



MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Brian Pedrotti, Director of Community Development

BY: Andrew Perez, Planning Manager

SUBJECT: Approval of Arroyo Grande Community Service Grant Program Allocations for Fiscal Year 2024-25

DATE: March 11, 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) Adopt a Resolution approving the Arroyo Grande Community Service Grant Program projects for Fiscal Year 2024-25; and
- 2) Determine that adopting the Resolution is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") because it has no potential to result in either a direct, or reasonably foreseeable indirect, physical change in the environment. (State CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15060, subd. (c)(2)-(3), 15378.)

IMPACT ON FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL RESOURCES:

A total of \$75,000 is budgeted for the FY 2024-25 CSGP. Staff time and resources are expended to process the applications.

BACKGROUND:

In response to federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding limitations and restrictions, the City established the Community Service Grant Program (CSGP) in 2014 as a means of providing funding for community service projects separate and apart from the CDBG program. Nonprofit organizations that offer specialized social services, educational, cultural, beautification, and recreational programs and projects benefiting Arroyo Grande residents are eligible to receive funding through the program. The policy relating to the CSGP was adopted by City Council on September 13, 2014, and is provided as Attachment 2. The FY 2024-25 budget includes \$75,000 for the CSGP.

A press release was published to notify the public that the application period opened on November 7, 2024, and remained open until December 19, 2024. The City also publicized the program on its social media channels and the City website. Twenty-five (25) applications were submitted, requesting a total of \$185,368. For comparison, eighteen (18) applications requesting a total of \$157,760 were submitted for last year's program.

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Applications are reviewed by the CSGP Committee (Committee), which is tasked with developing funding recommendations for the City Council's consideration and approval. The Committee is comprised of an appointee from each Councilmember. This year, the Committee convened February 28, 2025, to review the applications and make its funding recommendations to City Council.

ANALYSIS OF ISSUES:

The Committee voted unanimously to present the following funding recommendations for approval by City Council as listed in **Table 1** below (recommendations are in the far-right column):

Table 1: CSGP Funding Recommendations

NAME OF NON-PROFIT	GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED	GRANT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION
Arroyo Grande Community Hospital	\$10,000	\$7,000
Arroyo Grande Valley Little League	\$19,368.40	\$3,000
American Legion	\$1,000	\$250
Arroyo Grande In Bloom	\$2,000	\$1,000
Assistance League	\$4,000	\$3,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters of SLO	\$7,500	\$3,500
Boy Scouts	\$1,500	\$500
Boys Girls Club of SLO County	\$7,500	\$3,000
CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)	\$5,000	\$4,000
CCAMH (Center for Child and Adolescent Mental Health)	\$15,000	\$5,000
Central Coast Athletics Foundation	\$15,500	\$5,000
Central Coast Seniors	\$5,000	\$3,900

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NAME OF NON-PROFIT	GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED	GRANT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION
Clark Center	\$10,000	\$3,600
Coastal Christian School	\$10,000	\$0
Coastal Performing Arts Foundation	\$1,000	\$500
ECOSLO	\$7,500	\$500
Elm Street Dog Park Association	\$5,000	\$750
Hospice of SLO County	\$6,000	\$4,000
Meals that Connect	\$10,000	\$9,500
OMG Youth Sports	\$10,000	\$0
People's Self Help Housing	\$10,000	\$4,500
Positive Ride JAMS	\$7,000	\$2,500
Shower the People	\$10,000	\$8,000
SLO County YMCA	\$3,000	\$2,000
Softec	\$2,500	\$0
Total	\$185,368	\$75,000

To be eligible to receive funding, the non-profit organizations must directly provide social, educational, cultural, beautification, recreational services, or programs to city residents or businesses. Participation in these services and programs cannot be restricted based upon race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, ancestry, disability, medical condition, or age. Further, the grant monies cannot be used specifically in the furtherance of religious activities. The Committee was cognizant of this requirement and the recommendations identified in **Table 1** are consistent with those requirements.

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The Committee thoughtfully evaluated each application, weighing the need of each organization against the anticipated impact that could be made with the awarding of a grant. The discussion resulted in a decision to place a priority on funding organizations that provide essential needs, such as food, hygiene, and shelter rather than organizations that provide beautification or enrichment of the community. Consistent with that direction, the largest grants were recommended for the Arroyo Grande Community Hospital, Shower the People, and Meals that Connect. These organizations provide services that directly benefit the unhoused, infirm, and most vulnerable in the community.

The Committee also placed a priority on organizations that provide opportunities for community gathering. Examples of these organizations and programs were those that provide opportunities to participate in athletics, arts, and community-based activities, such as Central Coast Seniors. Other screening criteria included whether the funds go directly to products and services for clients (versus administration costs), how many local Arroyo Grande residents are served, and an organization's existing funding base (whether the requested funds are necessary for the project or program to succeed).

ALTERNATIVES:

The following alternatives are provided for the Council's consideration:

1. Adopt the proposed Resolution to approve CSGP funding for FY 2024-25, as recommended by the Committee;
2. Modify and approve CSGP funding for FY 2024-25; or
3. Provide other direction to staff.

ADVANTAGES:

The City's CSGP provides a funding opportunity separate from CDBG for local public service programs that address unmet needs in the community. Funding from the CSGP allows local non-profit organizations to provide services that directly benefit residents of Arroyo Grande, with a priority placed on the well-being of those in the community that do not have readily available food and shelter. Twenty-two of the organizations that applied are recommended to receive at least partial funding of the requested amount.

DISADVANTAGES:

The Committee's recommendation would not provide funding to three of the applicants.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

No environmental review is required for this item. Adopting the Resolution is not a project subject to CEQA because it has no potential to result in either a direct, or reasonably foreseeable indirect, physical change in the environment. (State CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15060, subd. (c)(2)-(3), 15378.)

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PUBLIC NOTIFICATION AND COMMENTS:

The Agenda was posted at City Hall and on the City's website in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposed Resolution
2. CSGP Policy
3. FY 2024-25 CSGP Applications