

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Kim Welsh

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: December 8, 2020

Approved



Date

12/8/2020

INFORMATION

SUBJECT: CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUNDS NONPROFIT GRANT PROGRAM

As part of the City of San José's federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) moneys, the City dedicated approximately \$3.3 million to provide grants to nonprofit organizations serving San José communities negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The goal of the CRF Nonprofit Grant Program is to provide relief and funding to nonprofit organizations who serve San José's most vulnerable residents and have been impacted by COVID-19 and the pandemic-induced recession. This grant program used a racial equity lens, with highest priority given to organizations serving specific zip codes and/or populations disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. Given the limited funds available, the program was limited to agencies providing services in specific program areas.

Through the CRF Nonprofit Grant Program, 62 organizations were recommended for grants totaling \$3,334,786. In addition, through a generous partnership with the Knight Foundation, 14 organizations that applied to the CRF Nonprofit Grant Program are eligible to receive funding from the foundation with these grants totaling \$162,000.

This memorandum provides an update on outcomes of the CRF Nonprofit Grant Program.

BACKGROUND

On August 18, 2020, the City Council approved the implementation of approximately \$23 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds allocated in the 2020-2021 Adopted Operating Budget for local assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic¹. On September 22, 2020, the City Council

¹ See [Item 3.5](#) on the August 18 Agenda.

approved the disbursement of an additional \$7 million in unallocated Coronavirus Relief Funds to invest in the City's most vulnerable populations² for a total of \$30 million. Of these funds \$3.35 million was allocated toward direct assistance to non-profit organizations (non-arts) and \$2.285 million to arts and culture nonprofits. The City entered into an agreement with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation to administer and expedite the payment of grant funds to nonprofit arts and non-arts organizations by the December 30, 2020 federal deadline for spending Coronavirus Relief Funds.

On October 7, 2020, the Community and Economic Recovery Branch of the Emergency Operations Center released the CRF Nonprofit Grant Program guidelines outlined below.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible, organizations must be a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization, or grassroots community organization under the fiscal agency of a 501(c)3 nonprofit. The organization must serve San José communities disproportionately and negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Organizations must serve one or more of the following populations:

- Residents of San José neighborhoods with the highest rates of COVID-19 and pandemic-related job loss in the following zip codes: 95110, 95111, 95112, 95116, 95122, or 95127³

OR

- Members of populations in San José more likely to disproportionately experience serious illness or death from COVID-19 or pandemic-related economic harm:
 - Residents over age 65
 - Residents with disabilities
 - Residents who are Black, African American, and of African ancestry
 - Residents who are Latinx, Mexican, Chicano, and other Hispanic ancestries
 - Residents who were previously incarcerated, particularly those recently released due to the pandemic
 - Residents who are low-wage essential workers
 - Residents who are ineligible for or lack access to other government resources, such as unemployment

² See [Item 3.7](#) on the September 22 Agenda

³ The CRF Nonprofit Grants were specifically focused on the nonprofits serving the zip codes and populations in San José most adversely impacted by COVID-19 and the pandemic induced recession as identified through regional economic and County health data.

In addition, eligible organizations must provide services in San José that are related to the COVID-19 pandemic or the pandemic-induced recession in one or more of the following categories:

- Outreach, education, and empowerment around the pandemic
- Case management
- Health or mental health services
- Legal assistance
- Childcare, distance learning, or other youth programs

In accordance with the CARES Act, these funds also carry federal restrictions, which informed the CRF Nonprofit Grant Program guidelines. These restriction include the following:

- Services must be provided to San José residents;
- Costs must be incurred between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020; and
- Expenditures must be COVID-19 related (in response to the nexus of public health emergency and resultant recession).

The guidelines were distributed through community partner networks including the Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits, promoted in the City's weekly Flash Report, and posted on the City's website.

Applications were due on October 15, 2020, via the City's online WebGrants portal.

ANALYSIS

More than \$9.3 million in funding requests were submitted by 119 organizations. With only \$3.35 million available funding, the volume of requests demonstrates the significant need for economic support among San José nonprofits. Unfortunately, many worthy organizations were unable to be funded, and many organizations only received partial funding.

The economic impact of the sudden onset of COVID-19 has significantly hurt many San José nonprofits. Programming has had to shift to adhere to public health orders. The need for services, particularly in the services areas listed above, has increased dramatically, particularly in San José's most vulnerable communities. Fundraising has been a challenge and some traditional funding sources have declined.

