

STAFF REPORT

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION ON PRIORITIES FOR FY 21/22 COUNCIL SPONSORSHIP FUNDING PROGRAM

Date: August 23rd, 2021
Department: Council Office
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Length: 30 minutes

ISSUE STATEMENT

Last fiscal year, Metro Council established the Council COVID-19 Community Support Fund out of the council sponsorship funds to support local 501c3 non-profits providing direct services in response to the pandemic. Metro staff is seeking Council feedback on what type of sponsorship funding program should be implemented during the current fiscal year.

ACTION REQUESTED

Seeking Council direction on implementation of the Council Sponsorship Funding Program.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

Metro Council has allocated \$34,000 in council sponsorship funding for fiscal year 21/22 and will provide direction on what type of funding program staff should implement.

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

Metro Council could direct staff to proceed with implementing the Council Sponsorship Funding Program with the following options:

- a) Continuing the Council COVID-19 Community Support Fund and maintaining the priority areas identified at the onset of the program.
- b) Continuing the Council COVID-19 Community Support Fund with alternative priority areas identified by council.
- c) Return to pre-pandemic activity by contributing Council sponsorship funds to Metro's general sponsorship fund program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends the Metro Council continue implementation of Council's COVID-19 Community Support Fund with revised funding priority areas.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

1. Known Opposition/support/community feedback

No opposition known at this time.

2. Legal Antecedents

None.

3. Anticipated effects

None.

4. Financial implications

None.

BACKGROUND

At the onset of the pandemic in Spring of 2020, Metro Council decided to focus sponsorship funds to support community organizations responding to the pandemic crisis. Metro Council established the COVID-19 Community Support Fund aimed at supporting 501c3 non-profit community organizations providing immediate direct services that supported public health, economic, housing, food security and educational services. Metro Council identified the following areas to prioritize funding.

Priority Areas:

- Food Stability for the most vulnerable
- Housing Stability and Support (Rent Assistance, Utility Assistance)
- Homeless Services
- Employment Counseling and Aid
- Small Business Economic Recovery Support
- Educational Support for Young Students

Metro Council also prioritized funding to non-profits that serve high-risk/vulnerable populations, supporting non-profits that serve and/or are BIPOC led and ensuring parity in funding across the tri-counties within Metro's service district boundary. The Council Review Team which consists of Councilor Shirley Craddick, Councilor Craig Dirksen (followed by Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal) and Councilor Christine Lewis, reviewed and scored funding requests based on the following qualifiers:

- Explanation of how funds will be used to support COVID-19 relief and recovery efforts in the Metro Region.
- Meeting one or more priorities identified by Metro Council.
- Meeting one or more of the Metro Council's adopted desired outcomes for the region.
- Explanation of how the program supports Metro's value of cultivating diversity, equity and inclusion.

\$17,000 was distributed during each round of funding which included a Fall and Winter Round. Metro Council also authorized an additional \$17,000 out of unspent council funds to conduct a Spring round of funding. The program awarded 47 recipients out of more than 100 requests at a total of \$51,500 with six additional awards contributed from other Metro departments which totaled \$8,000. 19 of the award recipients were BIPOC led and/or serve the BIPOC community. The breakdown of the recipients by priority and service area categories include:

- **Breakdown of Awards:**
 - 4 Educational Support for Young Students
 - 8 Food and Housing Support
 - 24 Food Stability for the most vulnerable
 - 13 Homeless Services
 - 4 Housing Stability and Support

- **Service Area Breakdown**

- 4 Clackamas County
- 9 Multnomah County Specific
- 9 Washington County
- 31 Portland Metro Region

Award recipients were asked to provide status updates of their programs and include any feedback on future needs as a result of the ongoing pandemic. Recipients who responded had indicated the urgency of the funding support which helped sustain services that responded to community needs as a result of the pandemic. Many also indicated the ongoing need to continue these programs in particular those related to food and housing stability and support. This includes food box programs, pantry services, rent and utility assistance programs and direct services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

Many of the programs and services offered by award recipients were indicative of needs at the onset of the pandemic like distributing PPE, implementing social distancing protocols and supporting at-home virtual learning for young students. Although, the uncertainty of the Delta variant and rise in cases may re-prioritize these activities, award recipients have refocused their efforts to other needs.

Some award recipients had indicated shifting current and future programming to support activities like conducting community vaccine clinics and vaccine awareness programs, coordinating the logistics behind providing safe in-person services, offering community-based behavioral and mental health support, job resources and skills training and school supplies drives for young students.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Recipients list of the FY20/21 Council COVID-19 Community Support Fund

B. Memos to Council from Fall, Winter and Spring rounds of the Council COVID-19 Community Support Fund.

For work session:

- Is legislation required for Council action? **No**
- If yes, is draft legislation attached? **N/A**