

County of Santa Barbara

Funding Requests from Outside Agencies
3.15.16

County Executive Office



Summary

- Unallocated, discretionary GF availability per Board
- Non-County agencies or “outside agencies” may request
- Two categories:
 - Human Services (HSC) Requests (food, clothing, safety net)
 - Other Requests (business, economic development, tourism)
- Requests are often last-minute, informal
- Options to improve the process

Background

- Funding Varies
- Since FY 2010-11: outside agencies received \$189,100 - \$500,000 (\$64,000 avg. grant)
- HSC 3-year cycle through NOFA process, \$1.2M/year
- Historically not been for HSC; the increase due to:
 - Availability of supplemental funding
 - Refined HSC process: outcome focused, fewer funded
- Improvement: process, information to Board, notice to agencies and submittal deadlines

Current Process

- Agencies write a letter to County outlining needs
- No formal application or review process
- No definitive timeline or criteria
- County staff prepare contracts and ensure goals met
- Board has flexibility to assist (i.e. unexpected needs)

Option 1

Continue existing process, post information early and enforce deadline on submissions

- Flexibility
- Request additional info at workshops or hearings
- Funding dependent on availability
- Deadline enforced for review by Board, April workshops
- Lack of in-depth staff review
- Agencies may circumvent process
- May diminish oversight

Option 2

Require all requests be reviewed by HSC or CEO, post information early and enforce deadline on submissions

- Increased level of review
- Improved alignment with HSC, still outside HSC process
- Increased info provided to Board at workshops or hearings
- Funding dependent on availability
- Deadline enforced for review by Board, April workshops
- Not an intensive NOFA review

Option 3

Defined level of GF in FY 2016-17, require NOFA using HSC and CEO. Recommendations to Board at/before hearings

- Funding specific to HSC and CEO for requests
- NOFA issued in spring 2016 for supplemental funds
- HSC continue with current grant process, 3-year cycle begins again FY 2018-19
- Potentially provide additional \$275k
- Require all requests submitted through this process
- Remove flexibility of requests for unplanned/unexpected needs, Staff intensive
- Deadline for submittal April 8th

Recommended Actions

Receive a report and provide direction to staff regarding options to address funding requests from outside agencies during the budget process:

Option 1: Continue existing process; post early and enforce deadline for submission; or

Option 2: Require outside agency requests to be reviewed by the Human Services Commission (HSC) and CEO's Office or departments; or

Option 3: Direct a defined level of General Funds for all outside agency requests; require requests be evaluated through a formal Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) process; or

Provide other direction to staff as appropriate