



Human Relations Commission

Agenda Report

For Agenda of: 9/12/2024
Item Number: 5a

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SUBJECT: HUMAN SERVICES GRANT (HSG) COMMUNITY NEEDS GRANT WORKSHOP

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend that the Human Relations Commission (HRC) holds the Human Services Grant (HSG) Community Needs Grant Workshop with a focus on alignment between community needs and grant funding priorities.

BACKGROUND

The Human Relations Commission (HRC) hosts their Community Needs Grant Workshop for the Human Services Grant every other year. This workshop allows the public to provide comments on current community development, social equity, and human service needs in the community as it pertains to the current Human Services Grant offered by the City. This input is used by the HRC to review, update, and approve funding priorities for the upcoming Human Services Grant cycle.

The Human Services Grant (HSG) program had a Council approved name changed in 2022 to best reflect the objectives of the grant program. The HSG's purpose is to provide financial support to non-profit organizations that promote the economic and social wellbeing of the community members of San Luis Obispo. Grants are made to local organizations or agencies based in neighboring communities whose services contribute to the quality of life of City residents.

The current HSG Program has a total of \$150,000 to distribute and a main funding priority, which reads:

- **Homelessness prevention, including affordable and alternate 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 inclusion in marginalized communities, including language access services.*

During the 2024-25 Human Services Grant (HSG) program cycle, which were presented to Council on May 21, 2024, Council referred the grant funding recommendations back to the HRC with direction to first fund all qualified applications that meet the homelessness prevention main funding priority. After qualified homelessness prevention application are funded, the HRC should consider applications for the additional priorities.

HRC completed an initial review of the grant language description on their August 15, 2024 meeting. A revised draft containing their feedback has been created and added as an attachment to this report for additional review.

NEXT STEPS

After completion of the workshop, the HRC will require staff to incorporate edits or changes, if any; and vote to approve the funding priorities that will help future grant applicants in developing their applications. This item will then be presented to the City Council for final approval.

ATTACHMENTS

- A - Human Services Grant (HSG) Program – Draft 1
- B - Human Services Grant (HSG) Program – Draft 2