

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Policy Session Worksheet

Presentation Date: 6/30/2020 **Approx Start Time:** 3:15pm

Approx Length: 30 min

Presentation Title: 2020 Small Grants Cycle

Department: County Administration

Presenter: Caroline Hill

WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD?

Staff requests direction on the 2020 Small Grants Cycle

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Clackamas County Board of Commissioners approved \$250,000 in the 2020/21 FY budget to fund the 2020 Small Grants Program. This is the 12th year of the program. The goal is to support agencies that are making an effort to develop and implement innovative projects that would help the County's most vulnerable families, seniors, and others meet their basic needs such as food assistance and abuse prevention. In 2019, The Board directed that the priority be given to those organizations serving the Community Prosperity Collaborative areas (Estacada, Canby and North Clackamas), while still ensuring that the monies reached as much of the County as possible. Preference was also given to those who meet the following criteria:

- Prevent occurrence of larger, more dire problems later;
- Save money later through early intervention;
- Serve people throughout the community.

This year, however, we are faced with COVID-19, which has had a tremendous impact on the community and the organizations that serve them. On June 9, the Board directed staff to reach out to the Small Grants contacts, which included all past applicants and recipients, to inquire about the hardships they have encountered due to the virus and what the greatest need is going forward. A survey was sent out with three simple questions:

- What service do you provide (this was a multiple choice question)
- In a couple of sentences, please describe how your organization has been affected by COVID-19
- What is your organization's greatest need

Due to the short time frame available to open the 2020 cycle for applications, participants were given one week to respond to the survey. We received 40 responses and there were some clear trends in the responses:

- Inability to provide services. This was due to having to close down their facilities to comply with the Governor's order or lack of volunteers;
- Cancellation of fund raising events which resulted in extreme loss of revenue;
- Significant increase in requests for food;
- Providing access to services remotely which resulted in substantial expenses to obtain technology.

Given those responses, it is no surprise that the greatest need mentioned is money. Some additional comments of note included:

- Concerns about funding from the state;
- Need for funding to assist with increased sanitation and PPE for staff and clients;
- And lack of donations.

Based on the information gathered from the survey, staff has a few recommendations for the Board:

- Continue to give priority to those applicants serving the Community Prosperity Collaborative areas. This is part of the Performance Clackamas goals and is imperative that we continue to move the Board's goals forward;
- Continue to prioritize clear onetime expenses;
- Fill an unanticipated expense gap due to COVID-19;
- Encourage partnerships to increase community impact;
- And lastly, shorten the application period from six weeks to four weeks to allow for quicker disbursement of funds.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (current year and ongoing):

Is this item in your current budget? YES NO

What is the cost? \$250,000 What is the funding source? General Fund

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- How does this item align with your Department's Strategic Business Plan goals?

N/A

- How does this item align with the County's Performance Clackamas goals?

To ensure safe, healthy and secure communities by partnering, through grants, with nonprofits working in Clackamas County to serve the most vulnerable populations to ensure food availability, eviction/houselessness prevention, as well as providing services for at-risk youth and vulnerable seniors and veterans.

LEGAL/POLICY REQUIREMENTS:

N/A

PUBLIC/GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION:

A survey went out to all Small Grants contacts on June 9 and closed on June 16 at 5p.

OPTIONS:

1. Approve recommendations as presented by staff:
 - Continue to give priority to those applicants serving the Community Prosperity Collaborative areas. This is part of the Performance Clackamas goals and is imperative that we continue to move the Board's goals forward;
 - Continue to prioritize clear onetime expenses;
 - Fill an unanticipated expense gap due to COVID-19;
 - Encourage partnerships to increase community impact;
 - Shorten the application period from six weeks to four weeks to allow for quicker disbursement of funds.

2. Approve amended recommendations with changes.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff respectfully requests Board approval of Option 1:

- Continue to give priority to those applicants serving the Community Prosperity Collaborative areas. This is part of the Performance Clackamas goals and is imperative that we continue to move the Board's goals forward;
- Continue to prioritize clear onetime expenses;
- Fill an unanticipated expense gap due to COVID-19;
- Encourage partnerships to increase community impact;
- Shorten the application period from six weeks to four weeks to allow for quicker disbursement of funds.

ATTACHMENTS:

N/A

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval _____

Department Director/Head Approval _____

County Administrator Approval _____

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact Caroline Hill @ 503-655-8261