



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Department Name:** CEO  
**Department No.:** 012  
**For Agenda Of:** February 13, 2018  
**Placement:** Departmental  
**Estimated Time:** 45 minutes  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department           Mona Miyasato, County Executive Office  
Director  
Contact Info:           Terri Nisich, Assistant CEO  
**SUBJECT:**    **Human Services Commission Update**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: NA

Other Concurrence: NA

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: NA

**Recommended Actions:**

- a) Receive report and consider funding and structure options from the County of Santa Barbara Human Services Commission (HSC) and County CEO's Office regarding the HSC FY2018-19 Human Services Commission Grant Funding,
- b) Provide direction on preferred option; and
- c) Find that the proposed actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15278 (b) (4) and 15378 (b) (5) of the CEQA Guidelines because they are governmental fiscal, organizational or administrative activities that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

**Summary Text:**

The Human Services grant program serves a vital role in augmenting the funding annually spent by the County through its departments to the non-profit sector to assist, augment and enhance the social safety net. This item is on the Board of Supervisor's Agenda in order to follow up on direction provided to staff at the January 23, 2018 Board meeting regarding Human Services Commission Grant Funding. This item was discussed by the Board of Supervisors as a component of the Renew 2022 initiative, which seeks to transform County government and evaluate past practices and policies. During the January 23 presentation, the option to suspend, reduce, or re-direct the discretionary general fund Human Services Grant funding was presented as an item for further consideration.

## **Background:**

The Santa Barbara County HSC was established in 1977 to advise the BOS about County human services needs including providing funding recommendations to the BOS. The HSC allocates the County human services funding every three years (except for annual Mini Grants). The all-volunteer Commission is comprised of three Commissioners per Supervisorial District who have experience with human services activities in the County. The Supervisors appoint the Commissioners. Meetings are generally held the first Thursday of every month with sub-committees meeting as necessary. All Commission meetings and standing committee meetings are publicly noticed according to the Brown Act and held at a mid-County location accessible to north and south County participants and interested residents.

The HSC's annual budget is approximately \$1.2 million dollars including administration. One FTE is dedicated to the Human Services Commission and also administers the Commission on Women activities as well as other duties as assigned through the County Executive Office. Funds are granted Countywide to non-profit organizations to serve those in need. In 2015 the Board approved three HSC grant categories; 1) Best Practices for \$450k (basic services with best practices models), 2) Basic Services for \$500k (safety net programs), and 3) Mini Grants (\$60k) for agency capacity building to improve outreach and internal management of service providers.

HSC Categories of funding historically cover the needs of seniors, children, families, homeless, disabled, HIV/AIDS, and victims of abuse. The types of services include: food, shelter, clothing, afterschool programs, counseling and case management, education and job training/placement.

In 2011 the BOS added the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Services funds to the HSC duties. The federal funding is allocated annually and is approximately \$147,000. The funds are allocated to non-profit organizations serving the same needs as the HSC funding. The federal Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) are also reviewed by the HSC when available and are generally between \$120,000 - \$140,000 for a fiscal year.

## **Reviewing Past Practices with Renew '22**

On January 23, 2018, Renew 2022 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for consideration. As part of this presentation the Human Services Grant funding was referenced as an item for further review and listed as a Category 3 – Re-Balancing ideas that involve a change in Board policy or direction. Specifically item 3.3 of the Rebalancing suggestions indicated:

3.3 Human Services Commission suspension, reduction, or re-direction – This would suspend, reduce, or redirect the amount of the Human Services Commission grants that are allocated to community organizations. The Human Services Commission (HSC) was established in 1977 by the Board of Supervisors and advises on development and implementation of effective human services policies and grant funding. The funding for the HSC Community grant program is \$1.2 million in discretionary General Fund that provides for \$1.0 million in grants and \$200,000 in staff costs.

During the Renew 2022 development process the County Executive Office requested that the Human Services Commission provide options for repurposing and restructuring the grant funding. At that juncture the Commission recommended that, if full funding was not restored, the \$60,000 in mini grant funding

referenced above could be repurposed. The Human Services Commission also discussed budget options for the next Human Services 3-year funding cycle FY 2018-20 and is prepared to develop additional options the Board of Supervisors may direct, if needed.

### **Options**

Multiple options are available to the Board of Supervisors regarding the suspension, repurposing and redirection of this discretionary general fund program. The Board may keep the program status quo or take any of the following actions:

- Reduce funding
- Redirect funding for County-provided services
- Continue with a 3-year NOFA
- Publish a 1-year NOFA (HSC recommends extension of current grantees over publishing a single-year NOFA)
- Delay the NOFA and extend current grantees in some amount to be determined
- Some combination of these

A one-year NOFA or an extension of existing grantees for one year would provide greater flexibility given the County's financial situation and review of needs. In addition, the Renew '22 process with the health and human service departments may yield a different emphasis regarding needs in the community, and could result in partnering opportunities with the philanthropic and foundation community to better align resources for greater impact.

Current options developed by staff are as follows:

**Option 1 (status quo):** Publish a 3 year cycle Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) in early February for the full funding to meet human services needs countywide.

**Option 2 (eliminate by 5%; 3-year NOFA):** Eliminate the Mini Grants (5%, or \$60,000, of total budget) and publish a new 3 year NOFA supporting Basic Services and Best Practices grantees for the new 3 year funding cycle FY2018-2020.

**Option 3 (eliminate by 5%; 1 year NOFA):** Eliminated the Mini Grants (as stated above) but publish a one year NOFA supporting Basic Services and Best Practices grantees. HSC prefers not to publish a NOFA for a single year due to the time commitment and current NOFA delay.

**Option 4 (extend existing grantees; delay NOFA):** Extend existing grantees for **one year** (either in whole or in part, depending on funding amounts and HSC funding recommendations to BOS) and revisit a new NOFA next year. This would benefit existing grantees and give the County greater flexibility to assess its situation next year.

**Options 5 (redirect 100% grant to fund County-provided safety net services; no NOFA):** Redirect Humans Services Grant Program funding in its entirety and fund County-provided health and human services program and positions. If the full grant were allocated to specific County programs, the following are examples of the services and positons that could be funded

- Child Welfare Workers (5 FTE annually)
- Eligibility Workers/Case Managers (8 FTE annually)

- Social Workers (5 FTE annually)
- Forensic Mental Health Recovery Center (8.3 Beds Annually)

**Option 6 (redirect 50% grant and continue 50% grant; 1-year NOFA):** Redirect 50% of the Humans Services Grant Program funding to County-provided health and human services program and positions and 50% of funding to Basic Services and Best Practices grantees. Publish a 1-year NOFA and assess next year if the grant portion can be increased.

**Option 7 (any combination):** Maintain, reduce or redirect the Human Services grant funds by some other amount and publish a one to three year NOFA and ask the HSC to return to the Board with funding recommendations.

For all options but Option 5, a staff person would still be needed to manage and oversee the Human Services grants program and Women's Commission. For Option 5, some portion of an FTE still would be required to continue to staff the Women's Commission.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Human Services Commission Funding is contained within the FY 17/18 operating budget. The grant is at the end of the 3 year funding cycle.

**Attachments:**

- A. Best Practices and Basic Services Grants FY2015-2017
- B. Mini Grants FY 2017-18

**Authored by:**

Susan Foley, Humans Services Grant Coordinator