

Office of Community Services Update

Rules & City Government Committee 11/1/2024

Grants

Adopt-a-Community Grants

- Of the 10 grants, 8 have active contracts and purchase orders, and initial payments have been issued.
- OCS has recently received one of the remaining contracts back and is working on getting the purchase order in place and then payment issued.
- OCS is still working on getting the final contract in place.

Child and Family Success Grants

Council allocated \$50,000 for this purpose in FY25. During the initial application period, the City only received 2 applications. OCS re-opened the application portal and did outreach to all FY24 grantees to make sure they were aware of the opportunity to apply. Five applications have been selected to receive \$10,000 grants. Contracts are under development and will be sent to grantees as soon as they are done.

Decisions were made based on the total amount of funding requested, the inclusion of in-school or after-school programs offering structured activities with clearly defined timeframes, the presence of a robust problem statement supported by relevant data, and the assurance of a secured physical location for the program, all of which align with the overarching goals and vision of the grant.

Community Grants

- Of the 52 grants, 48 have active contracts and purchase orders. Copies of the purchase orders have been resent to all grantees to make sure everyone has them. Initial payments have been made to all grantees that have submitted reports.
- Of the 4 grants that remain, 3 are awaiting paperwork to establish them as vendors in the City system.
- For the final grant, the City is awaiting receipt of a signed contract.
- OCS will likely reach out to help get these last grants across the finish line.

Rental Assistance

The FY25 budget estimated that OCS would have \$143,308 for this purpose. During the closing process for FY24, the Department of Finance confirmed that the City received \$11,144.09 more

than was originally estimated. Those excess funds were added to FY25, similar to what was done last year, so the City has a total of \$154,452.09 for this purpose.

OCS has approved 84 payments on behalf of 74 residents and has used most of the funding. We have closed the application portal. There are some funds in reserve for emergencies, but we are not accepting applications through the open portal at this time. If Councilmembers have particular questions, please reach out to OCS.

With the application portal closed, OCS is working with residents to access resources from outside agencies. A copy of the OCS Resource Guide has been sent to Council members so they have a sense of the organizations we work with and refer to.

Community Outreach

OCS continues to work with individual residents as needed. In addition, OCS has partnered with several organizations to encourage them and leverage opportunities to reach community members who might benefit from connecting with resources. This has included City and County programs like No Harm, the AA County Homeless coalition, programs within Recreation and Parks as well as community organizations such as Black Mental Health Matters Too and the Benevolence Coalition.

We also facilitated introductions between Annapolis Gardens and Charting Careers to support their goal of maintaining an after-school program at their community center, following the discontinuation of previous partnerships. This new collaboration is currently in development and aims to offer both after-school and summer programs starting next year. We have also facilitated introductions between Bowman Place and Serenity Sistahs after the property manager expressed concerns for her residents having limited access to drug rehab resources. Serenity Sistahs now has monthly educational visits and assists when residents need rehabilitation resources.

Verbal update by Victoria Buckland, written update with Iesha Young and Erin Lee