

COMMUNITY FUNDING GRANT PROGRAM

City Council Policy #CC-01-1996

Effective June 4, 1996



Purpose

To provide guidelines for the award of monetary support to local nonprofit agencies whose programs respond to the human service needs of Menlo Park residents. This funding is not intended for use as the sole support of any agency. All recipients of financial assistance grants enter into a contractual agreement with the City detailing the specific objectives to be accomplished as a result of the grant.

Policy

1. Goals and Philosophy

The City of Menlo Park recognizes that:

- 1.1 The availability of basic human service programs is a key determining factor in the overall quality of life of Menlo Park residents;
- 1.2 The most cost-effective and efficient manner to insure that these services are available to local residents is through the development of agreements with existing nonprofit agencies;
- 1.3 Contractual agreements with nonprofit agencies allow the City to influence the human service programs offered to Menlo Park residents; and
- 1.4 Financial assistance grants demonstrate the City's support of the activities of specific nonprofits and make it possible for these agencies to leverage additional funds that will benefit local residents.

2. Eligibility

- 2.1 All applicants must be formally incorporated nonprofit entities and must be tax exempt (under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code, and Section 2370(d) of the California Revenue and Taxation Code).
- 2.2 All applicants must be agencies based in Menlo Park or agencies that provide services throughout the County of San Mateo who can demonstrate a significant Menlo Park client base.
- 2.3 All applications must provide a service that is not a duplication of an existing public sector program, OR if the service is duplicated, the applicant must show why it is not an unnecessary duplication of service.
- 2.4 All applicants shall maintain accounting records that are in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. The agency must have an independent audit performed at least once every two years.
- 2.5 The agency must have bylaws that define the organization's purposes and functions, its organization and the duties, authority and responsibilities of its governing body and officers.
- 2.6 Governance of the agency should be vested in a responsible and active board that meets at least quarterly and establishes and enforces policies. The board should be large enough and so structured to be representative of the community it serves. It should have a specific written plan for rotation or other arrangements to provide for new members.

- 2.7 The agency must provide for adequate administration of the program to insure delivery of the services. The agency must provide that it has a written job description for each staff position and an organizational chart approved by the board. One individual should be designated as the full time director of the agency.
- 2.8 No less than 85 percent of City funds granted must be used for direct services as opposed to administrative costs.
- 2.9 City grants can represent no more that 20 percent of an applicant's total operating budget.
- 2.10 All recipients agree to actively participate in City efforts to coordinate and to improve human services within the City.
- 2.11 The program described must respond to a verified community need as defined by the City Council:

Disabled. Emphasizes support of programs that will allow the disabled to actively participate in their community and maintain independence from institutional support.

Emergency Assistance and Low Income Support. Emphasizes support of programs that can meet emergency needs for people in crisis such as victims of homelessness, rape, and domestic violence and the basic needs such as food, etc., for low-income residents.

Seniors. Emphasizes support of programs which serve predominantly low income, frail and minority seniors; and those programs which make it possible for seniors to continue to be independent and active community participants.

Youth. Emphasizes support of delinquency prevention services including recreation; crisis and family counseling; substance abuse prevention; child care and acculturation of ethnic minorities.

3. Procedure

Any agency requesting financial assistance must complete the required application and submit it to the Administrative Services Department. The City Council Community Funding Subcommittee is responsible for reviewing all proposals and submitting recommendations for funding to the City Council.

4. Funding

Grants are funded by the General Fund. Each fiscal year, no more than 1.7 percent of general fund property tax will be allocated to the Community Funding Program.