



Human Relations Commission

Agenda Report

For Agenda of: 9/3/2025

Item Number: 5b

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SUBJECT: HUMAN SERVICES GRANT COMMUNITY NEEDS GRANT WORKSHOP

RECOMMENDATION

The Human Relations Commission to take public feedback and vote on the funding priorities and information for the Human Services Grant as deliberated during the meeting.

BACKGROUND

Every two years, the Human Relations Commission (HRC) will review the funding priorities for the Human Services Grant. This process began last month with an initial review of the revised funding priorities and information for the Human Services Grant at the August 6, 2025 HRC meeting. The next and current step is to hold a Community Need Grant Workshop to allow the public to provide comments on current human service needs in the community as it pertains to the Human Services Grant. This input will be used by the HRC to review, update, and approve funding priorities for the next two Human Services Grant cycles.

The purpose of the Human Services Grant is to provide financial support to non-profit organizations that promote the economic and social well-being of its community members. In 2025-26, the Human Services Grant had \$150,000 total to distribute to local nonprofits and the main funding priority was:

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

To allow for maximum flexibility for applicants, the grant had additional secondary funding priorities, which would only be funded if all qualified applicants who met the main priority were allocated funding first. The secondary priorities included (not listed in order of importance):

- 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 communities, including access to language services

To more completely align with the City Council's primary funding priority—homelessness prevention—the Office of DEI has updated the Human Services Grant guidelines and funding priorities. These revisions were shared with the HRC for review ahead of the current Community Needs Grant Workshop. HRC had a couple of edits which have been incorporated in Attachment A.

While homelessness prevention remains a core focus, the updated guidelines expand eligible funding uses to include related services such as street outreach, emergency shelter, and hygiene services. Through these changes, the Office of DEI is working to ensure that Human Services Grant funding directly supports efforts to address the ongoing homelessness crisis, while maintaining flexibility for other grantees who address various human service needs.

Once the Human Services Grant funding information and priorities are finalized, they will go to City Council for approval and adoption.

ATTACHMENTS

A - Revised Draft 2026-27 Human Services Grant Funding Information and Priorities