In order to support the continuity of service in the face of the pandemic, the CRF Nonprofit Grant Program provided support to nonprofits that provide eligible services in the designated zip codes or to designated populations with grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$150,000 that could be used for CRF-allowed costs, such as staffing costs, technology or infrastructure expenses to comply with the public health emergency or shift in service models, and for rent to keep their doors open to communities in need.

Evaluation Process

Applications were evaluated against the eligibility criteria above as well as the eligibility of the individual expenses requested in accordance with federal CRF guidelines. Applications were also reviewed based on applicant's ability to spend requested funds by December 30, 2020.

Applicants that do not provide services in one of the designated program areas were ineligible. While applicants were required to serve either an impacted zip code(s) OR designated population(s), priority was given to applicants serving both. Priority consideration was also given to applicants demonstrating a strong alignment between organization mission and commitment to serving one or more of the impacted zip codes and/or populations listed above.

Applications were initially reviewed independently by at least two staff members. Each application could receive a maximum of 6 priority points based on the alignment with organization's mission and services areas to priority populations and zip codes.

The review team of ten met over the course of three days. All applications receiving an initial priority score of 3 and above were then discussed in detail and given an alignment score of up to 4 points, based on the scope and focus of the organization's service to impacted zip codes and populations as aligned with City's Community and Economic Recovery goals.

Given the volume of funding requests and to ensure that City Coronavirus Relief Funds were reaching as many organizations as possible, the CRF Nonprofit Grant Managers collaborated with colleagues administering other City Coronavirus Relief Funds and made some additional decisions:

- Requests for future expenses related to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) were referred to the Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits/Valley Medical Center Foundation PPE for nonprofits program, which has received \$515,000 in CRF funds from the City to provide PPE to nonprofits.
- Requests for technology (laptops, devices, hotspots) for clients/students were referred to the Emergency Operations Center's Digital Inclusion Branch, which has a process in place to review these technology needs with a goal of preventing duplication and ensuring that the technology distributed is usable by the client.
- Agencies receiving CRF grants from the Emergency Operations Center's Food and Necessities Branch Collective Impact Program or the Community and Economic Recovery Branch's primary Rental Relief Program grantees would not be funded through the CRF Nonprofit Grant in order to spread relief funds across more organizations.
- As stated in the FAQs, funding for food, grocery cards, holiday gifts, or rental relief for clients through this program would not be funded since they are being funded by City Coronavirus Relief Funds elsewhere.

After applications were reviewed against the grant criteria outlined above, organizations recommended for funding were asked to submit documentation demonstrating their ability to spend grant funds on federal CRF eligible expenses by the December 30, 2020 federal deadline.

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OUTCOME

As mentioned above, 119 nonprofits submitted applications to the CRF Nonprofit Grant Program requesting over \$9.3 million in support. **After reviewing applications for eligible expenses, overlap with other CRF grant programs, and by priority score, enough funding was available to fund 62 organizations for a total of \$3,334,786 in grants.**

Of the funded organizations, award amounts were tiered to the score received. The highest scoring applicants received full funding for the amount of eligible expenses, with the percentage of funding declining with score until funding was exhausted at organizations with a priority score of 3.5. The maximum grant in the highest scoring category was \$150,000 and \$25,000 in the lowest. The smallest minimum award was \$5,000. In addition, one organization was referred for CRF funding through the City's Small Business Partners program.

Through a partnership effort, the Knight Foundation identified 14 CRF Nonprofit Grant Program applicants to receive separate grants through their donor-advised fund at the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. These 14 organizations, include six organizations solely funded through the Knight Foundation and 8 organizations partially funded through the CRF Nonprofit Grant receiving additional funds from the Knight Foundation. This collaboration was offered as part of Knight's \$1 million COVID-19 San Jose relief investment as part of #SiliconValleyStrong.

Nonprofits receiving grant funding provide service in the following areas: outreach and education around the pandemic (37%); case management (21%); health and/or mental health services (13%); legal assistance (3%); childcare, distance learning or youth programming (25%). The table attached identifies the list of funded grantees as part of this memo.



KIM WALESH

Deputy City Manager

For questions, please contact Andrea Flores Shelton, Interim Deputy Director of Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services and Director, Community and Economic Recovery Branch at (408) 535-3571 or Michelle McGurk, Assistant to the City Manager and Assistant Director, Community and Economic Recovery Branch, at (408) 535-8254.

