



Legislation Text

File #: 23-1497, Version: 1

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve the proposed CY2024 Social Service Grant funding allocations

DEPARTMENT: Community Services

SUBMITTED BY: Miranda Barfuss, Community Grants Coordinator

BOARD/COMMISSION REVIEW:

N/A

BACKGROUND:

The City Council established a \$250,000 Social Services Grant (SSG) program in 2005 to enhance the ability of local not-for-profit agencies to provide needed services to the community. In 2012, the Council increased funding to \$300,000 to allow for a \$50,000 set-aside for projects that target current specific community needs. Grant funding was increased to \$500,000 in 2015, and remains today, using a portion of the Food and Beverage tax funds.

Based on Council input from the Calendar Year 2022 process, staff made the following changes to the 2023 application review process:

1. Increased the City Council allocation from \$50,000 to \$100,000
2. Removed low/moderate income as a scoring criteria
3. Discarded the low and high scores for each application
4. Added a representative from the school districts
5. Added a non-scoring Council member

Based on Council input from the Calendar Year 2023 process, staff revised the formula for calculating the 2024 City Council allocation to:

$$\text{Recommended Award} = \frac{\sum (\text{all amounts awarded by submitting Council members})}{(\# \text{ of Council members submitting})}$$

The Unified City Council Award is then rounded to the nearest hundred dollars and added to the reviewer team's recommendation for a total applicant award.

DISCUSSION:

For Calendar Year 2024, the City received 48 SSG applications requesting a total of \$1,394,463. A team of representatives from the Human Rights & Fair Housing Commission, Senior Task Force, Accessible Community Task Force, District 203 and a non-scoring Council member, Nate Wilson,

reviewed the applications.

After ensuring each application fulfilled a funding priority of the SSG program, reviewers scored each application on a 100-point scale and made funding recommendations based on the resulting point scores and totaling \$400,000.

SSG Funding Priorities

- 1) Emergency Services - emergency shelter, food and personal care items, emergency assistance
- 2) Seniors - respite care, meal delivery, home sharing, mental health counseling
- 3) Self-Sufficiency - financial counseling, education, childcare, employment services, substance abuse services
- 4) Special Populations - persons with physical, development or mental health disabilities
- 5) Youth - mentoring, counseling, pregnancy prevention/education

SSG Scoring Criteria

- 1) Project goals and objectives are clear, measurable, realistic and address the program priorities and documented community need
- 2) Project need and community benefit are justified and fully documented
- 3) Project provides a new or improved service to the target population that does not duplicate existing services and encourages collaboration with other organizations
- 4) Project provides services to Naperville residents conveniently and in sufficient numbers or provides crucial services to a subset of Naperville residents
- 5) The applicant has sufficient experience, resources and staffing to successfully implement the project within a one-year timeframe and can manage the grant, including documentation of benefits, compliance and reporting
- 6) The applicant has made efforts to secure other funding for the activity
- 7) Application is complete, with all required attachments

The remaining \$100,000 is reserved for Council members to propose allocations to projects of their choice. The City Council allocation was calculated as follows:

$$\text{Recommended Award} = \frac{\sum (\text{all amounts awarded by submitting Council members})}{(\# \text{ of Council members submitting})}$$

Rounding the Unified City Council Award to the nearest hundred dollars resulted in an average of \$300, therefore the Unified City Council Award was rounded to the nearest \$50 to fall within budget.

FISCAL IMPACT:

\$500,000 from annual Food and Beverage tax revenue will be allocated to Social Service Grant recipients.

Additionally, up to \$2,000 of the SSG funding underspend is budgeted to assist income-qualified residents with their portion of the sidewalk replacement cost sharing program.