



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:** Community Services  
**Department No.:** 057  
**For Agenda Of:** April 2, 2024  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:** N/A  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Jesús Armas, Community Services Director (805-568-2467)  
Director  
Contact Info: Sarah York Rubin, Office of Arts & Culture Executive Director  
(805-568-3992)

**SUBJECT:** County of Santa Barbara Racial Equity Grant Program Award Disbursement  
Recommendations

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

- a) Receive and file an interim report from Fund for Santa Barbara, Inc. (“The Fund”) regarding its administration of the County’s Racial Equity Grant Program and grant award recommendations.
- b) Approve and authorize The Fund for Santa Barbara to disburse the County of Santa Barbara’s Racial Equity Grant Program funds to selected applicants (Attachment A) through June 30, 2025, and in accordance with the Regranting Agreement between the County and The Fund, executed on November 7, 2023.
- c) Determine that the recommended actions are not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act under CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5), because they consist of administrative activities that will not result in a direct or indirect physical change to the environment; and CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(4) because they consist of government fiscal activities that do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant impact on the environment.

**Summary Text:**

This item is before the Board of Supervisors (Board) to approve and authorize the Fund for Santa Barbara, Inc. (“The Fund”) to enter into contracts disbursing Racial Equity funds to the seven recommended grant applicants listed in Attachment A. Individual grant award amounts range from \$7,500 to \$60,000 for one year. The funding available for this program is \$275,000, which was appropriated by the Board during the FY 23-24 Budget Hearings.

The County of Santa Barbara Racial Equity Grant Program is aimed at effecting the culture, policy, and systems changes necessary to advance racial equity and justice. The program provides funding to invest in and strengthen organizations that actively support anti-discrimination, as well as communities marginalized by power structures.

**Background:**

At the June 16, 2023 budget hearings, the Board unanimously authorized a \$275,000 appropriation of funds to be disbursed through an equity grant cycle administered by The Fund. On November 7, 2023, the Board approved the contract with The Fund to administer the grant program (Attachment B). The contract included the condition that final award recommendations be presented to the Board for final approval prior to The Fund entering into contracts with selected grantees.

The Fund released a request for proposals on November 13, 2023, and offered a corresponding informational workshop. The applications were received and reviewed by The Fund’s Grant Making Subcommittee, and final recommendations were approved by The Fund’s Board of Directors on February 11, 2024. Upon Board of Supervisors approval, The Fund will enter into grant agreements with the seven selected recipients (Attachment A). Grant award amounts range from \$7,500 to \$60,000 and will be for one year. All funding must be disbursed no later than June 30, 2025.

For fulfillment of the contract, The Fund is receiving an administrative fee of \$41,250, which will be deducted from the \$275,000 in equity funds. The first administrative payment of \$18,563 has been issued. It encompassed the following work items: announcing the grant program; holding grant workshops; receiving application submissions; compiling summaries of the applications; and disseminating submissions to reviewers. A second administrative payment of \$18,562 will be issued upon the Board’s approval of The Fund’s grant recommendations as well as the County’s receipt of an interim report (Attachment C) providing an update on the status of the previous grant cycle’s projects. This payment will also include the \$233,750 regranting allocation, which The Fund will disburse directly to grantees. The third and final installment of \$4,125 will be paid to The Fund following disbursement of all regranting funding and the completion of a final report, which will include reports from the grantees.

**Organizations Recommended for Funding:**

For the Racial Equity Grant Program, \$233,750 in funding was available, and the maximum request amount was \$100,000. Twenty organizations submitted applications, requesting a total of \$1,248,130. Seven organizations were recommended for grant awards by The Fund: C4 Collective Cultures Creating Change-Lompoc, NAACP Santa Barbara, One Community Action of Santa Maria Valley, Santa Barbara Asian American Pacific Islander Solidary Network, Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee, Santa Barbara, Healing Justice Santa Barbara, and Gateway Educational Services.

<b>ORGANIZATION RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING</b>	<b>AMOUNT REQUESTED</b>	<b>AMOUNT RECOMMENDED</b>	<b>USE OF GRANT FUNDS (Descriptions provided by grant applicants)</b>
C4 Culture Collectives Creating Change-Lompoc	\$90,865	\$54,570	“Support the implementation and stabilization of the Self Healing Communities project, to begin to address the unrecognized and untreated trauma in the Lompoc community.”
NAACP Santa Barbara	\$7,500	\$7,500	“Funds will be used to make the day free for all Black women and youth in Santa Barbara who want to attend” (Black Women's Health Equity Conference and Non-Violence Response Training for Youth)
One Community Action of Santa Maria Valley	\$80,000	\$30,000	“Pay for ongoing work to support victims and survivors of hate incidents and hate crimes (e.g. racism, discrimination, violence).”
Santa Barbara Asian American Pacific Islander Solidarity Network (SBAAPISN)	\$58,817	\$18,380	“Support AAPI community cultural celebration along with education about how the original Chinatown was dismantled to make way for a cohesive Spanish Colonial Revival style plan.”

Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee, Santa Barbara	\$48,300	\$48,300	“Will support Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee's programs expansion, hiring both a part time Administrative Assistant and a part time Coordinator.”
Healing Justice Santa Barbara (HJSB)	\$60,000	\$60,000	“Support our general operating costs, specifically staff and office rent... Preservation of Black Legacy; General Operations for Healing Justice SB
Gateway Educational Services	\$15,000	\$15,000	“Support the costs of monthly parent advisory council meetings, two town halls, and financial preparedness workshops.”

The Fund’s

recommendations for the County of Santa Barbara Racial Equity Grant Awards (Attachment A) contains all proposals, grant funding requests, recommended grant awards, duration of grant disbursement, project descriptions, and proposed use of grant funds for each of the 20 program applicants.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:** ["Double Click to see Funding Source Instructions"](#)

Narrative: The funding available for this program was included in the Community Services Department FY 23-24 Adopted Budget.

**Special Instructions:**

Please send a copy of the minute order to Eder Gaona-Macedo at [egaona@fundforsantabarbara.org](mailto:egaona@fundforsantabarbara.org) and Sarah York Rubin at [srubin@countyofsb.org](mailto:srubin@countyofsb.org)

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: The Fund for Santa Barbara: Recommendations for the County of Santa Barbara Racial Equity Grant Awards

Attachment B: Executed Contract with The Fund for Santa Barbara

Attachment C: Racial Equity Grant: Second Cycle Interim Report

**Authored by:**

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 Sarah York Rubin, Exec. Director, County Office of Arts & Culture  
 Ashley Watkins, Division Chief, County Sustainability