



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: May 16, 2017

Item Number: G-1

To: Honorable Mayor & City Council

From: James R. Latta, Human Services Administrator

Subject: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS LIAISON COMMITTEE FOR ALLOCATION OF COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANT FUNDING (CAGF) FOR FY 2017/18

Attachments:

1. CAGF FY17/18 Funding Requests and Recommendations
2. Social Services Goals, Populations Served, Service Continuum
3. CAGF FY 17/18 Applications and Summaries
4. Proposals for Housing Rights Legal Services

RECOMMENDATION

The Human Relations Council Liaison Committee (Mayor Bosse and Councilmember Mirisch) recommends leveraging Community Assistance Grant Funding (CAGF) to address community and regional challenges faced by homeless individuals, at-risk populations, and older adults. The Human Relations Liaison Committee recommends the following organizations receive grants and/or in-kind funds for a FY 17/18 total budget of \$969,500 plus \$20,000 of in-kind funding (Attachment 1):

- Affordable Living for the Aging
- All Saints' Homeless Assistance
- Bet Tzedek
- Beverly Hills Active Adult Club
- Beverly Hills CPR
- Beverly Hills Education Foundation
- Chiron Center Inc.
- ET TA
- Jewish Family Service
- People Assisting the Homeless (PATH)
- Saban Community Clinic
- Step Up On Second
- The Maple Counseling Center
- Theatre 40
- Wallis Annenberg Center for Performing Arts
- Westside Foodbank

INTRODUCTION

Maintaining a social service safety net is a public service priority stated in the City's General Plan. The City's Community Assistance Grant Funding (CAGF) enables the City to secure partnerships with local social service agencies to support the quality of life of Beverly Hills' residents. The City's safety net creates a continuum of care for the most vulnerable members of the community including active and frail elderly, disabled and low-means residents, and homeless individuals (Attachment 2). The Community Services Department's Human Services Division administers the CAGF program.

- Proposals for fiscal year (FY) 2017/2018 total \$1,295,500, and \$20,000 of in-kind funding.
- An allocation of \$837,000 will maintain the budget at FY 2016/17 levels (\$812,000 budgeted plus \$25,000 enhancement for new cultural grant component)
- Staff recommends the budget be augmented by an additional \$62,500 to expand services from last year for a total budget of \$899,500.
- Council Liaisons endorsed staff's recommendation and proposed an additional \$70,000 be funded.

To prepare for the FY 17/18 funding cycle, the Charitable Solicitations (CSC) and Human Relations (HRC) Commissions worked together with Human Services and Police Department staff to evaluate proposals and recommend programs for funding by City Council. The CSC evaluated the fiscal health of each organization using its solicitations permit criteria. The HRC weighed community needs with the programs proposed using criteria set by the City. The commissions also sought to avoid duplication of services.

DISCUSSION

The City prioritizes funding for services to benefit the most vulnerable members of the community. Active and frail elderly, disabled and low-means residents, and homeless individuals continue to be the primary populations in need of assistance. The City targets services through CAGF that address these populations' special needs.

A total of 19 organizations submitted proposals for funding by the February 3, 2017 RFP deadline. Of the 19 proposals, 12 are from organizations currently funded in FY16/17, one of is an organization that applied in FY 16/17 and was declined and six are from new organizations. Two of the six new applications are for additional social services and the other four applied for the new cultural grant component of the CAGF process. See Attachment 2 for a list of applicant organizations (column [col.] 1), funding history (col. 2) and current requests (col. 7). See Attachment 3 for a summary and an application for each organization including details about the program proposed, agency description and funding history.

FY 17/18 CAGF proposals respond to City priorities and community concerns and can be organized under the following themes:

- **Homeless Services** – All Saints' Episcopal Church (meal program/support services), People Assisting the Homeless (shelter beds), Step Up On Second (mental health and housing), Westside Food Bank (nutrition).
- **Senior Services** – Affordable Living for the Aging (aging-in-place), Beverly Hills Active Adult Club (socialization), Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles (case

- management, emergency services), The Maple Counseling Center (mental health), Bet Tzedek (legal services for seniors).
- **Health & Wellbeing** – Beverly Hills CPR, Chiron Center, Inc. (crisis response), Loving Home Hospice (palliative care for children), The Maple Counseling Center (mental health), Saban Community Clinic (medical, dental), Step Up On Second (case management, mental health), ETTA (advocacy for young adults who are developmentally disabled).
 - **Education** – Beverly Hills Education Foundation (community events).
 - **Cultural Enhancement** – Beverly Hills Theatre Guild, Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, Theatre 40 and Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts.

The proposed social service programs were evaluated based on the criteria listed below. Additionally the CSC utilized their standard Solicitations Permit assessment process to evaluate the fiscal health of each applicant organization.

