

DATE: April 12, 2023

TO: Council Neighborhoods Committee

FROM: Anna Reynoso, Housing Specialist II

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2023-24 Neighborhood Grant Application

RECOMMENDATION

Approve \$30,000 in neighborhood grant funding as shown in Table 2 for Fiscal Year 2023-24.

BACKGROUND

The Neighborhood Grant Program provides financial support for new and existing neighborhood associations to carry out programs and activities that encourage participation, strengthen neighborhoods, and improve neighborhood conditions. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide background and analysis of the applications received for the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Neighborhood Grant cycle and for the Council Neighborhoods Committee (CNC) to consider staff’s funding recommendations.

For Fiscal Year 2023-24, \$30,000 is budgeted for the Neighborhood Grant Program. At the February 2021 CNC meeting, the CNC voted to modify the funding formula and incorporate a tiered funding model. Neighborhood grants may be awarded up to the maximum outlined in Table 1 based on the number of households covered by the neighborhood group. Groups applying for a neighborhood grant for the first time are eligible for a \$100 bonus. All grant funds must be used between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024, and there is no carryover of funds that are not used within this period.

Table 1: Maximum Grant Awards by Tier

	Maximum Award
Tier A: <500 households	\$1,000
Tier B: 501 to 1,000 households	\$1,500
Tier C: 1,001 to 1,500 households	\$2,000
Tier D: >1,501 households	\$2,500

ANALYSIS

This Analysis section provides a summary of the Fiscal Year 2023-24 grants process, the applications, and staff's funding recommendations.

FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS PROCESS

Applications for grant funds were accepted from March 1, 2023 through March 31, 2023. Grant applications and program guidelines were posted on the City's website, mountainview.gov/cncgrant. Notices about the program and grant funding availability were placed on the City's website, in the *Mountain View Voice* Online and the *Los Altos Town Crier*, shared with the CNC Interest List with nearly 300 subscribers, and advertised via the City's social media and City Hall Connection. On March 9, 2023 and March 22, 2023, staff held grant application webinar calls via Zoom to walk potential applicants through the process on how to submit an application. Throughout the application period, staff was available for questions.

This year's process incorporated Spanish and Mandarin translation and interpretation services to increase access to this funding. The program guidelines, grant application, and grant reimbursement forms were translated in Spanish and Mandarin to increase accessibility. Additionally, both webinars included Spanish and Mandarin interpretation services.

The City received 20 neighborhood grant applications requesting a total of \$30,000, which equals the budgeted amount of \$30,000. Sixteen (16) groups were past recipients, and four new groups also applied. The complete grant applications from these groups are attached for the CNC's review (Attachment 3). Staff conducted an initial review of the applications to confirm group eligibility and for application completeness. All groups were determined to be eligible, and the following is a summary of the proposed activities:

- The applicants provided a variety of proposed activities to meet the goals of the grant program.
- Many groups are returning to in-person events. Other groups have proposed a variety of programming that creates flexibility as needed over the course of the year to facilitate participation for those who may remain hesitant about large gatherings due to COVID-19.
- The proposed events include block parties, Halloween celebrations, story hours, ice cream socials, and Holiday events. Many groups also propose to use funds for newsletters, website domains, and Zoom subscriptions.
- There were some trends in how groups advertised their events and encouraged participation in leadership and volunteer opportunities. A-frames, flyers, and newsletters remain preferred strategies to spread the word, but many groups also manage email lists

or Google groups to share information. Some groups also rely on platforms such as NextDoor and Facebook.

- A few of the groups also created targeted involvement and leadership opportunities for youth to help design websites, support events, and help with translation services.

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

After an initial review of the applications, staff is recommending the grant awards for each group as outlined in Table 2 below. The recommendations below are based on applicant's eligibility, application completeness, and whether the proposed projects were responsive to the goals of the Neighborhood Grant Program. All awards are equivalent to the amount requested by the group or the maximum amount they are eligible for, equaling a total of \$30,000. There are also 20 recommended awards discussed below.

Table 2: Fiscal Year 2022-23 Neighborhood Grants

	NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP	TIER AND MAXIMUM ELIGIBILITY	AMOUNT REQUESTED	NEW GROUP BONUS	RECOMMENDED AWARD
1	Blossom Valley Neighborhood Association	Tier A, \$1,000	\$1,000	N/A	\$1,000
2	Community Action Team	Tier D, \$2,500	\$2,500	N/A	\$2,500
3	Cooper Park Neighborhood Association	Tier A, \$1,000	\$1,000	N/A	\$1,000
4	Cuesta Park Neighborhood Association	Tier D, \$2,500	\$2,500	N/A	\$2,500
5	Dutch Haven Neighborhood Association	Tier A, \$1,000	\$1,000	N/A	\$1,000
6	Gemello Neighborhood Association	Tier C, \$2,000	\$1,100	N/A	\$1,100
7	Greater San Antonio Community Association	Tier B, \$1,500	\$1,200	N/A	\$1,200

	NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP	TIER AND MAXIMUM ELIGIBILITY	AMOUNT REQUESTED	NEW GROUP BONUS	RECOMMENDED AWARD
8	Hedgerow Group	Tier A, \$1,000	\$800	\$100	\$900
9	Monta Loma Neighborhood Association	Tier C, \$2,000	\$2,000	N/A	\$2,000
10	Moorpark Mobile Homes	Tier A, \$1,000	\$1,000	\$100	\$1,100
11	North Whisman Neighborhood Association	Tier B, \$1,500	\$1,500	N/A	\$1,500
12	Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association	Tier D, \$2,500	\$2,500	N/A	\$2,500
13	Rex Manor Neighborhood Association	Tier B, \$1,500	\$1,500	N/A	\$1,500
14	Santiago Villa Neighborhood Association	Tier A, \$1,000	\$1,000	N/A	\$1,000
15	Shoreline West Association of Neighbors	Tier D, \$2,500	\$2,500	N/A	\$2,500
16	Springer Meadows Neighborhood Association	Tier A, \$1,000	\$1,000	N/A	\$1,000
17	Springer Tree Neighborhood Association	Tier A, \$1,000	\$1,100	\$100	\$1,100
18	Sunset Estates Mobilehome Owners Association	Tier A, \$1,000	\$1,000	\$100	\$1,100
19	Varsity Park Neighborhood Association	Tier B, \$1,500	\$1,500	N/A	\$1,500

	NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP	TIER AND MAXIMUM ELIGIBILITY	AMOUNT REQUESTED	NEW GROUP BONUS	RECOMMENDED AWARD
20	Wagon Wheel Neighborhood Association	Tier C, \$2,000	\$2,000	N/A	\$2,000
TOTALS			\$29,700	\$400.00	\$30,000

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval by the CNC, all grant recipients will enter into an agreement with the City to spend funds as described in their applications. Grant recipients must submit receipts for grant activities by June 30, 2024, and the reimbursement process helps ensure that grants are only used for eligible expenditures and not for personal benefit. All funds must be spent during Fiscal Year 2023-24.

AR/2/CDD
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- Attachments:
1. Fiscal Year 2023-24 Neighborhood Grant Guidelines
 2. Fiscal Year 2023-24 Grant Applicants Summary Table
 3. Fiscal Year 2023-24 Grant Application