

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2024 Contributions Assistance Program

MEETING DATE: 3/20/2023

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Christopher Lopez, Neighborhood & Family Services Director

THROUGH: Cherlene Penilla, Assistant City Manager, (623) 333-1015

REVIEWED: Ron Corbin, City Manager, (623) 333-1016

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This particular item addresses multiple strategic outcome areas, including:

Community-Oriented Lifelong Learning Opportunities

- Work with community partners to expand employment opportunities for residents through job training and placement programs
- Strengthen education-based partnerships

Connected Community

- Expand community engagement opportunities through volunteerism, civic education and service Public Health and Safety
 - Partner with key stakeholders to implement integrated community health and wellness programs
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PURPOSE:

Staff will provide an update to City Council regarding the Contributions Assistance Program, including an overview of eligibility requirements, funding levels, and evaluation criteria for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024. This item is for discussion and feedback only; no Council action will be taken.

BACKGROUND:

The Contributions Assistance Program was established to provide a supplemental funding source for organizations providing services to residents of the City of Avondale. This program has evolved over time to reflect Council priorities and the financial constraints of the budget. Since 2003, City Council has limited funding to organizations providing health and human services. Organizations must be a designated 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Council Member Malone, Council Member Conde, and Council Member Nielson serve on the Contributions Assistance Program Subcommittee.

In June of 2021, funding was approved by the Avondale City Council for distribution through the U.S. Department of Treasury as a subaward of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF). ARPA funds are meant to help communities address public health and

economic recovery needs related to the COVID-19 crisis, especially non-profits providing direct services to improve the health and welfare of our Avondale residents. As a result, ARPA funds were used to fund the Contributions Assistance Program for the grant period of three (3) years and have been allocated as follows:

- FY2022 \$113,300
- FY2023 \$200,000
- FY2024 \$200,000

In April of 2022, the Avondale City Council also approved increasing the maximum award amount up to \$20,000 per proposal for FY2023 and FY2024.

DISCUSSION:

A staff committee will conduct an initial review of all applications and will forward eligible applications to the Council Subcommittee for their evaluation, selection and determination of funding levels. The following criteria will be used to evaluate and prioritize applications.

1. Provision of direct services which improve the health and welfare of Avondale residents.
2. Current, timely and accurate reports from current recipients.
3. Ability to generate revenue from other sources.
4. Priority will be given to special projects. However, requests for operating support toward direct and measurable services will be considered.
5. Priority will be given to services and initiatives that support and address City Council's goals.
6. Services provided at the Arizona Complete Health Avondale Resource Center will be given priority.
7. Organizations that received funding in the previous fiscal year will participate in a mid-year review and demonstrate satisfactory progress towards stated goals and objectives.
8. All awards should be at or above the minimum amount requested by the organization. The minimum amount is established to provide the organization with adequate funding to effectively complete the project as proposed.
9. Services and initiatives responding to the needs of vulnerable populations affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

BUDGET IMPACT:

Funding for the Contributions Assistance Program is included in the Neighborhood and Family Services department budget. In FY2024, the City is proposing to fund this program, once again, using funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for discussion and feedback only; no Council action will be taken.

Contact person for document distribution: n/a