CAGF Proposal Evaluation Criteria

1. Organization provides services that support the City's commitment to the provision of a social service safety net for the most vulnerable members of the community.
2. Organization provides a unique service that addresses an unmet need of the community and does not duplicate other providers or programs.
3. Organization does not rely solely on community assistance funding to remain viable and the services would cost more to the City if the City provided them directly.
4. Organization provides regional services that enable the City to meet its regional obligation to help ameliorate social issues.
5. Organization is a 501c.3 or in partnership with a 501c.3.

Cultural CAGF Proposal Evaluation Criteria

1. Organization provides a unique service that addresses an unmet need of the community and does not duplicate other providers or programs.
2. Organization does not rely solely on community assistance funding to remain viable and the services would cost more to the City if the City provided them directly.
3. Must be an existing Beverly Hills organization that has demonstrated a history of exemplary cultural opportunities which respond to community needs.

Commission Recommendations

The Charitable Solicitations and Human Relations Commissions appointed ad-hoc committees to review the program proposals (evaluated by the HRC) and each organization's fiscal status (evaluated by the CSC). The ad hocs then met jointly in April 2017 to synthesize their findings and recommendations into one report. The following applicant organizations were invited to a meeting on April 5, 2017 to clarify questions about their proposed program or the financial status of their organization: Bet Tzedek, ETTA, Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity and Beverly Hills Theatre Guild. The final joint ad-hoc report was then presented to the respective commissions at their April formal meetings – Charitable Solicitations on April 12, 2017, Human Relations on April 20, 2017.

At both April formal meetings, the CSC and HRC unanimously approved the recommendations in Attachment 2 (col. 9) to inform the Council Liaisons and City Council decisions on which proposals to fund. The Commissions made the following observations for Council consideration:

Beverly Hills Theatre Guild – The CSC had financial concerns for the Beverly Hills Theatre Guild, and the HRC had concerns about administration and staffing. The two Commissions did not recommend funding.

Bet Tzedek- The HRC and CSC recommended Bet Tzedek for funding. Currently, there is a large, unmet need for legal services for seniors (housing, fraud, conservatorship, elder abuse) in the City.

ETTA- Both the HRC and CSC recommended ETTA for funding, but there was a question if this is a specific need for Beverly Hills or if it is a regional need.

Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity- The HRC and the CSC did not recommend funding. The CSC had financial concerns and the HRC was concerned that this was not a unique service, nor was it fulfilling an unmet need.

Loving Home Hospice for Children- The HRC and CSC did not make a recommendation to fund this organization as their service is not an unmet need, and possibly a duplication of service.

Theatre 40-The HRC and CSC recommended funding Theatre 40 utilizing the new cultural enhancements, although they already received approximately \$85,000 of in-kind funding for their 2017 production of *The Manor – Murder and Madness at Greystone*.

During the discussion at the Council Liaison meeting, it became apparent that tenants in Beverly Hills may now benefit from housing rights legal services due to the updated Rent Stabilization Ordinance. However, tenants may not have the means to access those services. Many organizations in the Los Angeles region provide legal services, but affordable and/or pro bono legal services are extremely limited. The Liaisons recommended an allocation of \$60,000 for housing rights legal services and directed staff to obtain proposals from the Beverly Hills Bar Association, Bet Tzedek and any other reputable legal services in the region (Attachment 4). Staff reached out to the Beverly Hills Bar Association, Bet Tzedek, Public Counsel and Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, and received applications from all organizations except Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles. Staff will need direction on how to vet these applications.

FISCAL IMPACT

The base budget of \$812,000, along with a budget enhancement of \$25,000 for the new cultural component of CAGF continues the funding levels established for FY 16/17. However, in order to incorporate new programs and expand existing ones to meet increasing demand, some existing organizations will experience a reduction in funding if the City wishes to maintain the current budget.

To account for the joint recommendations by the CSC and HRC, the organizations' prior performance, current community needs, and projected demand for services, staff recommended a FY 17/18 CAGF budget of \$899,500. This recommendation requires a new appropriation of \$87,500 (\$20,000 for cultural grants and \$67,500 to increase the FY 17/18 budget).

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Council Liaisons endorsed staff's recommendation and proposed an additional \$70,000 to enhance the cultural budget and to provide \$60,000 for housing rights legal services. The proposed CAGF allocation for FY 2017/18 is \$969,500. Broken down, there's the budgeted \$812,000, and a new appropriation request of \$157,500; \$30,000 for new cultural component plus the Liaison recommended supplement of \$127,500. If approved, these funds will be allocated from the General Fund to enhance services and increase the size of several programs serving populations with growing needs.



Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Director C.S.

Approved By