



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 2023-24 and Finding This Action Is Not a Project Under the CEQA, State Guidelines Section 15378

DATE: February 13, 2024

SUMMARY OF ACTION:

Approving the FY 2023-24 Arroyo Grande Community Service Grant Program (CSGP) allocations will assist local non-profit organizations in implementing various service programs that directly benefit Arroyo Grande residents.

IMPACT ON FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL RESOURCES:

A total of \$75,000 is budgeted for the FY 2023-24 CSGP.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

BACKGROUND:

In response to federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding limitations and restrictions, the City established the CSGP in 2014, as a means of providing funding for community service projects separate and apart from the CDBG program. The policy relating to the CSGP was adopted by City Council on September 13, 2014, and is provided as Attachment 2. The FY 2023-24 budget includes \$75,000 for the CSGP.

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Nonprofit organizations that offer specialized social service, educational, cultural, beautification and recreational programs and projects benefiting Arroyo Grande citizens are eligible to receive funding through the program.

A press release was published to notify the public that the application period opened on November 8, 2023, and remained open until December 15, 2023. The City also publicized the program on its social media channels and the City website. Eighteen (18) applications were submitted, requesting a total of \$157,760. For comparison, twelve (12) applications requesting a total of \$124,635 were submitted for last year's program. Applications are reviewed by the CSGP Committee (Committee), which is tasked with developing funding recommendations for the City Council's consideration and approval.

2023 was the first year the Committee was comprised of City Council appointees. Previously, 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. However, at its meeting on [October 25, 2022](#), the City Council approved a new process where each Councilmember would appoint a member to the Committee. This year, the Committee convened on [January 29, 2024](#), to review the applications and make its funding recommendations to Council.

ANALYSIS OF ISSUES:

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

Table 1: CSGP Funding Recommendations

NAME OF NON-PROFIT	PROJECT SUMMARY	AREA SERVED	GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED	PANEL REC.
1) American Legion	Wreaths Across America	AG	\$1,000	\$1,000
2) Assistance League	Operation School Bell	SLO County	\$4,000	\$4,000
3)AGPA – Honoring Emergency Responders	Public Art in Fire Resistive Demonstration Garden	AG	\$10,000	\$0
4) AGPA - Mural	Early AG Farm Life Mural	AG	\$10,000	\$2,000
5) AG Valley Little League	Soto Field Renovations and Scholarship	5 Cities	\$20,000	\$7,000
6) Big Brothers Big Sisters	Mentoring Program	AG	\$7,500	\$5,000

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NAME OF NON-PROFIT	PROJECT SUMMARY	AREA SERVED	GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED	PANEL REC.
7) Boys Girls Club of SLO County	Summer Brain Gain	SLO County	\$7,500	\$5,000
8) Boy Scouts	Expanding Scouting in AG	SLO and SB Counties	\$5,000	\$1,500
9) Camp Arroyo Grande	Nature Discovery Day Field Trips	5 Cities	\$2,000	\$2,000
10) Center for Child and Adolescent Mental Health	Youth Mental Health Peer-to-Peer Support	AG	\$14,000	\$9,500
11) Central Coast Athletics Foundation	Youth track club and scholarships	AG	\$12,000	\$7,000
12) Central Coast Seniors	Central Coast Senior Center	5 Cities	\$5,000	\$4,000
13) Elm Street Dog Park Association	Elm St Dog Park Maintenance & Improvements	5 Cities	\$18,760	\$2,000
14) Hospice SLO County	Grief Counseling and In-home Hospice Volunteers	SLO County	\$6,000	\$5,000
15) Shower the People	Hot Shower for the Homeless	South SLO County	\$10,000	\$9,000
16) SLO CASA	General CASA Program Support	SLO County	\$5,000	\$5,000
17) Senior Nutrition Program/Meals that Connect	Feeding Seniors in AG	SLO County	\$10,000	\$6,000
18) TalentDreams	Mentoring Support Program	SLO County	\$10,000	\$0
			\$157,760	\$75,000

To be eligible to receive funding, the non-profit organizations must directly provide social, educational, cultural, beatification or 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.

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 ultimately placed a priority on funding organizations that provide

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services directly for individuals rather than organizations that provide beautification or enrichment of the community. Specifically, programs that target at-risk youth and seniors were more likely to be recommended to receive grant funding. For example, the Assistance League of SLO County, Big Brothers Big Sisters, SLO Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), and the Center for Child and Adolescent Mental Health are examples of organizations recommended for funding that provide services for at-risk children and young adults through their programs to mentor, support, and clothe this population. The Committee also placed a priority on organizations that encourage and support athletics for children and teenagers because of the values that sports can instill in its participants and the support system it provides from coaches and teammates. Other priority areas identified by the Committee were the senior and unhoused populations. The Central Coast Senior Center and Senior Nutrition Program both provide services that target the senior population in the community.

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).

Staff recommends the City 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 FY 2023-24, as recommended by the Committee;
2. Modify and approve CSGP funding for FY 2023-24; 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 at-risk youth and senior citizens. Sixteen 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 two of the applicants.

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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. (b)(2)-(3), 15378.)

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 2023-24 CSGP Applications