beginning of the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year.

ALTERNATIVES

The Council may modify the proposed grant funding amounts. The Council should provide direction on the modifications desired.

ATTACHMENTS

A – 2024-25 Human Services Grant Preliminary Funding Recommendations

B – 04-03-2024 HRC Meeting Minutes