



Council Agenda Report

Item 5d

Department: Community Development
Cost Center: 4008
For Agenda of: 7/6/2021
Placement: Consent
Estimated Time: N/A

FROM: Michael Codron, Community Development Director
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SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF THE 2021-22 HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
GRANTS-IN-AID FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION

1. As recommended by the Human Relations Commission, approve the 2021-22 Grants-in-Aid funding allocations in the amount of \$150,000; and
2. Authorize the Community Development Director to execute agreements with each grant recipient.

DISCUSSION

Background

The City's Grants-in-Aid (GIA) program, overseen by the Human Relations Commission (HRC), provides financial support to non-profit organizations that promote the economic and social well-being of the citizens of San Luis Obispo. Grants are made to local organizations or agencies based in neighboring communities who serve a significant number of City residents. The HRC advises the City Council on community needs and funding recommendations.

Community Needs Workshop

On October 7, 2020, the HRC hosted a virtual Community Needs Workshop to inform the public about upcoming grant programs and funding amounts, as well as to solicit public comments on community development and human service needs. A total of five speakers addressed a wide variety of community needs during the public comment period. Representatives from non-profits also relayed concerns about the overall increased demand for services related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. They also had concerns about the acceptable list of eligible expenses given pandemic-related economic constraints and financial deficits from other funding sources that previously supported general staffing and operational costs. In turn, the HRC incorporated this feedback into the Funding Criteria during their review of the 2021-22 GIA Application, in order to sustain existing long-term services within the community. Overall, the providers stressed the importance of GIA and encouraged the HRC to continue supporting the program.

