THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

City Council Meeting Date: July 26, 2022

Subject: Strategic Partnership Pilot Grant Program Funding Recommendations

Staff Resources: Rachel Wood, Assistant City Manager

Action Requested: Approval of the recommendations for Strategic Partnership Pilot Grant Program awards and authorization for the City Manager to execute grant agreements.

Background:

- During the June 21, 2022 Housing & Community Development Committee (HCD) meeting, staff received direction to proceed with the implementation of a pilot grant program using Strategic Partnership Funds (SPF) to address the opportunity gap for low to moderate income school-aged youth.
- A $20,000 award minimum was established to maximize community benefit.
- Applications for the SPF Pilot Grant Program were accepted June 22-July 12, 2022.
- 31 applications from qualified agencies were received.
- On Thursday, July 14 the HCD Committee and Evaluation Committee heard presentations from applicant agencies to receive additional details about each of the grant proposals.
- The Evaluation Committee consisted of the following individuals:
    - Nicole Cush, Principal -School of Inquiry and Life Sciences at Asheville
    - Becki Ogles, Assistant Finance Director -City of Asheville
    - Jaime Matthews, Assistant to the City Manager -City of Asheville
    - Brenda Mills, Director of Equity & Inclusion -City of Asheville
    - Rachel Taylor, Economic Development Specialist -City of Asheville
    - Rachel Wood, Assistant City Manager -City of Asheville
- On July 19, 2022 the HCD Committee reviewed recommendations from the Evaluation Committee and recommended funding eight agencies for a total grant award of $375,500.
- The HCD Committee's recommendations are included as part of the suggested City Council motion below.
- The intent of the pilot grant program is to test recommendations that are being considered as part of a more comprehensive restructure of the SPF Program while providing much-needed financial resources to the community at the start of the new fiscal year.
- The proposed long-term restructure of the SPF Program will be reviewed by the Housing & Community Development Committee and finalized in winter 2023, followed by the advertisement of applications and consideration of grant awards in spring 2023.

Council Goal(s):

- An Equitable and Diverse Community
- A Connected and Engaged Community

Committee(s):

- Housing & Community Development on 7-14-22 - Heard Presentations; 7-19-22 - approved (Vote 3:0) as described in suggested motion below.

Pro(s):

- Additional resources available in summer 2022 to help address the opportunity gap and provide programming for school-aged youth.
- Opportunity to test recommendations prior to finalizing long-term revisions to the Strategic Partnership Program.
- Reduced administrative barriers to agencies with simplified application and streamlined reporting requirements.
- Enhanced community impact with $20,000 minimum per grant award.

Con(s):

- The quick implementation of the pilot grant program resulted in less extensive outreach to make agencies aware of the application period. Despite the short window, 31 agencies applied for these funds.

Fiscal Impact:

- The pilot grant program is budgeted using a portion of the General Fund's Strategic Partnership Program balance from previous fiscal years and the $242,000 budgeted for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.
- Should the City Council authorize funding the full $375,500 recommended as part of the Strategic Partnership Pilot Grant program, the Strategic Partnership Program will have a remaining balance of $335,500 that will be used for the long-term program revisions.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to approve the recommended allocations of the Strategic Partnership Pilot Grant Program funding as shown below and authorize the City Manager to execute the grant agreements:

Program	Agency	Recommended Funding
Vocational Skills: Kids at Work and the Connection Program Tracks	Aspire Youth & Family, Inc.	$20,000
HOPE 4 the Future	Umoja	$20,000
The Village	The Christine Avery Learning Center	$25,000
One Youth At A Time (OYAAT) -Closing the Opportunity Gap	OYAAT	$35,000
Igniting Superhero Readers -School Year Pilot	Literacy Together	$36,000
Summer/After School/Advocacy Support	YTL Training Programs	$50,500
Youthful HAND	Serve to Lead	$52,875
Community Literacy Support at Edington	Read to Succeed Asheville/ Buncombe	$56,125
Chosen Positive Opportunities Develop Success (PODS)	Western Carolina Rescue Mission (Fiscal Agent)	$80,000
Total Grant Award Recommendation		**$375,500**

Attachment(s)

- Resolution
- Presentation
- Applications
- Evaluation Committee Recommendations
- Evaluation Committee Scoring Matrix

RESOLUTION NO. 22-_____

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RECOMMENDATION OF ALLOCATIONS OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP PILOT PROGRAM FUNDING AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE GRANT AGREEMENTS

WHEREAS, Feedback from the Housing & Community Development Committee, community members, and City of Asheville staff is being used to refine the scope of the Strategic Partnership Program to focus on addressing impacts of the opportunity gap by supporting low to moderate income school-aged youth in and out of the classroom; and

WHEREAS, the Strategic Partnership Program is funded through the City of Asheville's General Fund; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 160D-1311, the City is authorized to appropriate and expend funds for community development programs and activities, including programs concerning the education and welfare needs of persons of low and moderate income; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to test recommendations prior to finalizing the comprehensive restructure of the Strategic Partnership Program, staff received direction from the Housing & Community Development Committee to develop a pilot grant program; and

WHEREAS, an Evaluation Committee consisting of City staff and representatives from Asheville City Schools led an evaluation and scoring process based on the demonstrated ability of each proposal to positively impact the opportunity gap for low to moderate income school-aged youth; and

WHEREAS, the application process, Evaluation Committee review, and feedback from the City Council Housing & Community Development Committee led to the recommendations for pilot grant program funding as follows:

Program	Agency	Recommended Funding
Vocational Skills: Kids at Work and the Connection Program Tracks	Aspire Youth & Family, Inc.	$20,000
HOPE 4 the Future	Umoja	$20,000
The Village	The Christine Avery Learning Center	$25,000
One Youth At A Time (OYAAT) -Closing the Opportunity Gap	OYAAT	$35,000
Igniting Superhero Readers -School Year Pilot	Literacy Together	$36,000

Summer/After School/Advocacy Support	YTL Training Programs	$50,500
Youthful HAND	Serve to Lead	$52,875
Community Literacy Support at Edington	Read to Succeed Asheville/ Buncombe	$56,125
Chosen Positive Opportunities Develop Success (PODS)	Western Carolina Rescue Mission (Fiscal Agent)	$80,000
Total Grant Award Recommendation		**$375,500**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

The recommended allocations for the Strategic Partnership Pilot Grant Program funding as outlined above are hereby approved and the City Manager is authorized to execute the grant agreements..

Read, approved and adopted this 26th day of July, 2022.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney