



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: May 24, 2011

To: Honorable Mayor & City Council

From: James Latta, L.C.S.W., Human Services Administrator

Subject: Recommendations of the Human Relations Commission Ad Hoc Committee for Allocation of Community Assistance Grant Funding (CAGF) for FY 2011/12

Attachment:

1. CAGF Binder FY 2011/12:
 - Table 1: CAGF FY 2011/12 spreadsheet:
 - CAGF Application Summaries
 - CD: CAGF Applications FY 2011/12

INTRODUCTION

Maintaining an adequate social services safety net is a public service policy stated in the City's General Plan. Funds for the community assistance grant fund program come from the General Fund for services the City does not or cannot provide directly to the community's at-risk population including the homeless, active and frail elderly, disabled and low-means residents. While many cities provide these services directly, the City contracts with agencies to provide services targeted specifically to the needs of the local community.

The Human Relations Commission Ad Hoc committee, Councilmember John A. Mirisch (for Mayor Brucker) and Councilmember Lili Bosse, met on April 25, 2011 to review applications and recommend community assistance grant funding allocations for FY 2011/12.

- Community assistance grant funds available for FY 2011/12 were projected as **\$328,150**.
- Community assistance grant funding **requests for fiscal year 2011/12 total \$941,308** (*includes \$50,000 for BH CPR, formerly not included in CAGF funds; and a \$350,000 request from PATH for purchase of permanent housing.*)
- In FY 2010/11, City Council elected to close the gap between available grant funds and requests for funding by utilizing holiday and marketing funds. The Ad Hoc recommendations for FY 2011/12 reflect consideration of utilizing \$220,000 in TOT funding to close the current gap.

DISCUSSION

Although applications for funding are considered annually, many applicants have long histories with the City and an expectation that funding will continue at prior, or even higher, levels every year. However, over the years, there have been changes in recipients such as a move from the arts toward services for our seniors and chronically mentally ill homeless to address dramatically increased needs. In addition, funding criteria has consistently required that an agency not rely solely on community assistance funding to remain viable. Coordinated and collaborative services that leverage additional funds to assist in service provision have been viewed positively due to their potential to provide more comprehensive service than a provider with greater reliance on City support. Finally, funding criteria focuses on the extent of citizen benefit from the services.

Fiscal Year 2011/12 Applications

The City received 17 requests for funding from 13 agencies. Three applications are from applicants who applied last year but did not receive funding from the City. One application is a first time request. See Attachment 1: *Table 1: Community Assistance Grant Funding binder with enclosed Table 1: Community Assistance Grant Funding FY 2011/12 spreadsheet.*

The applications for FY 2011/12 fall into four broad categories, At-Risk and Homeless People, Senior Services, Health, and Education:

Funding requests represent a number of areas of community interest/concern as listed below:

- **At-Risk and Homeless People** – All Saints Homeless Assistance Program, New Directions, Inc., People Assisting the Homeless (shelter beds and permanent housing), Westside Food Bank
- **Senior Services** – Beverly Hills Active Adult Club, Jewish Family Service (JFS), The Maple Counseling Center.
- **Health** – Beverly Hills CPR, Saban Free Clinic, Venice Family Clinic, The Maple Counseling Center (low-cost counseling services), Jewish Family Service (crisis response counseling), Chiron Inc. (crisis response counseling)
- **Education** – Beverly Hills Education Foundation, Jeanine Horowitz Education and Literacy Foundation

Consideration of Allocation of Funds for FY 2011/12

Historically, applicants have been considered based on the following general criteria:

1. Organization provides services that support the City's commitment to the provision of a social service safety net for the most vulnerable members of the community.
2. Organization provides a unique service that addresses an unmet need of the community and does not duplicate other providers or programs

3. Organization does not rely solely on community assistance funding to remain viable and the services would cost more to the City if the City provided them directly.
4. Organization provides regional services that enable the City to meet its obligation to help ameliorate regional social issues.
5. Organization is a 501c.3 or in partnership with a 501c.3.

As a result of the economic downturn and the increasing needs of our aging population, funding for social services has dropped as the demand has increased. In addition, Human Services has seen an escalation of calls directly from residents for assistance for the elderly and at-risk individuals and concerns about the dire conditions of mentally ill homeless men and women on the streets of the City.

The Ad Hoc committee formulated their recommendations by considering two perspectives described in options A & B below and decided on the allocations to the selected organizations based on their focus of providing food, care, and shelter to the most needy and vulnerable members of the community: See *Table 1: Community Assistance Grant Funding FY 2011/12* for Ad Hoc committee's recommendations.

Option A

1. Allocate funds only to last year's recipients.
2. Funding allocations would be the same as in FY 2010/11.

Option B

1. Fund one of the crisis response team proposals (JFS-\$36,000; Chiron, Inc-\$24,000) by allocating additional funds or by decreasing allocations of some recipients and offering in-kind services as a substitution, for example:
 - All Saints Homeless Assistance Program - (donations)
 - Beverly Hills Active Adult Club – (fund-raising assistance)
 - BHEF - (street closures and fees associated with two or more fund-raising events)
 - Beverly Hills CPR – (space at City Hall)
 - The Maple Counseling Center - (venue/annual film event)
 - Westside Food Bank – (increased food drives)

FISCAL IMPACT

The proposed CAGF budget of \$328,150 includes \$157,950 from the General Fund and City Council's recommendation for the addition of a *minimum* of \$170,200 from the holiday and marketing fund. The Ad Hoc committee formulated their recommendations based on *potential* funds from the TOT of \$200,000.

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At a subsequent meeting of the CVB/Marketing Liaison ad hoc committee on May 5, 2011, Vice Mayor Brien and Councilmember Mirisch recommended an allocation of \$220,000 for community assistance grant funding.

RECOMMENDATION

After careful consideration of all requests, the Ad Hoc committee recommended the following organizations receive community assistance grant funding as indicated on the last column of *Table 1: Community Assistance Grant Funding FY 2011/12 Liaison Rec 2011/12 Allocation:*

- All Saints Homeless Assistance Program
- Beverly Hills Active Adult Club
- Jewish Family Service (service to seniors; no crisis response)
- The Maple Counseling Center
- People Assisting The Homeless (shelter beds for CLASP; no housing grant or operating costs)
- Saban Free Clinic
- Westside Food Bank

In addition, the following applicants received provisional support pending clarification of financial reports and the status of the transition of, and the in-kind support provided for, Beverly Hills CPR to progress to an independently-operated entity:

- Beverly Hills Education Fund
- BH CPR

New Applicant:

Chiron, Inc. submitted an application to provide crisis response services to the Beverly Hills community. Formerly associated with The Maple Counseling Center, Chiron seeks to provide services independently. Their request includes both funding and in-kind support.

The Ad Hoc recommendation included funding if funds were available. With the additional TOT funds, it is possible to allocate up to \$20,000. If funding is approved, the in-kind request would include consideration of availability of City space in light of the impact of the scheduled library construction on rooms suitable for their needs and the value of in-kind services.


Nancy Hunt-Coffey
Approved By

Attachment
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