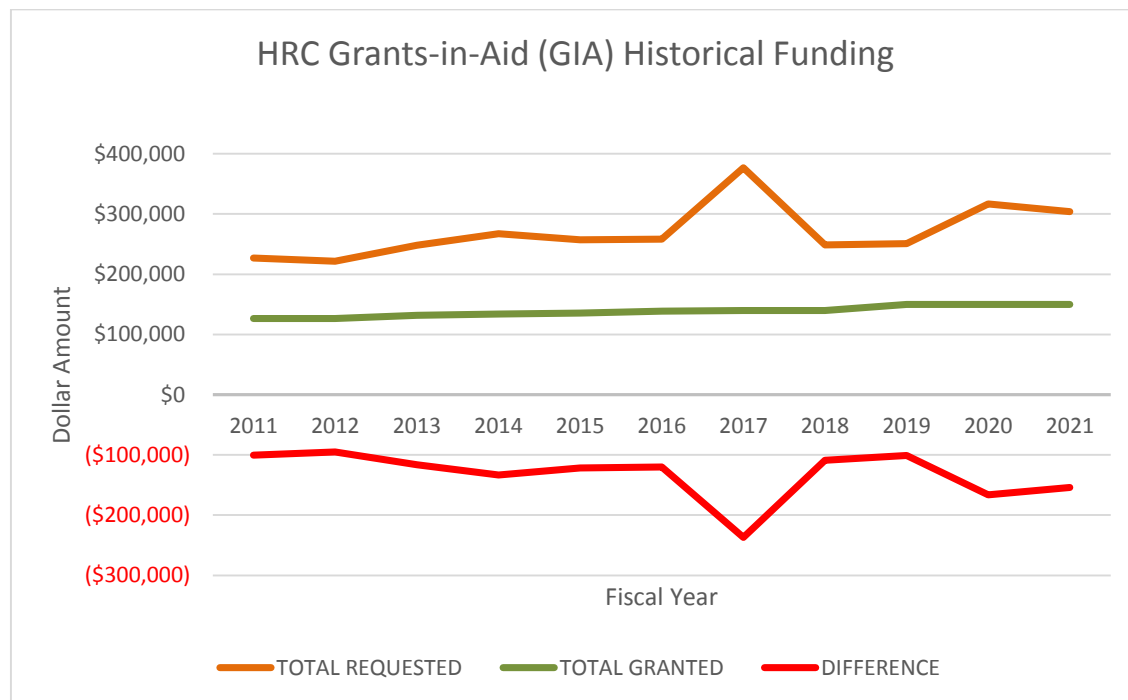
Funding Priority Setting

On November 17, 2020, Council adopted homelessness prevention, including affordable and alternative housing, support services and transitional housing as the primary funding priority for allocating GIA funds for the 2021-22 program. However, to allow maximum flexibility for funding recommendations dependent upon the received applications, the following were not ranked, but were agreed to be important priorities:

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

GIA Application Process

In December of 2020, the HRC formally launched its annual GIA process by advertising the availability of grant funds and information regarding the upcoming GIA timeline. GIA applications were due to the City on January 31, 2021. The City received grant funding requests from 29 agencies requesting funding for 30 different programs totaling \$303,800, which amounted to \$153,800 more than the available funding, as displayed in the figure below. Attachment A includes a list of the applications submitted to the City for GIA funding and the HRC's recommended funding amounts. The GIA Program Application Summary, provided as Attachment B, further describes each program and recommendation reasoning.



Subcommittee and HRC Review Process

On February 3, 2021, the HRC convened the GIA subcommittee of Commissioners Rosten and Campbell to review grant applications and make preliminary funding recommendations in the amount of \$150,000. The subcommittee members utilized the endorsed GIA Funding Priorities set by Council, the location of the target population of people to be served, and the incurred expenses proposed to be offset by GIA dollars, to guide their funding recommendations. On April 7, 2021, the GIA subcommittee presented preliminary grant recommendations to the full HRC. During the discussion, the subcommittee engaged with the other Commissioners to make adjustments to the preliminary recommendations, based on their past personal experiences as organizational liaisons and overall feasibility of the proposed projects in accordance with the Funding Priorities and Criteria.

Funding Recommendations

On May 5, 2021, the HRC held a public hearing to review the recommended funding for the 2021-22 GIA Program to solicit feedback from the public/service providers prior to review by the City Council. Prior to the May 5th meeting, GIA applicants were informed of the HRC's preliminary funding recommendations. The HRC received a total of six written correspondence from community partners prior to the meeting. A total of eight representatives from various non-profit organizations provided testimony in support of the GIA program and preliminary funding recommendations, during public comment. Speakers thanked the HRC for its support and discussed the increased demand for services related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. A few representatives alluded to a demand for translation services and lack of multi-lingual staff. The HRC did not make any adjustments to the preliminary funding recommendations and adopted the funding amounts as presented in the staff report (Attachment C).

Grant Contracts

Upon Council approval of GIA funding allocations, the City will enter into a contract with each organization that has been awarded grant funding. The HRC and City staff will monitor the contracts throughout the year.

Policy Context

The GIA program is commonly referred to in the Housing Element as an ongoing method to achieve various goals, policies, and programs related to housing needs.

Public Engagement

The public, and more specifically non-profit service organizations, were engaged throughout the entire GIA award process, as described in the sections above.

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
Funding Identified: Yes

Budget Year: 2021-22

Fiscal Analysis:

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

The City designates a portion of General Fund monies to the GIA program and the Council has the final authority over how those grants are awarded. A total of \$150,000 was budgeted for the 2021-22 GIA program in the 2021-23 Financial Plan and approved 2021-22 budget.

ALTERNATIVES

1. The Council may modify the proposed grant funding amounts.
2. The Council may choose to fund eligible GIA applications not recommended by the HRC.
3. The Council may continue consideration of funding for the 2021-22 GIA Program Year.
Direction should be given to staff regarding additional information necessary to make a final funding decision.

ATTACHMENTS

- A – 2021-22 GIA Program HRC Funding Recommendations
B – 2021-22 GIA Program Application Summary
C – Minutes of the May 5, 2021 HRC Meeting (non-approved)