Strategic Partnership Grants Committee
March 5, 2026
1:00 – 2:30 pm
200 College St, Room 310

In attendance:
Committee Members:
Present: Ann Flynn, Cathy Ray (virtual), Charlie Beck, Dede Styles, Liz Ward, Ray Hemachandra

County Staff: Rachael Sawyer, Samantha Kirk, Angelyn Johnson

Opening Remarks
Ray Hemachandra called the meeting to order and provided a membership update. Charlie Beck and Bing Owens are new members of the committee. Dr. Amy Russell has resigned from the committee due to a conflict of interest.

Approval of Minutes
Ann Flynn made a motion to approve the minutes from February 5, 2026, and Cathy Ray seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Old Business
- There was no old business.

New Business
- Annual conflict of interest disclosures
    - Annual disclosure completed. Only one direct conflict identified, which was Dr. Russell. The only other disclosure was from Bing Owens who volunteers with organizations but doesn't constitute a true conflict of interest as defined by the bylaws since there is no financial benefit.
    - Members may choose not to score proposals if a perceived conflict exists.
- FY27 Funding Process
    - Application Volume
        - Total applications received: 76
        - Two grant options:
            - Option 1: Up to $10,000: 6 applications received
            - Option 2: Up to $85,000: 70 applications received
        - Duplicate Application
            - One organization appears twice due to fiscal sponsor relationship, which is allowed.
        - Application removed
            - One application was removed due to ineligibility because it was for Early Childhood Education, which the county has a dedicated funding program. Staff reached out to the applicant before the application was submitted to let them know the application would need to be submitted through the Early Childhood Grant process. They applied in both grant programs.
    - Screening and Compliance
        - Staff are currently conducting:
            - Eligibility screening

- IRS and Secretary of State nonprofit verification
- County attorney's legal review to confirm funding authority and compliance with state law.
- Budget Review
    - Staff will conduct a detailed review of all submitted budgets during March. Staff notes will be in the "comments" tab of the online evaluation.

- Policy Clarifications
    - Early Childhood Programs
        - Grants primarily focused on early childhood education may be ineligible if they fall under a separate county funding program.
    - Capital Improvements
        - Capital campaigns (large construction fundraising efforts) are not allowed.
        - Capital expenditures (equipment, fixtures, etc.) may be eligible depending on the project.
    - Legal Restrictions
        - Public funds cannot be used for private purposes, which may affect certain proposals (e.g., solar installations for private schools).
- Scoring Process
    - Timeline:
        - Scoring deadline is 3/31/2026
        - Results will be compiled 4/1/26
        - Next committee meeting is 4/2/26
    - Evaluation discussion
        - Committee members discussed several factors that may influence final decisions including:
            - Overall scores
            - Strength of proposal
            - Community impact
            - Organizational capacity
            - Investment vs outcomes
            - Potential geographic distribution of funds
            - Focus area representation
        - The intention of the committee is to use the scoring rank in their funding recommendations, but other factors may be considered, especially for similarly scored applications near the funding cutoff.
        - Staff encouraged committee members to make notes in the reviewer comments section when scoring applications. These are helpful when organizations ask for feedback on their proposals.

Announcements:

- Deadline to submit scores is 3/31/2026.

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Adjournment:
Ann Flynn made a motion to adjourn. Charlie Beck seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Next Meeting – The next meeting will be April 2, 2026, 1:00 – 2:30 pm – 200 College St Room 310.