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Clackamas County
www.clackamas.us

2023 CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Sitting/Acting as (if applicable)

Policy Session Worksheet

Presentation Date: 9/15/26

Approx. Start Time: 10:30 AM

Approx. Length: 30 min

Presentation Title: Small Grants Program Review

Department: County Administration

Presenters: Caroline Hill, Policy Advisor

WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD?

Informational update only.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Clackamas County is fortunate to host many nonprofit and community-based organizations serving the most vulnerable residents, specifically those who may not qualify for traditional County-sponsored services. They are often volunteer-led and have very limited budgets. The Board of County Commissioners has received and continues to receive regular requests throughout the year for funding to assist these community-based organizations.

In 2008, in response to the increasing frequency of these requests, the Board created the Small Grants program. The County solicited for applications annually, offering criteria by which to apply and an equal opportunity to the organizations by widely publicizing the program. The first year of the program, \$200,000 of County General Funds (CGF) were allocated by the Budget Committee.

The program continued for 14 years. Unfortunately, due to budget constraints, the Board eliminated the program in 2023.

To date, the Small Grants program has distributed \$3,250,000 to fund 472 grants. These dollars have covered food for many food pantries, capital and safety improvements to many organizations' facilities, increased accessibility to services, by providing rides and translation services, among others.

Here are a few examples of past grant awards:

- Community Warehouse –\$7,500 in 2021. The grant allowed them to increase the number of appointments from 6 to 8 per day, which resulted in serving up to 10 additional households per week.
- The Father's Heart –\$12,657 in 2021. They used the dollars to purchase technology that their Day Center guests would use to provide education on basic life skills, employment skills, and basic business and technology training. As of July of 2021, 134 transitional housing participants have found permanent housing.
- Oregon City Farmers Market –\$5,000 in 2021. Oregon City Farmers Market has partnered with OSU Extension, WIC, the American Heart Association, Clackamas County and OnPoint Credit Union to provide an activity for children to learn about Oregon agriculture. With this program each child receives a wooden token to purchase fresh produce. The grant allowed them to increase the token value from \$2 to \$3. As of July of 2021, a total of 839 children participated in this program.

Below is a summary of the allocated County General Fund (CGF) set aside for this program:

Year	Total Allocated	Applications	Total Request Value
2009	\$200,000	40	\$891,382
2010	\$200,000	46	\$686,687
2011	\$200,000	56	\$797,386.64
2012	\$200,000	64	\$697,748.45
2013	\$200,000	75	\$874,539
2014	\$200,000	88	\$878,887
2015	\$250,000	90	\$725,096.40
2016	\$250,000	69	\$711,084.64
2017	\$250,000	71	\$730,830.69
2018	\$300,000	111	\$1,140,831.40
2019	\$250,000	95	\$949,951.44
2020	\$250,000	78	\$873,411
2021	\$250,000	69	\$759,990
2022	\$250,000	64	\$831,233

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (current year and ongoing):

Is this item in your current budget? ☐ YES ☒ NO

What is the cost? \$

What is the funding source?

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- How does this item align with your Department's Strategic Business Plan goals?
- How does this item align with the County's Performance Clackamas goals?

If program were to be reinstated it would align with Safe, Secure and Livable Communities, Vibrant Economy and Healthy People Strategic Plan goals

LEGAL/POLICY REQUIREMENTS:

N/A

PUBLIC/GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION:

N/A

OPTIONS:

Information only

RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval _____

Department Director/Head Approval _____

County Administrator Approval _____

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact __Caroline Hill @ 503-655-8261
