

INDIAN WELLS CITY COUNCIL

November 3, 2022



To: City Council
From: City Manager Department
Prepared by: Kristen Nelson, Senior Management Analyst
Subject: **Grants-in-Aid Committee Recommendations for FY 2022-23 Grants-in-Aid Program Funding**

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Council **APPROVES** Grants-in-Aid Committee funding recommendations totaling \$159,256 for the organizations listed in this staff report for Fiscal Year 2022-23; and

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

DISCUSSION:

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 2021-22 is estimated to end with a \$2.5 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 2022-23.

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 11, 2022, to discuss funding recommendations for 28 Grants-in-Aid requests totaling \$260,506. After reviewing all 28 applications, the Grants-in-Aid Committee is recommending funding 22 of the 28 applicants for a total of \$159,256.

Recommended Organizations for Funding:

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

American Friends of the Armed Forces: recommended funding **\$10,000** for the transportation of approximately 400 Marines from their Base to their Host Families and back for the Adopt a Marine for Thanksgiving Program.

Assistance League Coachella Valley: recommended funding **\$10,000** for Operation School Bell, a program focused on providing clothing and hygiene supplies to socioeconomically disadvantaged students in the Palm Springs, Desert Sands and Coachella Valley School Districts.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Desert: recommended funding **\$10,000** to expand the capacity/reach of the One-to-One Youth Mentoring Program which serves children between the ages of 6 to 18.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley: recommended funding **\$10,000** to provide 100 annual youth memberships for disadvantaged families.

Children's Charity of the Desert: recommended funding **\$10,000** for Variety's Freedom, Future and Care Programs which provide a wide variety of services for

economically disadvantaged children (newborns to 18 years) with special needs or those at-risk of developmental concerns.

Desert Arc: recommended funding **\$10,906** for the purchase of one (1) three-door freezer and one (1) convection oven for the Pathways to Employment Program's Cafeteria Services Academy which provides culinary arts training for adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Desert Best Friend's Closet: recommended funding **\$5,000** for the Interview Attire Program which provides interview appropriate outfits to 50 homeless clients referred from CVRM, Martha's, Safehouse of the Desert, and the Transitional Aged Youth Center.

Desert Cancer Foundation: recommended funding **\$5,000** for the Patient Assistance Program which provides financial assistance to cancer patients who are uninsured, underinsured, or lack sufficient funds to cover the cost of cancer care and treatment.

Elder Love: recommended funding **\$5,000** toward costs associated with providing in-home caregiving services to low- and moderate-income seniors.

FIND Food Bank: recommended funding **\$10,000** for their Mobile Markets which provide food to Indian Wells seniors at Mountain View Villas and Indian Wells Villas twice per month.

First Tee Coachella Valley: recommended funding **\$10,000** to expand their First Tee school programs to all 16 Palm Springs Unified School District elementary schools in addition to the 15 Desert Sands Unified School District schools already served.

Food Now (AKA: Family Services of the Desert): recommended funding **\$10,000** for the Food Assistance Program: Health Eating, Health Communities which provides free food to thousands of low-income families and individuals in the western Coachella Valley.

Friends of the Desert Mountains: recommended funding **\$3,500** toward the expansion of their Environmental Connections por Vida Program which focuses on providing high schoolers an opportunity to learn about the Coachella Valley watershed system.

Gold RiteCare Childhood Language Center: recommended funding **\$10,000** for the Speech-Language-Literacy Therapy Program which provides speech, language, and literacy evaluations and intensive individualized therapy services free of charge to low-income children ages 3 to 17 years old.

Hidden Harvest: recommended funding **\$5,000** toward general operational support for 160 mobile food markets which provide free, fresh produce to low-income families and seniors.

JFK Memorial Foundation: recommended funding **\$5,000** for the Ophelia Project, a five-year Teen-Mentoring Program serving at risk girls in 8th through 12th grade who may be at risk of becoming high-school dropouts.

Loving All Animals: recommended funding **\$5,000** to provide training and education to staff and volunteers who run the Behavior Training Program, helping them better address the negative behaviors of sheltered animals to help them avoid euthanasia.

Old Town Artisan Studios: recommended funding **\$6,600** to help cover the cost of transportation of their two (2) Mobile Art Program vans to all five (5) Boys & Girls Clubs of the Coachella Valley locations for classes every other week.

Read with Me Volunteer Programs: recommended funding **\$2,500** for the purchase of approximately 500 books to distribute to elementary school children from low-income households with priority to Valley View Elementary School.

RivCo Foundation on Aging: recommended funding **\$2,500** for the Annual Holiday Grocery Market Gift Card and Nutrition Support Program which provides gift cards to home-bound and at-risk seniors to address nutritional insecurity.

United Cerebral Palsy of the Inland Empire: recommended funding **\$8,250** for the Para-Karate Program which provides 23 children with special needs an opportunity to participate in a competitive sport.

United Way of the Desert: recommended funding **\$5,000** for the Family Support Fund which provides \$500 to eligible applicants for use toward basic necessities and household stability.

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.

Alternatives:

The Council can:

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 already allocated within the Fiscal Year 2022-23 budget.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Funding Allocation Spreadsheet