



Agenda Report

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, May 23, 2023

TO: City Council

FROM: ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER VIDES
SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST PADILLA

THROUGH: CITY MANAGER MENDEZ

SUBJECT: FY 2023/2025 SOCIAL SERVICE GRANTS

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Social & Community Service Grants Subcommittee recommends that the City Council approve by resolution the funding recommendations for the Social and Community Services for the FY 2023/2025 budget for \$280,000 per year.

DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:

The City Council Subcommittee for the Social and Community Service Grants ("Subcommittee" is responsible for setting application guidelines and priorities, reviewing and making funding recommendations to the City Council for grant applications received through this bi-annual solicitation. Three Council Members participate in the Subcommittee and are supported by City staff. This year, the subcommittee included: Mayor Eduardo Montesino, Council Member Jimmy Dutra, and Council Member Casey Clark.

New and previously funded agencies were invited to submit applications for FY 2023/2025 funding cycle. Applications opened on April 13 and were due on May 1, 2023. The City received a total of 45 applications from agencies requesting funding. Of those who applied: 21 agencies reapplied for continued funding for previously funded programs/services and 24 new agencies applied for funding, requesting a total of \$792,500.

The table below summarizes the funding request and recommended per program category.

Category	# of Programs	Amount Requested	# of Programs Funded	Amount Funded
Youth	2	\$27,500	1	\$20,000
Adults	3	\$60,000	1	\$5,000
Family	38	\$665,000	20	\$245,000
Seniors	2	\$40,000	1	\$10,000

The City of Watsonville is proud to work and collaborate with community base organizations in meeting the service and program needs of Watsonville residents. The Annual Social Service Grants Program is just one of the ways in which the City funds core services for the community. On any given year, the City of Watsonville contracts with various community based organizations to provide critical services throughout the City. These contracts for services represent a total over \$1.5 million in annual funding to community-based programs.

Application Review Process:

On April 11, 2023, the subcommittee took a motion to Council to approve the recommended funding levels and application process for FY 2023/2025. For this funding cycle, the subcommittee recommended funding organizations at a minimum of \$10,000 and a maximum of \$20,000.

The criteria recommended and approved by the Council to rank the applications included:

- Do the program/services align with the City Council's Strategic Plan priorities?
- Does the program/service meet a current community need?
- Is the organization in good standing with the City and State? (if previously funded)
- Organization serves the Watsonville community
- Financial need as demonstrated by the organization's overall funding request & annual budget
- Completeness of the application
- Impact on Watsonville residents

The subcommittee's recommended an application process that was simple and equitable for all agencies small, medium, or large to successfully request funding through this program.

On May 11, 2023, the subcommittee reviewed and ranked all funding requests received. As a result, the subcommittee is recommending funding 23 organizations that directly serve the Watsonville community, help meet current community needs and directly support the established strategic priorities of the Council. Funding recommendation list is attached.

The subcommittee is also recommending a couple of exceptions to the adopted funding limits in order to provide funding opportunities for new emerging groups that support our residents through new programs. A \$5,000 funding limit is being recommended for the Watsonville Band per their request, and two agencies (Youth Recovery Connections and Watsonville Jr. Wildcatz) to allow these organizations to build capacity in serving the Watsonville community as a first-time grantees. Funding recommendations also include an increased funding capacity to support community special events which helps various non-profit agencies cover the fees and costs associated with hosting special events that benefit the community at large. Two funding cycles will be made available in the year and funding support to community events will increase from \$5,000 up to \$10,000 per event.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT:

If an official who is a member of the City Council has a disqualifying interest in a matter before the council, he/she shall disclose the conflict to the council prior to consideration of the matter. Once the disclosure is made the official shall not formally participate in the official discussion

or vote on the matter. A conflict of interest has been identified regarding the following organizations:

Organization	Conflict of Interest- Board Member
Community Action Board	Council Member District 2
Families in Transition	Council Member District 2
Pajaro Valley Arts	Council Member District 2

To address this conflict-of-interest issue Council members who are conflicted will be excluded from the vote that is required to fund those organizations.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

The proposed allocations are consistent with the City Council Strategic Plan priorities.
5-Community Engagement & Well-Being

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The proposed funding for the Social and Community Service grants in the amount of \$280,000 per year from the General Fund will be included in the budget for FY 2023-2025.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

The City Council may propose a different distribution of funds.

ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (If any):

1. Proposed Social Service Grant Funding Recommendations by the Council Subcommittee