



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – April 1, 2020 Agenda Item 3

Voting Session

Resolution Approving Change to FY20 Community Grants Program to Fund Operational Support for Grantees

Recommended Council Action

Adopt the resolution as a part of the consent agenda.

Context with Key Issues

The City of Takoma Park's Community "Quality of Life" Grants Program provides financial support for specific programs, projects, and events that improve the quality of life for City residents by providing greater access and opportunities for participation in the arts and sciences. The primary beneficiaries of this grant program are individuals and households with low and moderate incomes who reside in the City of Takoma Park.

In FY20, the City Council appropriated \$80,000 to support projects developed and facilitated by 11 nonprofit organizations. These organizations executed grant agreements with the City of Takoma Park to undertake approved projects, events, or activities between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

On March 13, 2020, President Donald Trump issued an emergency determination in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) that has spread globally. Maryland Governor Larry Hogan issued a Declaration of Emergency on March 5, 2020. The emergency declarations put in place restrictions to limit the spread of the virus through community transmission.

The ongoing health and safety measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic will remain in effect for an extended period of time, and there is a likelihood that a return to normal business functions will not occur before the conclusion of the FY20 grant cycle. It is recommended that the City of Takoma Park employ immediate measures to address the impact of this unprecedented health crisis on community grants recipients. By employing these measures, the City will provide critical support to key nonprofit partners serving Takoma Park residents.

Council Priority

Engaged, Responsive & Service-oriented Government

Environmental Considerations

N/A

Fiscal Considerations

None. This action will not increase or reduce the amount allocated by the City Council to the Community Grants Program in FY20.

Racial Equity Considerations

This public health crisis will place an unprecedented strain on the nonprofit organizations funded through the Community Grants Program, a program that serves the needs of many low and moderate income residents. The participants of these projects, events, and activities include

members of diverse racial and ethnic groups, including youth, adults, and seniors. This programming has strengthened our City and specifically our communities of color.

Funders across the country are paying special attention to communities that are likely to suffer disproportionately during this health emergency because of historic, systemic barriers that are exacerbated due to social and economic inequality. The City can make the greatest impact in this moment by providing the FY20 grantees with the flexibility they need to utilize funds as they are most needed within their organizations.

Attachments and Links

- Draft Resolution Approving Change to FY20 Community Grants Program to Fund Operational Support for Grantees
- Status of FY20 grant-funded projects
- FY20 grant-funded projects (attach as hyperlink)
https://documents.takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/grant-programs/FY20_Community_Grants_Program_and_Grantee_Summary_For_Website.pdf

Introduced by:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION 2020-

**APPROVING CHANGE TO FY20 COMMUNITY
GRANTS PROGRAM TO FUND OPERATIONAL
SUPPORT FOR GRANTEES**

- WHEREAS, the City Council established the Community “Quality of Life” Grants Program to provide financial support for specific programs, projects, and events that improve residents’ quality of life by providing greater access and opportunities for participation in the arts and sciences; and
- WHEREAS, in FY20, the City Council appropriated \$80,000 to support projects developed and facilitated by 11 nonprofit organizations; and
- WHEREAS, these 11 nonprofit organizations executed grant agreements with the City of Takoma Park to perform approved projects, events, or activities between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020; and
- WHEREAS, in March, 2020, both President Trump and Maryland Governor Hogan declared a public health emergency in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and announced a set of specific measures aimed at stemming the transmission of the virus; and
- WHEREAS, the emergency declaration and actions taken by President Trump and the State of Maryland resulted in restrictions to limit the spread of the virus through community transmission; and
- WHEREAS, the ongoing health and safety measures related to the COVID-19 will remain in effect for an extended period of time, and it is likely that a return to normal business functions will not occur before the conclusion of FY20 grant cycle; and
- WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that immediate measures must be taken to address the impact of this unprecedented health crisis on community grants recipients; and
- WHEREAS, the following measures are necessary to support the FY20 grantees during this unprecedented time:
- Convert all FY20 project-based funding to general operating support (GOS) for all grantees whose work was ongoing or not yet underway at

the time of the issuance of the March 13, 2020 federal declaration related to COVID-19;

- In the case of projects that concluded prior to March 13, 2020, that only require grantees to complete reporting requirements, grants will be processed as outlined in the contract agreement;
- Accelerate payment schedules for FY20 grantees; and
- Release grantees from the responsibility of facilitating events, activities or submitting progress reports on project deliverables, as outlined under the grant agreement, that are postponed or canceled as a result of the health emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Takoma Park approves changing the FY20 Community Grants Program to one which funds the provision of operational support for grantees.

Adopted this ____ day of April 2020.

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter
City Clerk