



Strategic Partnership Grants Committee

December 3, 2020

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Virtual Meeting

In attendance:

Committee Members: Chuck Rosenblum, Doug Clarke; Kate Burger, Kevin McAbee; Rebecca Strimer; Liz Ward;

County Staff: Rachael Nygaard; Angelyn Johnson; Amanda Stratton; Heather Parkinson

Other: Sunshine Request

Opening Remarks

Rachael reminded everyone that Committee meetings are open meeting and are being recorded and live streamed by Sunshine Request. Please identify yourself when speaking. All votes will be conducted by roll call.

Approval of Minutes

Doug Clarke made a motion to approve the minutes from November 12 and Liz Ward seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Old Business

- Site Visits: A document was included in the meeting packet with the site visit feedback that each committee member provided for other committee members and grantees.
 - Chuck recommended that the committee consider using a scoring and template for the feedback next time.
 - Doug stated that he was impressed with the grantee's work and found the site visits helpful because they allowed them to understand more about the work.
 - Rebecca thought it was illuminating and positive experience. She thinks the committee should define the purpose of the site visits and structure for the next cycle.
 - Kevin thought they were educational and illustrated their passion. We didn't do much investigating, but it allowed the organizations to provide info on how COVID was impacting their work and the changes they are making. Would like to define the structure for next cycle.
 - The committee will need to determine if site visits are needed in the new grant cycle and if so, define the purpose.
- Updated Committee Road Map: A revised road map was included in the meeting packet. The changes are highlight for easy identification. The changes include: suggesting the January committee meeting be canceled, adding dates for application, adding deadline for submitting questions for grantees, and adding the deadline to complete scoring. County staff created a "Grant Guidelines" document that will be included in call for proposals.
 - Chuck voiced praise for the support the County provides to applicants.
- Funding Process Recommendations: A document outlining the recommendations was included in the meeting packet. Staff is working with the County's CAPE (Communications and Public Engagement) Team to widely distribute the announcement. It will be included in print, radio, email lists, etc. The application will be available in English and Spanish and will be available online and in print. The grant writing session will be in the evening, after work hours, in January.
 - The sub-group met twice and included Commissioner Edwards. Their goal was to make the application and scoring more accessible to the applicants and the committee. They worked

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on the application and scoring tool. They reviewed both documents with an equity lens and worked to streamline and simplify both documents. The primary changes were to:

- simplify scoring to 5 categories;
 - add equity as a key scoring category; and
 - use plain language questions.
- The committee recommended changing the scoring values to 1-10 instead of 1-5 to allow to differentiate more between applications.
 - There was a discussion about clarifying the equity question and if it pertains to the organization, who they serve, the project? With the new format, you can look across the entire application to garner this information. It was suggested that we might consider giving some suggestions and more clarity such as “consider the population you serve, your staff, your board, etc.”
 - The grant guidelines, the application and the scoring guide will all be available in English and Spanish.
 - Membership vacancy: There were 6 applications received for the vacant District 1 position that were diverse in age, gender and race. We will hear the next step from the Board of Commissioners soon. We are uncertain if they will hold interviews or select the member based on the applications.
 - Doug opened the floor for committee members to share more about site visits
 - During the Asheville Greenworks site visit, Doug learned that they no longer receive funds from the state for used tires. Eric from Asheville Greenworks is going to share information about contacting legislatures about this issue. When Rachael receives this information, she will share it with the committee.
 - The committee felt there was an advantage to being in-person for the site visits.
 - Some highlights from the site visits were:
 - Hearing personal stories from the Graduation Initiative
 - Environmental Quality Institute doing so much important work with a shoestring budget and being able to have dedicated volunteers gathering this concrete data.
 - Haywood Street Congregation providing respite care for homeless population to rest and recover after a hospitalization or surgery. They have so many other programs there as well, such as their feeding table, clothes closet, etc.
 - 750-800 children receive diapers with county funds through Babies Need Bottoms
 - Just Economics pivoted their work due to COVID. They do a lot of grassroots work with low-income workers.
 - Literacy Council has shifted their work due to COVID. They have seen an increase in ESL due their comfort with technology. However, their Adult Literacy is struggling with going virtual due to them having to be able to read to use the technology. The organization shared a video for the committee to view and it was powerful.

New Business - There was no new business

Announcements - There were no announcements

Public Comment - There were no public comments

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Next Meeting - No meeting in January. Next meeting is February 2, 2021; 1:00 – 2:30 pm; Virtual Meeting

Adjourn: Doug Clarke made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Kate Burger seconded the motion.