

Resolution No: 15-1688
Introduced: November 28,
2006
Adopted: November 28,
2006

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: Council President George Leventhal and Vice President Marilyn Praisner

SUBJECT: Amendment to Resolution 15-1648: County Council's FY 2008 Process for Grant Proposals from Non-Profit Agencies

Background

1. For the past two years, the Council has adopted resolutions to guide the Council's internal process for reviewing applications and awarding funds. In each year, the Council held a community grants forum; solicited applications for grants; required all organizations to submit a County Council grant application form by a stated deadline; convened a Grants Advisory Group to provide non-binding comments on grant proposals; and made final funding decisions.
2. In July 2006, the Health and Human Services and Management and Fiscal Policy Committees met jointly to hear comments from the Grants Advisory Group and non-profit organizations regarding the FY 2007 process. During October 2006, the joint Committees held a worksession to improve the Council Grants Process for FY 2008 and to develop recommendations for the full Council.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

1. The County Council affirms that partnerships with the non-profit community are critical to meeting community needs. These partnerships may come through competitive contracts and non-competitive contracts, and from proposals made directly from non-profit agencies to the County Executive or County Council.
2. For FY 2008, the County Council will continue to have a grants review process that will require non-profit agencies seeking funds to submit a Council grant application form or other acceptable form (such as a Community Services Grant application). The application and specific procedures will be posted on the Council's website by December 15, 2006. The deadline for applications will be February 1, 2007. No applications will be accepted beyond this date. While the Council is not interested in a burdensome application process,

a common requirement for information enhances the Council's decision process and improves the County's accountability to taxpayers.

3. The Council will reach out to non-profit agencies through existing mailing lists, the media, and with a grant application workshop in order to facilitate an open and fair process. This effort will inform non-profit agencies, especially emerging organizations, about what they may seek funds for and what the requirements are to receive County funds through a non-competitive contract.
4. The Council is not placing limits on the amount that non-profit agencies may request or the number of applications submitted.
5. The Council will convene a Grants Advisory Group as a part of the FY 2008 process. The Grants Advisory Group will be asked to categorize and evaluate the applications according to established criteria. Grants Advisory Group members will be informed that their recommendations are advisory and final decisions are made by the County Council. The Grants Advisory Group will be appointed by December 12, 2006 and will be asked to report to the Council by April 25, 2007.
6. Non-profit agencies seeking funds for arts and humanities should apply directly to the Arts and Humanities Council, and those seeking funds for literacy, including ESOL, should apply directly to MCALESOL. If any Council grant applications fall into these categories, the Council will forward them to the appropriate organization; such applications will not be reviewed by the Grants Advisory Group. The recommendations of the Arts and Humanities Council and MCALESOL will be sent to the Council for final funding decisions.
7. The Grants Advisory Group, Arts and Humanities Council, MCALESOL, Council Committees, and the Council will make interim recommendations at various stages of the application review process. However, funding decisions are not final until the Council has completed its deliberations, reconciled expenditures and revenues, and taken action on the County Government's operating budget at the end of May.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council