To: Ande Banks, City Manager
From: Luke Morgan, Grants and Programs Analyst
Date: October 17, 2023
RE: Civic and Community Organization Grant Potential Funding Categories and Request Caps

Summary:

Consideration of establishment of funding categories and funding request caps for the Civic and Community Organization Grant.

Background:

City Council has expressed interest in establishing funding categories for the Civic and Community Organization grant. Additionally, the grant program faces several challenges which could be mitigated by the creation of a cap on individual organization funding requests. The Civic and Community Organization Grant application is released in December, with an application deadline per City Code of January 30. If City Council wishes for the upcoming grant cycle to incorporate funding categories and funding request caps as part of the application process, City staff will need time to modify the forthcoming grant announcement and application materials to include the changes.

Key Issues:

This memorandum outlines for City Council's consideration and further discussion one recommendation for funding categories and one recommendation for funding request caps.

Funding Categories Recommendation

The recommended funding categories would cluster applications by the general type of services/program that would be funded by the grant.

- Mental and Physical Health

  Category includes programs such as:
    o Services for mental health, physical health, dental care
    o Affordable substance use and addiction services
    o Access to healthy, nutritious food
    o Access to recreational opportunities

- Housing and Homelessness

  Category includes programs such as:

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- o Housing and services for homeless individuals, families, and children
- o Creation of and preservation of affordable housing
- o Basic safety net services including emergency shelter

- Inclusive and Welcoming

  Category includes programs such as:
  - o Services and resources targeted to support immigrants and refugees
  - o Community events and activities that recognize Harrisonburg's cultural, racial, and social diversity

- Arts and Culture

  Category includes programs such as:
  - o Community events and activities that encourage interaction among residents
  - o Programs that encourage, develop and facilitate an enriched environment of artistic, creative and cultural activity

- Youth Supports

  Category includes programs such as:
  - o Affordable childcare
  - o School readiness for young children
  - o College or workplace readiness for youth
  - o Safe spaces for you after school or out-of-school

- Other

Funding Request Cap Recommendation

The recommended funding request cap would cap individual organizations' funding requests at either 5% of the organization's operating budget or $30,000, whichever is less. While organizations could request the maximum amount allowed under the cap, applications would still be scored using the Evaluation Committee's rubric and funding recommendations would be developed using the existing process.

Environmental Impact:

N/A

Fiscal Impact:

N/A

Prior Actions:

N/A

Alternatives:

a) Establish funding categories and a funding request cap

b) Do not establish funding categories or a funding request cap

c) Establish funding categories and do not establish a funding request cap

d) Establish a funding request cap and do not establish funding categories

Community Engagement:

None

Recommendation:

a) Establish funding categories

b) Establish a funding request cap of 5% of an organization's operating budget or $30,000, whichever is less

Attachments:

PowerPoint Presentation