FY2028 Strategic Partnership Grants Updates:
Based on June 2024 Funding Process Reflection

- The committee asked for clarification if the Helene focus was a one-time focus or if it will continue in future grant cycles. If so, committee members feel it can be a need within the application without it having to be a scoring category
    - Helene-recovery focus will still be included.
    - We removed it as a separate scoring criteria and instead incorporated it into the strategic alignment scoring criteria.
- There were very few applications for Option 1 ($10,000 or less), so consider raising the amount for Option 1 to $20,000.
    - The intent behind the 2 options was to allow for the types of project previously funded through the (now discontinued) Recreation Grants and Tipping Point Grants to fit within Strategic Partnership Grants.
    - We are going to continue this pilot for one more year at the $10,000 level to see if FY2027 was an anomaly or if nonprofits are truly not interested in the Option 1.
- Keep the limit of only allowing one application per organization.
    - We kept this.
- Consider implementing a cap for the number of consecutive years an organization can be funded.
    - Due to the Helene-recovery focus, we will wait until next year to consider this
- Consider if the requirement that an organization must be at least 2 years old to apply for funding should be re-implemented (unless there are catastrophic circumstances like COVID or Helene)
    - We removed the 2-year requirement for nonprofits for FY2027 to be more inclusive to organizations that might have formed in response to Helene. There have not been any negative impacts of removing the requirement. We have conducted contract monitorings on multiple new organizations this quarter, and these organizations have systems and procedures in place to be able to properly manage government grant funding.

See draft Grant Guidelines and Scoring Sheet for full details, including the FY2028 grant schedule.