

Strategic Partnership Grant Program Summary of Proposed Changes (FY25 & FY26)

FY25 Proposed Changes:

- **Grants Fair:** Replaced the Grant Writing Workshops with a Grants Fair... this is an idea that the cross-departmental community investment group is working on together to promote all of the grants/funding opportunities together (Affordable housing, Aging, Clean water, Early childhood, Juvenile crime prevention, Open space, Recreation, Strategic partnerships, Tipping point). There is a lot of great momentum and engagement in planning this event, including support from CAPE (Communication and Public Engagement).
- **Duplicate Applications:** Clarified the language around this requirement to state in more simple terms that “Projects may not apply for funding from more than one county grant program. Application must be submitted to grant program most closely fitting the proposed project.”
- **Total Budget:** Reflected the amount for FY2025 as estimated to be \$900,000-\$1,000,000 (subject to budget adoption). We are submitting a budget request to increase from \$900k to \$1 million based on Strategic Partnerships having a higher ratio of applications to available funding than our other county grant programs. (This grant program has had funding to support an average of 30% of requests over the past 4 years compared to the other community investment programs which range from 57% to 71% over that same period.)

FY26 Proposed Changes

- **Eligibility:** Modified eligibility criteria as follows -
 - **Previous** = Strategic Partnership Grant funding is limited to no more than three (3) years for a single project.
 - **Proposed** = Funding is limited to no more than 3 consecutive years for a single organization. If an organization is awarded a Strategic Partnership Grant for three years in a row, they will be required to take a one-year hiatus before applying for Strategic Partnership Grant funding once again, beginning in the FY26 grant cycle.
 - **Rationale** = Allowing organizations to switch projects and remain eligible for funding has not achieved the initial desired outcome of funding the same things over and over again. Additionally, defining a “project” can be very nuanced, making it very difficult to enforce. For example, Babies Need Bottoms (diaper bank) had 3 years of funding for diaper supplies and changed their project to “Beyond Diapers” and is now funded for wipes, rash cream & baby wash. Other examples include Bountiful Cities switching from funding for a school garden to a community garden, Literacy Together switching from funding for adult tutoring to youth tutoring, and OnTrack switching from funding for volunteer income tax prep to funding for financial counseling.
 - **Impact** = This would potentially impact 15 organizations that could receive SPG funding for at least 3 consecutive years (FY23, FY24, FY25) if awarded again in FY25. This would not affect their eligibility to apply for funding from one of the county’s other grant programs or be awarded departmental contracts.