Attachment

ATTACHMENT A

SAN JOSE CORONAVIRUS NONPROFIT RELIEF GRANTEES

San José Coronavirus Relief Nonprofit Grant Funding

#	Organization Legal Name:	Award Amount
1	AchieveKids	\$30,729
2	Across the Bridge Foundation	\$30,000
3	Alum Rock Union Elementary School District	\$118,400
4	Asian American Center of Santa Clara County (AASC)	\$25,548
5	Bay Area Tutoring Association	\$25,000
6	Bay Area Women's Sports Initiative	\$25,000
7	Bill Wilson Center	\$54,660
8	Breakthrough Silicon Valley	\$13,644
9	CamCamp	\$15,000
10	Center for Employment Training	\$75,960
11	Center for Training and Careers	\$24,040
12	Child Advocates of Silicon Valley	\$50,000
13	City Year Inc	\$112,500
14	Community Health Partnership, Inc.	\$30,000
15	Deaf Counseling, Advocacy & Referral Agency (DCARA)	\$10,500
16	ECSV (aka Educare California at Silicon Valley)	\$108,366
17	Friends of Hue Foundation	\$60,301
18	Gardner Family Health Network, Inc.	\$150,000
19	Go Kids, Inc	\$128,132
20	Health Mobile	\$61,100
21	Healthier Kids Foundation	\$25,000
22	Hope Services	\$111,833
23	Housing Choices	\$6,000
24	International Children Assistance Network (ICAN)	\$25,000
25	Latinas Contra Cancer	\$51,050
26	Latinos United for a New America aka LUNA	\$27,760
27	Law Foundation of Silicon Valley	\$48,000
28	LifeMoves	\$150,000

29	Lincoln Law School of San Jose	\$30,000
30	Mekong Community Center	\$106,139
31	Midtown Family Services	\$25,685
32	Momentum For Mental Health	\$130,000
33	National Alliance on Mental Health Illness	\$29,007
34	Pacific Housing Inc.	\$21,000
35	PARS Equality Center	\$112,500
36	Peninsula Family Service	\$21,000
37	Pivotal (formerly Silicon Valley Children's Fund and TeenForce)	\$45,473
38	Positive Alternative Recreation Teambuilding Impacting Program (P.A.R.T.I.)	\$30,000
39	Project HIRED	\$25,000
40	Project Sentinel	\$21,000
41	Recovery Cafe San Jose	\$48,115
42	San Jose Bridge Communities	\$5,000
43	San Jose Conservation Corps + Charter School	\$141,547
44	San Jose Grail Family Services	\$92,510
45	Schmahl Science Workshop	\$9,120
46	School Health Clinics of Santa Clara County	\$25,000
47	Sewa International, Inc	\$28,298
48	Silicon Valley Independent Living Center	\$46,745
49	Silicon Valley Urban Debate League	\$5,000
50	Somos Mayfair, Inc	\$148,522
51	Sunday Friends Foundation	\$19,922
52	Sunrise Middle School	\$17,000
53	The Art of Yoga Project	\$7,000
54	The Tenacious Group	\$18,500
55	The Unity Care Group	\$134,340
56	The Vietnamese Voluntary Foundation, Inc. (VIVO)	\$46,200
57	United Way Bay Area	\$15,310
58	Uplift Family Services	\$83,158
59	Veterans Supportive Services Agency	\$23,250
60	Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired	\$39,922

61	Yu-Ai Kai/Japanese American Community Senior Service	\$40,000
62	YWCA of Silicon Valley	\$150,000

Knight Foundation Funding

#	Organization Legal Name:	Award Amount
1	Bay Area Older Adults	\$10,000
2	Center for Employment Training	\$10,000
3	Hope Services	\$20,000
4	Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley	\$25,000
5	Latinos United for a New America aka LUNA	\$5,000
6	Mekong Community Center	\$10,000
7	Parents Helping Parents, Inc.	\$10,000
8	PARS Equality Center	\$10,000
9	Project HIRED	\$25,000
10	Silicon Valley Chinese Association Foundation	\$5,000
11	Silicon Valley Independent Living Center	\$15,000
12	The Heart Works Family Center - Little Italy School San Jose	\$5,000
13	Veterans Supportive Services Agency	\$8,000
14	Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired	\$4,000