

INDIAN WELLS CITY COUNCIL

November 7, 2024



To: City Council
From: City Manager Department
Prepared by: Catherine Manning, Management Assistant
Subject: **Grants-in-Aid Committee Recommendations for FY 2024-25 Grants-in-Aid Program Funding**

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Council **APPROVES** Grants-in-Aid Committee funding recommendations totaling \$156,832.70 for the organizations listed in this staff report for Fiscal Year 2024-25; and

AUTHORIZES and **DIRECTS** the City Manager to execute contracts for same; and

FINDS the action exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review under CEQA guidelines section 15061(b)(3).

BACKGROUND:

The City recognizes the importance of community-based organizations and/or groups, and the vital role they play in providing essential services to the Coachella Valley. To assist these organizations in meeting their service needs, the City developed its Grants-in-Aid program to provide financial assistance during years of financial surplus. To assist the City in dispersing those funds, the City formed its Grants-in-Aid Committee ("Committee") consisting of a broad-based cross section of informed and dedicated residents who review and analyze requesting agencies' funding requests and make recommendations on the annual allocation of funding to the City Council during those surplus years.

Funding for the City's Grants-in-Aid program is vetted each year through the City Council budget cycle. Per Resolution 2017-04, the amount of community assistance funding is a maximum of twenty-five percent (25%) of the prior year's General Fund's Net Change in Fund Balance using year end estimates established during the last quarter of each fiscal year, not to exceed \$160,000 during each budget year. While the city is still finalizing the audit cycle, Fiscal Year 2023-24 is estimated to end with a \$1.2 million surplus. Therefore, per the City's policy, the maximum amount of \$160,000 is available to be allocated through the Grants-in-Aid program for Fiscal Year 2024-25.

Analysis:

In August, the city hosted two education sessions for interested organizations to learn about the Grants-in-Aid program. Staff provided an overview of the program guidelines and application process and answered attendee questions.

The Grants-in-Aid program gives tax-exempt, non-profit organizations under Section 501(c)(3) with at least 5 years in business the opportunity to apply for funding to assist with community assistance and services provided to the Coachella Valley. Eligible requests include expansion of initial service programs, the addition of a new service or program or special project, or the purchase of specific items, not related to start-up costs, but necessary to providing services. Funding cannot be used for staffing or salaries, fundraising, sponsorships, start-up costs, administrative or overhead expenses.

The Grants-in-Aid Committee reviewed each application to ensure they met the program guidelines and to understand their funding request. The Grants-in-Aid Committee met on October 8, 2024, to discuss funding recommendations for 29 Grants-in-Aid requests totaling \$331,484.08. After reviewing all 29 applications, the Grants-in-Aid Committee is recommending funding 19 of the 29 applicants for a total of \$156,832.70.

Recommended Organizations for Funding:

The Grants-in-Aid Committee recommends the City Council allocate the \$160,000 in available funding to the following organizations:

Alzheimer's Coachella Valley: recommended funding of **\$8,000** for a Client Safety and Communication Program to keep clients healthy and respond to emergency situations.

Angel View: recommended funding of **\$12,926** for housing for people with disabilities.

Assistance League Coachella: recommended funding of **\$10,000** for the Operation School Bell Program to help children succeed through services for clothes, hunger, supplies, health, and literacy.

Big Brothers Big Sisters: recommended funding of **\$10,000** one-to-one youth mentoring in Mecca.

California Scottish Rite Foundation: recommended funding of **\$10,000** to support their Speech-Language Therapy Program at the RiteCare Childhood Language Center.

Coachella Valley Housing Coalition: recommended funding of **\$5,000** for an after-school program to increase the opportunities to engage in educational, recreational, and leadership activities for low-income, at-risk children and youth.

Desert Access and Mobility: recommended funding of **\$15,000** for transportation for low-income and disadvantaged individuals, seniors, and disabled person.

Desert Arc: recommended funding of **\$12,000** to purchase eight critically needed front load dumpsters with wheels and lock bar safety mechanisms for its shredding and recycling center, and 32 new regal ergo cabinets for document shredding.

Food Now: recommended funding of **\$10,000** for the “Fuel for Success – Weekend Meals for Hungry Kids” Program that provides 240 chronically hungry children with nutritious food to sustain them over the weekend.

Family YMCA of the Desert: recommended funding of **\$6,000** for Automated External Defibrillators at eight program sites.

First Tee Coachella Valley: recommended funding of **\$10,000** to maintain and grow its in-school, after-school and community programs.

Foundation on Aging: recommended funding of **\$5,000** for twenty-five-dollar (\$25) grocery market gift cards for distribution to seniors in need in the Coachella Valley.

John F. Kennedy Memorial Foundation: recommended funding of **\$6,175.70** for the expansion of three new schools, providing 21 programs in 20 schools, serving 450 girls, including 55 seniors.

Rotary Club of Coachella East: recommended funding of **\$5,000** to support the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Program.

Shay’s Warrior: recommended funding of **\$7,750** to build awareness around men’s health by sharing and connecting in a supportive and safe community.

SongShine Foundation: recommended funding of **\$5,000** to expand to serve 150 participants and their caregivers in both in-person and Zoom class settings.

Tools for Tomorrow: recommended funding of **\$5,121** to provide a monthly arts experience for the children and their families of Hanson House.

United Cerebral Palsy: recommended funding of **\$8,860** to support the UCPIE Para-Karate Program. UCPIE Para-Karate Program is an opportunity for individuals with disabilities to excel in a competitive sport proving they can live their life without limits.

Voices for Children: recommended funding of **\$5,000** to support our Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program in Indian Wells. Voices for Children transforms the lives of abused, abandoned, or neglected youth in foster care.

Each organization that will receive funding is required to execute a Funding Agreement with the City documenting the authorized use of funds and will, at the conclusion of the Fiscal Year, provide the City with a report on how the funds were utilized and the impact those dollars had on the organization and the community it serves.

OPTIONS:

City Council options:

1. Approve the Grants-in-Aid Committee's recommendation to allocate Grants-in-Aid funding as outlined in this staff report; or
2. Provide alternative direction.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No supplemental appropriation required. The Grants-in-Aid Program utilizes funds allocated within the Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA):

The action is not a project within the meaning of Section 15378 of the State of California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") Guidelines, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change in the environment, directly or indirectly; and that the action is nonetheless exempt from the requirements of CEQA in that the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (14 CCR 15061(b)(3).)

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Grants in Aid Funding Allocation Spreadsheet