

# CONSOLIDATED COMMUNITY FUNDING POOL

## FY 2021-2022 AWARD CYCLE

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

#### **Background**

The Selection Advisory Committee ("SAC") began its review of 157 proposals submitted in response to RFP#2000002877 Consolidated Community Funding Pool FY 2021-2022 award cycle, on Tuesday January 14, 2020. SAC was comprised of 18 county residents, representing multiple regions of the County including retirees and employed individuals in both the public and private sectors. Four subcommittees were established and charged with the responsibility for the review and evaluation of 35-46 proposals over 10 weeks. Each subcommittee appointed a chairperson for oversight and to participate as a subcommittee representative in the SAC Chairs meetings.

SAC subcommittees were further broken down into 2-3 member sub-sub committees. Each sub-subcommittee met in-person on a weekly basis until mid-March when the COVID-19 public health crisis occurred. Although forced to pivot, the subcommittees and SAC chairs successfully migrated to an online meeting platform and met the scheduled March 26, 2020 review and recommendation deadline.

#### **Outcomes**

Wednesday March 25, 2020, the SAC Chairs established the final funding and restoration list recommendations. These recommendations included the funding of 119 human services programs, or 76% of the 157 proposals received. Of the 119 approved grants, 43 or 36% were in direct support of basic needs such as food, shelter and medical assistance and nineteen, 16%, were new programs (submitting first grant requests). Total funding recommendations were \$14,125,626 for each cycle year, 2021 and 2022.

After the funding recommendations were finalized, the SAC Chairs reviewed the various requests and established a restoration list. The Restoration List recommends those programs that should receive additional funding if more funds are, or become available. Basic needs were targeted and the Restoration List recommended additional funding for 16 programs consisting of seven providing direct food assistance, 6 for emergency needs (health, utilities, rent), two programs providing support to either obtain or retain shelter and one covering health needs. The total restoration recommendation for 2021 was \$769,541 and \$836,716 in 2022.

The funding recommendations were presented to Fairfax County staff to be submitted to the County's Board of Supervisors. The SAC recommendations were submitted as a NIP (Not In Packet), dated April 29, 2020, to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration and approval. Included in the NIP were analyses of the funded programs for the FY2021-2022 award cycle. Please see the attached for further details.

## **Recommendations**

Post task completion, SAC Members were surveyed about their experiences and recommendations for future SAC cycles. Response were largely supportive of the practice and the volunteers felt their combined 1,130 volunteer hours were well spent. As with each cycle, SAC Members made numerous recommendations to enhance the quality of the program and the process.

### **Program Enhancement Recommendations**

- To encourage a wider distribution of funding, limit the maximum grant request amount
- Some Areas of the County seemed to be under represented. Distribute information and encouragement county-wide to attract a wider, more diversified grant participant base.
- Target County's essential service needs and carve out of SAC review process as a set aside
- Encourage smaller non-profits to apply for grants by reaching out and simplifying process
- Continue SAC process and review to keep County residents active in oversight and support

### **Process Improvement Recommendations**

- Rewrite scoring sheet questions to remove redundancies
- Maintain experienced SAC volunteer pool and disburse among subcommittees
- Maintain minimum 3 volunteers per sub-subcommittee to enhance scoring consistency
- TAC involvement typically non-productive: participants ill prepared, information was same as proposal, no new information, influencing v. educating
- TAC involvement may be better suited to flag/identify issues prior to scoring, similar to finance review
- Allow sub-subcommittee members to work together in the beginning of process to encourage scoring consistency
- Stratify scoring by providing additional clarity to both responses and relative weight of each part of the applicant's response
- Promote training as close as possible to start of technical reviews
- Tell your friends about the opportunity to support their community by volunteering to be a future SAC member

## **Conclusion**

Thank you for the opportunity to work with others in Fairfax County that want to give back and make a difference. It was a pleasure to work with Michelle Brizzi and the Fairfax County Staff. Not only were they responsive and professional, they each displayed a keen passion in their work, even when committee sessions ran late, sometimes past 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



B. Todd Dempsey

SAC Chair 2020