



MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Brian Pedrotti, Community Development Director

BY: Andrew Perez, Planning Manager

SUBJECT: Consideration of a Resolution Approving Arroyo Grande Community Service Grant Program Allocations for Fiscal Year 2022-23

DATE: March 28, 2023

SUMMARY OF ACTION:

Approving the FY 2022-23 Arroyo Grande Community Service Grant Program allocations will assist local non-profit organizations in implementing various service programs that directly benefit Arroyo Grande residents.

IMPACT ON FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL RESOURCES:

City Council authorized \$57,065 of funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) received by the City to supplement the \$25,000 budgeted for the 2022-23 Community Service Grant Program, bringing the total funding available for this program in FY 2022-23 to \$82,065.

RECOMMENDATION:

1) Adopt a Resolution approving the Arroyo Grande Community Service Grant Program funding allocations identified in Attachment 1. 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. (b)(2)-(3), 15378.)

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. The FY 2022-23 budget includes \$25,000 for the CSGP. Nonprofit organizations that offer specialized social service, educational, cultural, beautification and recreational programs and projects benefitting Arroyo Grande citizens are eligible to receive funding through the program. At its regular meeting on October 12,

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2021, City Council appropriated an additional \$57,065 of ARPA funding to the CSGP for fiscal years 2021-22 and 2022-23, bringing the total to \$82,065.

A press release was published to notify the public that the application period opened on November 18, 2022, and closed on December 22, 2022. The City also publicized the program on its social media channels and the City website. The City received a total of twelve (12) applications for this fiscal year’s program requesting a total of \$124,635. For comparison, twenty-two (22) applications requesting a total of \$169,178 were submitted for last year’s program.

Applications are reviewed by the Community Service Grant Program Committee (Committee), which is tasked with developing funding recommendations for Council’s consideration and approval. Prior to this year, the Committee was comprised of one volunteer from each of the City’s advisory bodies and one volunteer from the South County Chambers of Commerce Board of Directors. At its meeting on March 8, 2022, Council directed staff to bring an agenda item at a future meeting to discuss potential alterations to the composition of the Committee. This item was considered by Council on October 25, 2022, and it was determined that each Councilmember would appoint a member to the Committee. Appointments to the Committee were made at Council meetings on January 28, 2023 and February 14, 2023. The Committee convened on March 14, 2023, to review the applications and make its funding recommendations to Council.

ANALYSIS OF ISSUES:

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

Table 1: Committee Funding Recommendations

Name Of Non-Profit	Project Summary	Area Served	Grant Amount Requested	Grant Panel Rec.
1) AG Hospital Foundation	Homeless Patient Support Program	AG/So. SLO Co.	\$10,000	\$10,000
2) Arroyo Grande Public Art	AG Utility Box Project	AG	\$20,000	\$10,000
3) Assistance League of SLO County	Operation School Bell provides school supplies and clothing to students in need	SLO County	\$3,500	\$3,500
4) Big Brothers Big Sisters of SLO County	Youth mentoring program	AG	\$6,500	\$6,500

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Name Of Non-Profit	Project Summary	Area Served	Grant Amount Requested	Grant Panel Rec.
5) Boy Girls Club of SLO County	Summer Brain Gain	SLO County	\$15,000	\$7,500
6) Diversity Coalition	Fostering Understanding & School Speaker Series	AG	\$5,000	\$5,000
7) Elm Street Dog Park Association	Elm St. Dog Park Maintenance and Improvements	5 Cities	\$28,635	10,565
8) One Cool Earth	School Garden Nutrition Education	AG	\$2,000	\$2,000
9) Positive Ride Jams	Creating Adaptive Recreational Experiences	5 Cities	\$7,000	\$7,000
10) Shower the People	Hot Showers for the Homeless	So. SLO County	\$10,000	\$10,000
11) SLO CASA	General CASA Program Support	SLO County	\$5,000	\$5,000
12) TalentDreams	Mentoring Program	AG	\$12,000	\$5,000
			\$124,635	\$82,065

To be eligible to receive funding made available by the allocation of ARPA funds, applicants were asked to demonstrate on their applications how their organizations' finances were negatively impacted by the COVID pandemic. Funding is awarded to those non-profits which directly provide social services, education, cultural, beatification or recreation programs to city residents or businesses. Participation in these 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 furtherance of religious activities. The Committee was cognizant of this requirement and the eligibility criteria for ARPA grant award, and the recommendations identified in Table 1 are consistent with those requirements. The remaining \$25,000 was available to any eligible organization, regardless of the effects of COVID on their financial support.

The Committee prioritized providing funding for organizations that provide services to the unhoused population in our community, and those that benefit children. For example, the

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applications for Shower the People, Arroyo Grande Community Hospital Foundation, indicate that grant funding will be used to provide services for the unhoused in our community. The Assistance League of SLO County, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Boys and Girls Club are examples of organizations recommended for funding that provide support services for children and young adults. The Diversity Coalition was recommended to receive funding because the Committee identified the importance of providing education and training to children about diversity, equity, and inclusion at a young age. 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). The Committee also expressed a preference for awarding grant funding that be used to sustain existing, established programs rather than to start a new program given the uncertainty of future funding opportunities.

Staff recommends that Council approve the CSGP funding recommendations made by the Committee, as detailed in the table above and in the accompanying resolution.

ALTERNATIVES:

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

1. Adopt the proposed Resolution to approve CSGP funding for the programs identified in Attachment 1 for FY 2022-23;
2. Modify and approve CSGP funding for FY 2022-23; 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. Seven applications will receive full funding, five applications will receive partial funding.

DISADVANTAGES:

CSGP funds may only be received if the applications meet the conditions imposed on the federal grant of funds. All proposals meet the conditions attached to the grant award.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

No environmental review is required for this item. 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. (b)(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. FY 2022-23 CSGP Applications