



Agenda Item A.7
CONSENT CALENDAR
Meeting Date: December 3, 2019

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Vyto Adomaitis, Neighborhood Services and Public Safety Director

CONTACT: Dominique Samario, Management Analyst

SUBJECT: Initiation of 2020-2021 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Goleta City Grant Programs

RECOMMENDATION:

Initiate the 2020-2021 application cycle for both the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Goleta City Grant Programs.

BACKGROUND:

Consistent with program regulations, each year, the City Council allocates 15 percent of its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program funding on a competitive basis to nonprofit organizations that provide services to low-income residents and those experiencing homelessness in Goleta. The CDBG Program is administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In the current 2019-2020 program year, the City of Goleta allocated \$33,409 (15%) of its total CDBG grant award to subrecipient nonprofit organizations.

In addition to CDBG funds, the City Council allocates General Fund monies to the Goleta City Grant Program. The Goleta City Grant Program awards funding on a competitive basis to nonprofits providing public services, projects, special events, educational programs, and cultural activities benefitting the residents of Goleta. This program year, the City awarded \$69,750 in Goleta City Grants to various nonprofit organizations.

Starting in Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-15, City Council approved combining the CDBG Program and Goleta City Grant Program application cycles. This combined grant process utilizes a single application for both programs and has been successfully implemented over the past five years. Due to the prescribed timelines of the federal CDBG Program, staff requests Council initiate the combined grant application cycle for the upcoming 2020-2021 grant program year.

DISCUSSION:

Staff proposes that the CDBG and Goleta City Grant Program application cycle be initiated effective December 16, 2019 with an application deadline of February 7, 2020. This period is slightly longer than in previous years after feedback from local nonprofits that extending the application period into February would be beneficial for their staff workload and increase their ability to apply for these grant funds. The City will advertise this funding opportunity through release of a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for both programs. The NOFA will be placed in the Santa Barbara Independent, promoted on the City's website, and made available at City Hall upon request. In addition, the NOFA will be emailed directly to prior grant applicants and recipients, as well as newly interested organizations that have requested to be added to the City's grant outreach list. Following the application cycle, all grant applications will be reviewed by the standing Grant Funding Review Committee (Committee). Funding recommendations will be deliberated and made by the Committee in February of 2020, with approval by the full City Council in March of 2020 (specific dates listed in the table below). The Committee is comprised of four members including the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and two Goleta residents who are appointed each calendar year by the Mayor.

Continuing the updates to the grant application process begun in 2018, the City will once again use the ZoomGrants online grant application program. In order to further simplify and expedite the grant process, this year staff and the Committee will review applications through the online program rather than printed copies. To educate applicants on the online application process through ZoomGrants, staff will hold a technical assistance training to occur on December 9, 2019. In addition to the training, in January of 2020, staff will hold the first-ever informational grant applicant workshop to answer questions about and provide guidance on the City's grant programs and process. Staff will also be available to assist applicants throughout the NOFA period. Below is a timeline summarizing the upcoming 2020-2021 grant year cycle.

Activity/ Action Item	Timeline/ Dates
Technical Assistance Training for ZoomGrants	December 9, 2019
Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Release for 2019-2020 CDBG and Goleta City Grant Programs	December 16, 2019
Informational Grant Applicant Workshop	January 8, 2020
Application Submission Deadline	February 7, 2020
Grant Funding Review Committee meetings to review applications and recommend funding awards (it is anticipated that the Committee will meet three times)	February of 2020 (specific dates to be determined)
City Council consideration of Grant Funding Review Committee funding recommendations and approval of awards for the 2019-2020 program year	March 17, 2020 (tentative)
Public Hearing on Needs, Goals, and Funding Priorities for the 2020-2021 CDBG Action Plan	March 17, 2020 (tentative)
30-day public review period of draft 2020-2021 CDBG Action Plan	March 26 - April 24, 2020
City Council approval of 2020-21 CDBG Action Plan	May 5, 2020
2020-21 CDBG Action Plan due to HUD	May 15, 2020

Looking ahead to future grant funding cycles, on November 7 and 12, 2019 the Committee reviewed comprehensive policy updates to the Goleta City Grant, CDBG, and Support to Other Agencies programs. The Committee's recommendations regarding changes aimed to enhance program effectiveness and transparency, application review and selection processes, and the monitoring of the Support to Other Agencies program will be brought before Council at a later meeting as a Discussion/Action item.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

Staff executed an agreement with ZoomGrants for a total of \$7,000, which will ensure continuity with the online grant program operator for the next two fiscal years (until June 30, 2021), paid out of the Support Services budget (101-5-1600-500).

For the current 2019-2020 fiscal year, the City Grant Program and CDBG Program grant recipients were budgeted and funded at a total of \$103,159. This amount is inclusive of both the Goleta City Grant and CDBG programs combined. Goleta City Grant Program awards are paid for out of the General Fund (101-5-1100-220) of \$69,750 and grant awards for the CDBG Program are paid out of CDBG (402-5-6300-221) of \$33,409. On June 18, 2019 the City Council authorized setting the City Grants contribution amount from the General Fund at a fixed amount of \$100,000 for current and next fiscal year. Changes recommended by the Committee to funding amounts will be brought before City Council on December 17, 2019 for further discussion and approval.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City Council may choose to change the dates of the NOFA application period, including the duration and deadline. However, staff recommend proceeding with the grant cycle schedule as proposed in order to ensure that funding recommendations for the CDBG program in particular get adopted in time for inclusion in the 2020 - 2021 Action Plan due to HUD by May 15, 2020.

Reviewed By:



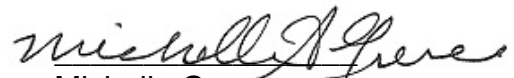
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